

GOLF MONTHLY

**LONG-GAME
MASTERCLASS**

NAIL YOUR DRIVER

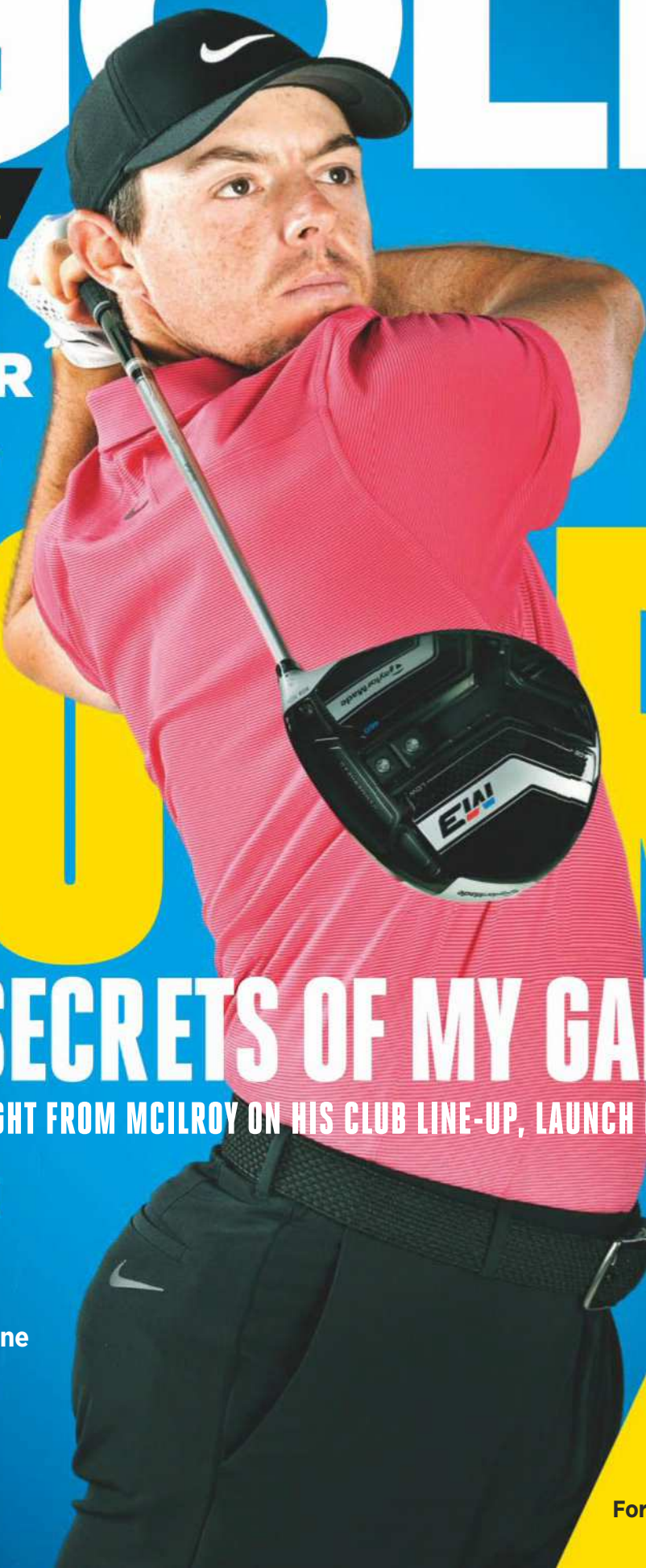
5 power moves
to transform your
tee shots

Rules Of Golf

Test your knowledge

Strike It Pure

Quick fixes for
better iron play



SECRETS OF MY GAME

EXCLUSIVE INSIGHT FROM MCILROY ON HIS CLUB LINE-UP, LAUNCH DATA AND MINDSET

SCORING TIPS

Chip It Close

5 drills that will hone
your short game



12 BEST SUMMER SHOES

For every style and budget



"IT'S THE CONSISTENCY."
- JORDAN SPIETH



"YOU KNOW UNDER PRESSURE."
- ADAM SCOTT

“WHEN YOU



"IT'S THE CONTROL."
- SO YEON RYU



"I'VE KNOWN SINCE
DAY ONE."
- JUSTIN THOMAS



"HOW IT FLIES THROUGH
THE WIND."
- WEBB SIMPSON

"THE SOFTER FEEL."

- RICKIE FOWLER

"I KNOW BECAUSE I'VE TRIED
OTHER GOLF BALLS."

- RUSSELL HENLEY

"IT'S THE DISTANCE."

- BROOKE HENDERSON

"IT'S EVERYTHING."

- IAN POULTER

**PLAY ONE,
YOU KNOW."**

"YOU KNOW WHEN IT SAYS THIS."

- HENRIK STENSON



Titleist
#1 ball in golf.®

 Join Team Titleist at titleist.co.uk



THEY DON'T PLAY THE #1 BALL IN GOLF.

THEY PLAY THE ONE THAT BEATS IT.

THE BEST IN THE WORLD PLAY TP5/TP5x INNOVATIVE 5-LAYER CONSTRUCTION TO BEAT THE COMPETITION. DISTANCE FROM EVERYWHERE, PERFORMANCE IN THE WIND, AND FEEL THAT'S EXACTLY LIKE NOTHING ELSE. THEY'VE MADE THE SWITCH - WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?



TP5 / TP5x



HONMA®



PURE GOLD



BERES 15-06

CONTENTS



The Game

- 12 Your View** Reader letters and emails
- 14 Talking Point** Americans in Europe
- 20 Month In Pictures** Photos and stats
- 28 Winners' Circle** Francesco Molinari
- 30 Debate** Proprietary v members' clubs
- 32 On The Tee** Adare Manor
- 34 Quick Tip** Swing-path check
- 36 New Launches** The best new gear
- 38 In Detail** Honma Beres S-06 Range
- 40 Tour Gear** Justin Rose
- 42 Participation** Attracting females
- 50 Golf Foundation** Support the charity



Rory Special

- 54 What's In The Bag?** The four-time Major Champion gives a fascinating insight into the clubs in his bag
- 58 Launch Monitor Data** Keith Sbarbaro, TaylorMade's vice president of tour operations, talks us through Rory's impressive numbers
- 60 Path To Greatness** McIlroy tells us how he's propelled himself to the top of the world game
- 66 Power Points** Clive Tucker on what you can learn from Rory's swing



Opinion

- 44 Lee Westwood** The Englishman discusses recent form, Ryder Cup vice captaincy and The Open
- 46 Wayne Riley** On Francesco Molinari, the brilliance of the BMW PGA Championship and Carnoustie
- 48 Dan Walker** Discusses celebrity culture in golf
- 96 Joel Tadman** How his game differs from a professional golfer
- 122 Bill Elliott** On the changing face of fashion in golf



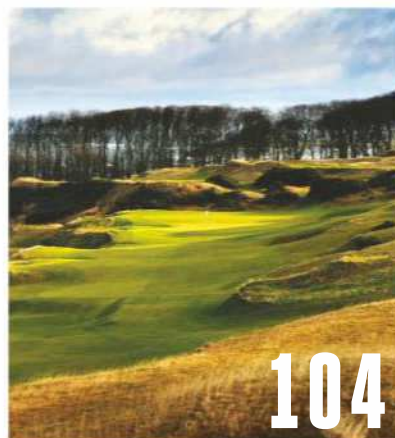
Instruction

- 70 Alexander Bjork** The Swede talks us through his ten best tips
- 72 Fault Fixer** How to combat heavy iron strikes
- 74 Scoring Zone** Putting drills
- 76 Strategy** Why you should add pressure to your practice
- 78 Help! I need to stop chunking pitches**
- 80 Rules** What happens when your ball gets stuck up a tree, plus your queries answered and more



Reviews

- 84 Tested by Golf Monthly** We sample FootJoy's Arc SL shoe, Callaway's Rogue irons, the XX10 X driver, TaylorMade's Milled Grind Hi-Toe wedge and Skechers' Go Golf Pro V3 shoe
- 94 Buyers' Guide** The best golf shoes
- 98 Head To Head** TaylorMade's M3 rescue vs Titleist's 818H2 hybrid
- 100 Reader Test** Two readers try out Titleist's Tour Soft ball on their home courses and report back



Courses

- 104 Must Play** Kingsbarns in Scotland
- 106 Best Of UK & Ireland** We visit four very different styles of courses
- 107 Focus On** Roderick Easdale takes a tour of West Cornwall
- 112 Countdown To The Top 100** Rob Smith heads south-west to look at courses that offer terrific value
- 116 Stay & Play** Jeremy Ellwood visits Cally Palace and its impressive 18th-century mansion

THE FACE
OF THE

FUTURE

THE REST
IS HISTORY



The Official Equipment partner of the PGA EuroPro tour.





KING F8



INTRODUCING THE THINNEST, FASTEST FACE IN COBRA'S HISTORY.

Meet golf's first ever CNC precision milled forged titanium face with COBRA E9[®] technology. Our thinner face creates speed and distance that our competitors would prefer you didn't hear about. With drag-minimizing 360 AERO[™] design and performance-tracking COBRA CONNECT[™] technology Powered by ARCCOS, the COBRA KING F8 Driver delivers the future of the game in every sense of the word.

COBRA. DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY.
COBRAGOLF.COM/KINGF8

FROM THE EDITOR



CONTACTS

EDITORIAL

Editor: Michael Harris
Digital editor: Neil Tappin
Senior content editor: Tom Clarke
Technical editor: Joel Tadman
Content editors: Nick Bonfield, David Taylor
Technical writer: Jake O'Reilly
Editor-at-large: Bill Elliott
Design director: Kevin Eason
Design editor: Jamie Latchford
Deputy design editor: Dan Franklin
Picture researcher: Duncan Bond
Digital writer: Elliott Heath
Contributing editors: Fergus Bisset, Jeremy Ellwood, Rob Smith
Contributing writers: Roderick Easdale, James Mason
Playing editor: Lee Westwood
Staff photographers: Tom Miles, Kevin Murray
Contributors: Getty Images, Wayne Riley, Dan Walker, Paul Severn, Kevin Kirk, Kenny Smith, Robin Barwick

Golf Monthly, Time Inc. (UK) Ltd, Pinehurst 2, Pinehurst Road, Farnborough Business Park, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 7BF

Tel: 01252 555213

Email: golfmonthly@timeinc.com

Website: golf-monthly.co.uk

©Time Inc. (UK) Ltd ISSN 0017-1816

Sell-out hotline: 020 7907 7777

Back issues: MAGS-UK

Opening hours: 9.30am - 1.30pm Monday to Friday

mags-uk.com/browse-by-publisher/time-inc.html

Tel: 01795 662976 **Email:** support@mags-uk.com

International editions:

+1 888 313 5528

Syndication: Lucy Cox 020 314 85483,
lucy.cox@timeinc.com / timeincukcontent.com

ADVERTISING

Head of sport: Matthew Johnston

matthew.johnston@timeinc.com

Senior media advisor: Chris O'Hagan

chris.ohagan@timeinc.com

Senior media advisor: Freddie Smith

freddie.smith@timeinc.com

Spain advertising: Spectra Media S L

(tel: 0034 913199015; email: mariamaisey@spectramedia.es)

Advertisement production: Andrew Buckett

Classified advertising: Hasan Mubarak

MARKETING

Head of marketing: Samantha Blakey

Production manager: Nigel Davies

PUBLISHING

Group managing director: Andrea Davies

MD sports & photo: Gareth Beesley

Editor-in-chief sports & hobbies: Simon Collis

SUBSCRIPTIONS DEPT

Golf Monthly Subscriptions, FREEPOST Time Inc. (if posted in the UK; no further address or stamp needed); PO Box 20501, 1001 NM Amsterdam, The Netherlands (if posted overseas. Affix correct postage)

Enquiries and order hotline: 0330 333 1113

Email: help@magazinesdirect.com

One year's full subscription rates: 1 Year (13 issues) full subscription rates: UK £64.80; Europe & Eire €148.70

(delivery 3-5 days); USA \$191.20 (delivery 5-12 days); Rest of World £132.80 (delivery 5-7 days)

Online subscriptions: golf-monthly.co.uk

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Editorial: 01252 555213

Display advertising: 01252 555366

Classified advertising: 01252 555364

Innovator: 020 314 83710

Subscriptions: 0330 333 1113

Syndication: 020 314 85478

Printed in the UK by the Wyndeham Group

Time Inc. 

© 2017 Golf Monthly. Articles and features, including illustrations, can only be reproduced with the permission of the Editor. We regret we cannot be liable for the safe custody or return of any solicited or unsolicited material, whether typescripts, photographs, transparencies, artwork or computer discs. Golf Monthly is published 13 times a year. Contributors are advised to keep copies of all material submitted. US agent: Mercury International, 365 Blair Road, Avenel, NJ 07001. Periodicals paid at Rahway, NJ. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Golf Monthly, 365 Blair Road, Avenel, NJ 07001.



MICHAEL HARRIS
EDITOR

michael.harris@timeinc.com

THE ULTIMATE TEST

Golf is full of interesting debates: Nicklaus or Woods? Links or heathland? Hardest shot in the game: long-iron or chip from a tight lie? Two of the shorter discussions in golf are as follows: hardest course on the Open rota? Carnoustie. Hardest hole at Carnoustie? The 18th.

If I had one word to describe the course it would be 'relentless', and for the closing hole 'fearsome' sums things up. You can read all about the challenge of the course and indeed all things Carnoustie in our special Open Championship supplement that accompanies this issue.

If you could pick one pro to take on that drive for you at 18, it'd be this month's cover star, Rory McIlroy. His ability to drive the ball longer and straighter than most of his peers is always an asset, but at Carnoustie, it's a pre-requisite. I'm sure he'll be contending for the Claret Jug in July.

GM's Neil Tappin spent a day with Rory earlier this year, and the result is a special Rory section that takes you behind the scenes and reveals the never-ending work that goes into his pursuit of winning more Majors.

In the exclusive interview, Rory offers some fascinating insight into his mindset, practice regime and his constant fine-tuning in the search of that extra few per cent that makes the difference at the top level. He also talks in great detail about his club set-up and the fitting expert he works with dissects McIlroy's incredible TrackMan launch data.

Aside from The Open and Rory content there are two features about grassroots golf I want to take the opportunity to highlight. First is a piece on the brilliant work the Golf Foundation does in growing the game. I urge you to find out more on page 50.

Secondly, we look at what can be done to get more women and girls playing golf. The recent launch of the *Women In Golf Charter* by The R&A highlighted the significant opportunity there is to grow the game by increasing female participation. The task is a big one and requires all of us to get behind it, but the good news is that work is being done and some excellent initiatives are in the pipeline.

Michael Harris

Subscribe to Golf Monthly!

Get each issue delivered straight to your door and receive a dozen Volvik Vivid golf balls worth £39! Visit golfmonthlysubs.co.uk/15JE or turn to page 102 to find out more information





Feeling good. Not just looking it.

ITALIAN STYLE BOTH ON AND OFF THE GOLF COURSE



DUCA DEL COSMA[®]
ITALIAN GOLF EVOLUTION

enquiries@ducadelcosma.co.uk

Tel: 01564 711623

View the complete range at www.ducadelcosma.com



YOUR VIEW

The pick of the letters and emails to hit the *Golf Monthly* offices this month



Not the usual golf crowd

Star quality

I've read that some people in golfing circles think the Pro-Am at Wentworth should be cancelled as it is a non-event. The BMW PGA is one of Britain's big golf stages and the Pro-Am acts like the Masters Par-3 Competition and gives it that special edge.

I am a PE teacher and I told some girls I teach that some of the celebrities they talk about would be competing in the Pro-Am. A couple of days later they told me they had bought tickets for the Wednesday and asked me questions on the etiquette of golf and also some basic rules. On the Friday after the Pro-Am one of the girls said she had a fantastic time and thought about getting into golf, and even went to the nearest Top Golf with some friends.

All of this stemmed from her favourite celebrities playing. Being able to follow them around

the course and talk to them imbedded a little golfing seed. Why people want to get rid of this fun part of the game when golf clubs are trying to get girls to join is beyond me.

James Swan, Hampshire

Time is on my side

The membership debate rumbles on, but I really think, with respect, that David Astrella (July Issue) is not looking at the larger picture. He makes the statement that younger golfers probably earn more and play more than him. The younger members might earn more, but as a generalisation seniors probably have more disposable income – no mortgages, no small children, no funding university – and younger members only have weekends and holidays to play. In reality, it's less than 50 games a year.

As a senior I play at least 100 times a year in all forms of competition and, as membership in the south-east is about £100 per month, I get great value for money. Finally, don't forget the social aspect: during the wet first quarter of this year the golf club was a great outlet for coffee mornings!

Unless David has a ready-made hobby to take up his time, I have a feeling he may return one day. Membership fees for seniors will

not be a reason for me forsaking golf, and many older seniors maintain a social membership which implies a golf club is about more than just golf – it becomes a way of life!

Richard Stratford, East Sussex

If at first you don't succeed..

I have always loved watching Sergio Garcia playing and wearing his heart on his sleeve. As I watched him put all those balls in the water on 15 at this year's Masters, I couldn't believe that he appeared to play the same shot with the same club four times from the drop zone. Surely he would make some adjustments?

Playing my local course recently, I shanked a 7-iron into a

Sergio had much to think about at Augusta's 15th



DON'T JUST HIT IT, LAUNCH IT



CLEVELAND
CBX

FORGIVENESS HAS NEVER BEEN SO EASY.

Our Launcher Series of woods and two sets of irons seamlessly blend forgiveness and control to help you easily LAUNCH IT longer and straighter than ever before. Combined with a short-game changer in the form of the CBX wedge, the ability to GET CLOSER has never been easier. Find your nearest stockist at clevelandgolf.co.uk and see just how they can help you.



LETTERS

The Editor, *Golf Monthly*
Pinehurst 2, Pinehurst Road, Farnborough
Business Park, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 7BF

LETTER OF THE MONTH

in association with
Titleist

Making ends meet

I was disappointed, but not at all surprised, to see the latest *Forbes Sports Rich List* didn't include a single female sportsperson. While the likes of Tiger Woods reportedly earned \$43.4m in 2017, ladies stars like Georgia Hall, who led the Ladies European Tour money list last year, made just

£325,000 on the course, with far less lucrative endorsement opportunities available to her.

For the girls breaking through it's a whole lot worse, with many of them needing part-time jobs to make a living. In fact, only the top 50 in the LET rankings earned more than the average UK salary of £25,000, and that's before they

pay their travel and accommodation costs. I'm not sure there's an easy answer, but I'd go down the tennis route of showcasing the men and women at the same time, like playing more events on the same courses as the men's tour, ideally the week before or after, or having more mixed events.

Jacqueline Reid, via email



The winner receives a year's supply (six dozen) of the best Titleist golf ball for his or her game

lake. I could not remember the last time I had shanked the ball, but felt I was playing reasonably well up to that stage. I dropped my ball in the appropriate place with a downhill lie and had the width of the lake to cross to the green. Anyway, changing the intended shape of the shot and the club did no good at all and a total of four more approach shots went into the lake.

Humbled by this experience, I shall never again think that my advice is ever needed by those at the top of the professional game, even from the privacy of my own living room!

Steve Knox, via email

Europe's greatest?

I am a great admirer of Nick Faldo, who without doubt has been our greatest UK golfer in the post-war years. He was at his peak at around the same time as Seve, who in my view had the edge.

Is Faldo our greatest ever? In the opinion of Herbert Warren Wind, no. This respected golf expert felt it was Harry Vardon. He was virtually unbeatable in the many head-to-head contests they held in those days. He won our Open in 1903 for the fourth time, when he unknowingly contracted tuberculosis, and two more in 1911 and 1914. His putting woes after his illness restricted further wins,



Georgia Hall topped the LET money list last year

but he lost a play-off for the US Open in 1913 having already claimed victory in 1900.

He won seven Majors, and the Masters and USPGA did not exist during those days. In my view he is Europe's greatest ever golfer.

Derek Darwent, via email

Photography: Getty Images



LAUNCHER HB IRONS

LAUNCHER CBX IRONS

LAUNCHER HB

#LAUNCHIT

Cleveland
GOLF
WHERE SCORING MATTERS™

TALKING POINT

Gary Player suggested more Americans should have played in the BMW PGA Championship

The GM View: The event has been plagued recently by high-profile players staying away – Europeans as well as Americans. Next year it moves to September, after the Majors and FedExCup, so hopefully that will have a significant impact.

Eric Wolfe: If we expect Europe's best to play in America, Americans should play in Europe a little more.

Galileo70a: US players possibly care more about the FedExCup rankings. On the same weekend in Fort Worth, \$7million in prize money was on offer. There is also the travel factor. It's easier to stay at home than play in Europe, and it's an expensive return trip if you miss the cut!

Barry Glover: You can't expect Americans to fly over for one event in the middle of a busy PGA Tour season. I understand the big names wanting to get their preparation spot on for the US Open. The Europeans who miss the event should bear the brunt of the criticism. They should do more to support their home tour.

Lee_figo_francis: Totally agree with Player! I was surprised to see Justin Rose and Jon Rahm give it a miss to play in the US, too.

Should more Americans have made the effort to play at Wentworth?

GET
IN
TOUCH



EMAIL
golfmonthly
@timeinc.com



TWITTER
@GolfMonthly



FACEBOOK
facebook.com/
golfmonthlymagazine



GOLF MONTHLY FORUM
golf-monthly.co.uk/
forums



YOUTUBE
youtube.com/
GolfMonthly



INSTAGRAM
instagram.com/
golfmonthly

CUBIK^{RXW}

Special offer

Prescription Lens Wrap Sunglasses including anti-scratch and anti-glare coatings

STARTING AT £99
(with prescription lenses using special offer code)



On July 19, the sporting world will shine its light on the incredible Carnoustie links. To celebrate the start of the Open Championship, we have teamed up again with British sunglasses manufacturer Cubik Eyewear to offer *Golf Monthly* readers an incredible limited-period discount.

Finding a pair of wrap-around sunglasses specifically for sport can be an expensive business, especially where prescription lenses are concerned. Darlington-based Cubik Eyewear is offering sports sunglasses that deliver incredible protection, stability and comfort at a more affordable price.

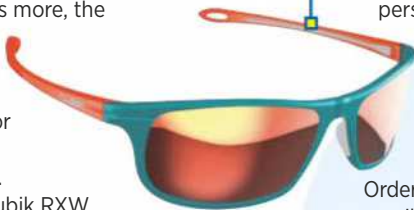
The Cubik RXW model has been designed with wide, curved lenses to offer a clear, unrestricted view.

They also feature special tint levels and coatings that make them suitable in cloudy conditions as well as sun, and offer full UV protection. This means peripheral vision remains unrestricted during the swing. What's more, the flexible frame has been designed to offer a snug fit for virtually all face shapes and sizes.

The durable Cubik RXW frame is made without the need for any metal screws or hinges, and utilises flexible but strong materials. A hard impact that could break other sunglasses simply causes the Cubik RXW lenses to come away from the

frame. You can then easily click everything back into place.

They are available in a host of colour and lens options (such as polarised, coloured mirrors, varifocals and transitions) to help personalise your choice.



How to access this FANTASTIC OFFER!

Ordering is simple and comes with a no-quibble guarantee - if you are not 100% delighted, you may request a full refund within 28 days. Go to cubikrxw.com and enter **ENTRY20** for £20 off the non-prescription version, or **SCRIPT50** for £50 off any prescription order.


This offer is valid for orders received between 18/6/18 and 31/8/18



ONE FACE TO R

THERE'S ONE DRIVER FACE THAT THE BEST IN THE WORLD CHOOSE
TO BEAT THE BEST IN THE WORLD. AND IT'S ONLY IN THE M3 AND M4 DRIVERS.

FOR STRAIGHT DISTANCE, THERE IS ONLY ONE CHOICE.

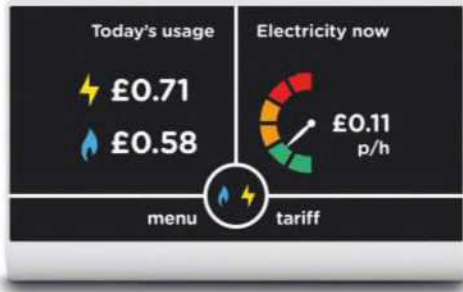
TWIST  FACE M3 / M4



RULE THEM ALL

TaylorMade[®]
#1 DRIVER IN GOLF[®]





GET A SMART METER
AND YOU COULD
SAVE ENOUGH ENERGY TO CHARGE
YOUR PHONE FOR THIS MANY YEARS



With a smart meter you could save an average of 354kWh of energy a year. Because when you can actually see how much energy you're using, you can make a few small changes and use less of it. Save your energy for staying in touch.

Contact your energy supplier about getting your free smart meter.



smartenergyGB.org

The Game



FRANCESCO MOLINARI

World Class At Wentworth

Francesco Molinari secured his first European Tour title since the 2016 Italian Open at the BMW PGA Championship – the first Rolex Series event of the season. He was imperious in all areas of the game en route to a victory that puts him level with Constantino Rocca as the most successful Italian golfers of all time. He followed it up with a second place in Italy to all-but solidify a place on Thomas Bjorn's Ryder Cup team.



MAJESTIC MOLINARI

1

Molinari secured his first Rolex Series title at the BMW PGA Championship

44

He played his final 44 holes at Wentworth without dropping a single shot

€18,160,612

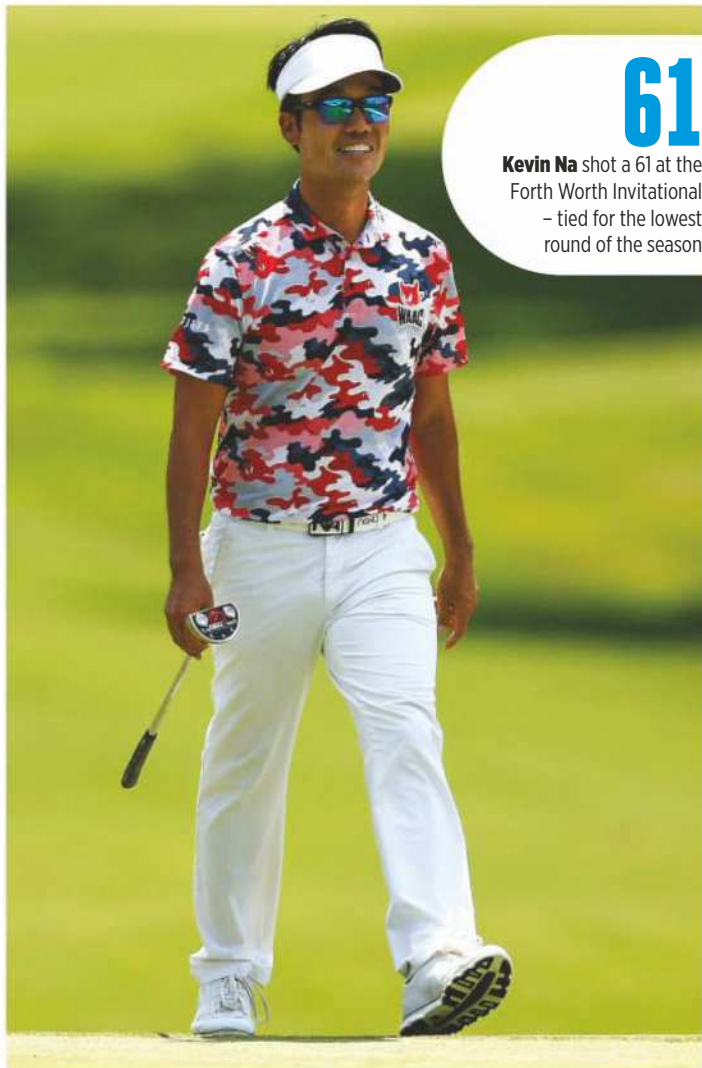
His career earnings on the European Tour

18

Molinari's world ranking after victory at Wentworth and a 2nd place in Italy

3

He's the third Italian to have won the PGA, along with Constantino Rocca and Matteo Manassero



61

Kevin Na shot a 61 at the Fort Worth Invitational – tied for the lowest round of the season



1

The **Methodist University's** men's golf team won the NCAA Division III Men's Golf Championship



68

Rory McIlroy's scoring average on the European Tour so far this season – second only to Miguel Angel Jimenez



65

Malcolm Kokocinski shot a closing 65 to win the Asian Tour's Bangladesh Open



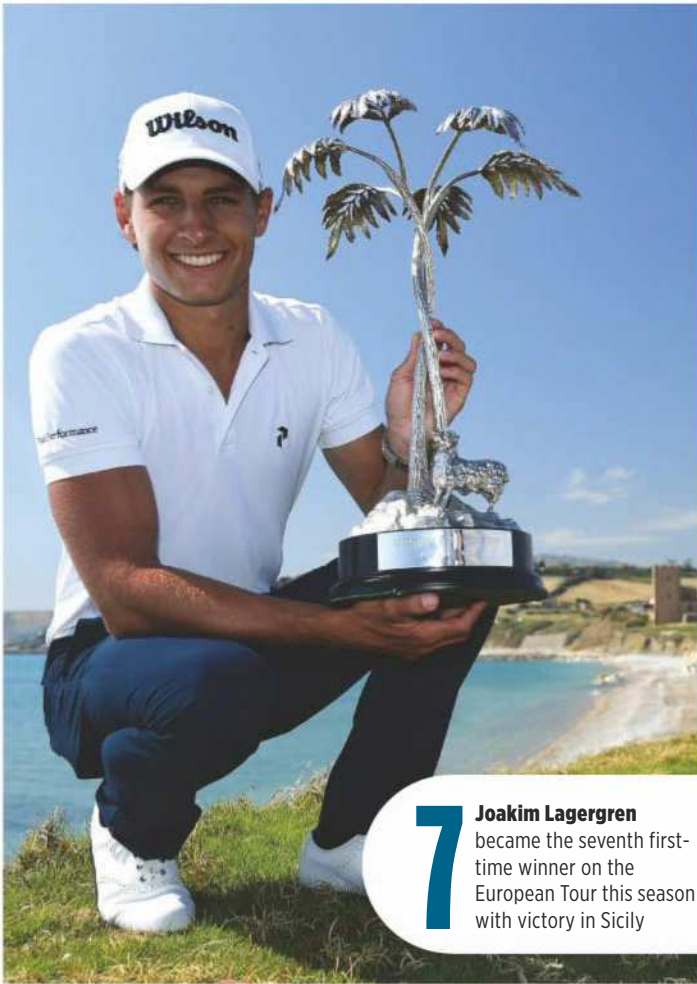
205

Ariya Jutanugarn has recorded 205 birdies on the LPGA Tour this season, 25 more than anyone else. She won her second Major at the US Women's Open



14

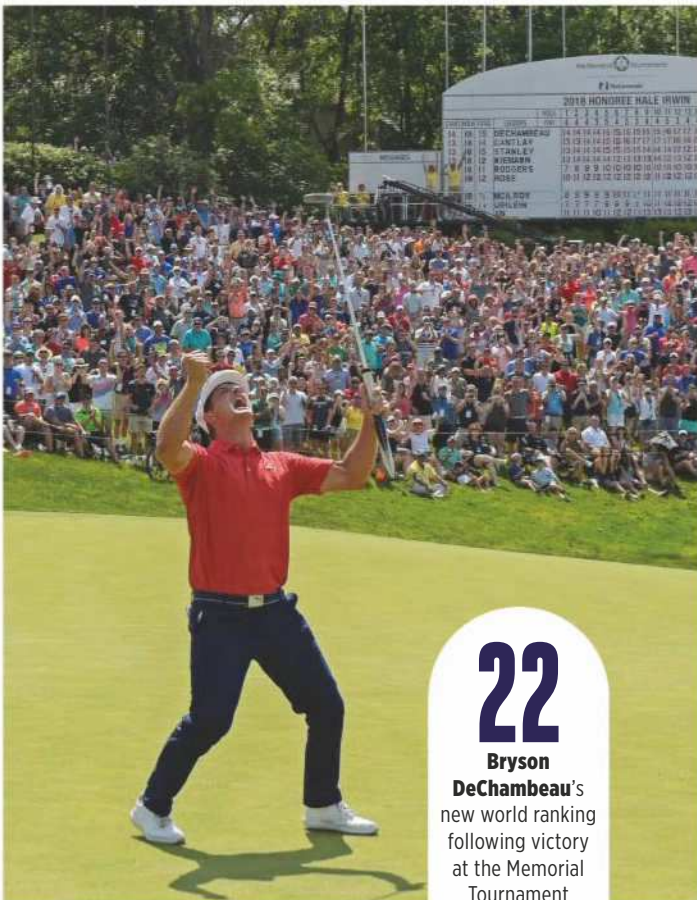
Europeans have won 14 of the last 22 senior Majors, most recently **Paul Broadhurst** at the Senior PGA Championship



7 Joakim Lagergren became the seventh first-time winner on the European Tour this season with victory in Sicily



9 Number of PGA Tour victories for Justin Rose after his triumph at the Fort Worth Invitational



22 Bryson DeChambeau's new world ranking following victory at the Memorial Tournament

Photography: Getty Images

68

Adam Scott was forced to qualify for the US Open, but made it through to compete in his 68th consecutive Major



11

Tiger Woods' finish at the Players Championship. He's had seven top-25s in ten starts this season

**BUY THE ORIGINAL
HIGH PERFORMANCE
MATTE FINISH
COLOUR GOLF BALLS**

Volvik[®] VIVID



**NEW! MINT & BLACK COLOURS
IN PRO SHOPS NOW**

**& NOW THE NEW
MATTE FINISH
EXTREME DISTANCE**

VIVID XT



Volvik[®]

can be found in most pro shops
and leading retail outlets

Distributed by:

brandfusion
INTERNATIONAL LTD



THIS BEAUTY

A FORGED IRON IN A PLAYERS' SHAPE

P.790

 TaylorMade®



IS A BEAST

MEETS MAXIMUM DISTANCE WITH

SPEEDFOAM®

FRANCESCO MOLINARI

This is a tournament where you've had six top-tens, you were second last year, and now you've got your hands on the trophy. Did it just feel like your year?

No, it never does. But it's great to come out on top. To be honest, when I saw Rory five ahead after two days, I thought it was going to be really tough to catch him, but the wind probably assisted on Saturday and I played very solidly on Sunday.

Are you proud of the way you held yourself together?

Yeah, I'm proud of the way I kept focusing on my own thing, hitting good shots and staying patient. I think I did that really well until the 18th, which wasn't ideal, but it was a five in the end. I'm really, really happy about the win. To play 44 holes without a bogey at Wentworth is impressive, even for my high standards [laughs].

It's a Ryder Cup year and you've won a big event in the Ryder Cup context. How much is it on your mind now?

It's on a course I love and where I have almost as good a record as I have at Wentworth, so I'd love to be there. I've put

The Italian produced a flawless display at Wentworth to win the BMW PGA Championship

myself in a strong position to make the team now. It's not been the first thought in my mind. It will be when it gets closer, but playing two tours and trying to play well on two tours gives you enough to think about!

You said you were able to shut out the fact that it was Rory you were going almost head to head with. Was that intimidating for you?

No, to be honest. I'm old enough now that I've played in probably tougher circumstances – playing against Tiger in the Ryder Cup at Medinah, for example. Rory's a great guy. I didn't feel intimidated at all. The last couple of holes he was basically thinking eagle, eagle and I was thinking par, par, which makes all the difference.

You've spoken a few times about the spirit of Italian golf and the success of Constantino Rocca. Where were you when he won in 1996, and were you watching?

Yeah, I was at home watching it. I think back then it was still finishing on a Monday. So I got back from school and watched the finish on TV, and I remember the last few holes clearly. There must be something around here with Italians. We seem to do well. So hopefully it's a tradition that will continue in the future.

You won't be defending this title in a year because it will be going to September. How do you feel about the BMW PGA Championship switching from May to September?

Yeah, it will be strange because I've always played this tournament in May. I think I've played it probably 12 or 13 times now, and always in May, so it will be a change. But I think it will be good for the golf course to have the summer to firm up and hopefully be in top condition. And hopefully we'll get an even stronger field than we did this year.



WHAT'S IN THE BAG?



► **Driver:** TaylorMade M4, 8.5°, Tensei White 60x shaft
 ► **Fairway woods:** TaylorMade M3, 13°, X-Torsion Green 70x shaft; TaylorMade M4, 18°, X-Torsion Green 70x shaft
 ► **Irons:** TaylorMade P790, 4-iron, DG X100 shaft; TaylorMade P750,

5-PW, DG X100 shafts
 ► **Wedges:** TaylorMade Milled Grind, 50° and 56°, DG S400 shafts; TaylorMade Milled Grind Hi-Toe, 60°, DG S400 shaft
 ► **Putter:** Bettinardi DASS BBO
 ► **Golf ball:** Titleist Pro V1x

MOLINARI BY THE NUMBERS

5th

Victory on the European Tour in 310 starts

1st

He tops the European Ryder Cup points list

THINK SMALL



Compact folding. Simplified.

Introducing the NEW M-Series compact trolley range. Developed to offer an 11% smaller folded footprint than its nearest competitor. The simple folding system and revolutionary inverting wheels provides the ultimate 'car boot friendly' trolley, perfect for easy transportation and storage. Think Small, Think M-Series.

motocaddy.com



M-SERIES

BUILT TO ENHANCE



Jeremy Ellwood *says*

YES Even though I'm currently a member of a committee-run club – and very happy with it – these days my feeling is that at many members' clubs, the committee structure can hold things back at a time when big decisions often need to be made more quickly and in a more business-like manner.

Short-termism can be a real issue, with incoming committee members looking to make some sort of mark, often very well-intentioned. But surely what golf clubs really need right now is stability and consistency in the management structure, and more of the long-term strategic planning that, ironically, many such committee members would insist on in their often successful business lives.

Golf needs to respond more quickly to the changing preferences of golfers, and to me, proprietary clubs seem better placed to make those decisions. They are unhindered by years of tradition and status quo, whether it's mobile phones on the terrace, jeans in the clubhouse, more progressive flexible memberships or whatever. Better decisions mean a better member experience.

Proprietary clubs have to listen closely to find out what members want, since they need to make sure they are keeping their core clientele happy. Bad decisions could backfire and hurt them in the pocket, which no business likes.

My 54-year-old heart still probably hankers after the feel of a good old-fashioned members' club, and thankfully many are now moving in the right direction. But my head tells me that it is the more business-like proprietary clubs that are likely to keep golf moving with the times and adapting to the 21st century golf club member's needs and wishes.

“Proprietary clubs have to listen closely to what members want to keep their core clientele happy”

DEBATE
DO
PROPRIETARY
CLUBS OFFER
A BETTER
MEMBER
EXPERIENCE?

We hear from
two golfers with
differing opinions



Does your club put the members first?



Fergus Bisset *says*

NO A committee-run golf club is a democracy. Individuals are elected to represent the membership for a term; to hold the purse strings and make important decisions for the benefit of all members. The committee's objective is not profit but to make the club as good as it can be.

At a proprietary club, the owners will take the members' requirements and wishes into consideration, of course, but their ultimate goal is, quite rightly, to make their business a success. The question is, would you want to join a club where the principal aim of those in charge is to maximise what each member gets for their subscription, or a club where the principal aim of those in charge is to turn a profit? I prefer the sound of the former and that's why I belong to a committee-run golf club.

It's sometimes said the committee-run club lacks continuity when it comes to leadership and governance. Yes, a committee tends to turn over every few years with new people taking the helm, but I see this as a positive thing. New enthusiastic members bring new ideas and energy to the table.

Plus, a committee-run club can draw upon a wealth of knowledge and experience across many sectors to find a diverse selection of the correct people to represent the membership.

And the fact the membership as a whole has the final say on any issues is another benefit of the committee-run club. The prospect of any significant changes will be put before the members at the AGM or an EGM and, if the members don't like the proposals, they can reject them. The people decide!

A golf club is made what it is by its members. They are what gives a club its unique character and identity and they should be in control of its destiny.

“If the membership doesn't like the proposals, it can reject them. The people decide!”



What's your view?
Email golfmonthly@timeinc.com

CONSISTENCY IS KEY

TANGO E5 SERIES II ROBOTIC MOWER



A world of expertise in your garden

All over the world John Deere machines deliver consistency and precision. From golf courses to agriculture, professionals choose John Deere.

Discover TANGO today at your John Deere dealership – or visit JohnDeere.com

Freephone 0800 085 25 22



BY APPOINTMENT TO
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
SUPPLIERS OF AGRICULTURAL, GROUNDCARE
AND HORTICULTURAL EQUIPMENT
JOHN DEERE LTD NOTTINGHAM



JOHN DEERE

NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE

ON THE TEE

ADARE MANOR

 **GF:** €280-€340 **W:** adaremanor.com **Stats:** par 72, 7,509 yards



Ireland may be famed for its spectacular links offerings, but Adare Manor looks set to be the new jewel in the country's crown. Redesigned by Tom Fazio and two years in the making, the end result is one of Europe's finest parkland courses. It should be playable year round and the greens feature the sub-air system found at Augusta National.

Comparisons to the home of The Masters don't end there – the greens are firm and fast, the conditioning is truly immaculate, the white Scottish sand shines in the 41 strategically positioned

bunkers and low-cut rough will help maintain a brisk pace of play.

Although generous off the tee, the raised and undulating green complexes with plentiful run-offs are unquestionably the course's main defence. The final five holes, two of which run alongside the river Maigue, provide a stern test of nerve towards the end of a round you just don't want to end.

The reachable par-5 18th brings the stunning 19th-century Manor House hotel, which has also undergone a significant makeover, into view for the final time, capping off what is a visual treat from start to finish.

IN THE AREA? WHY NOT PLAY THESE...



Waterville Golf Links

GF: €210

W: watervilegolflinks.ie



Ballybunion Golf Club

GF: €210

W: ballybuniongolfclub.com



SWING PATH CHECK

Eliminate the destructive over-the-top swing move with the help of two alignment sticks...

Push an alignment stick into the ground to mirror the angle of your club at address.

Place the other one on the ground behind you, pointing to the target, to provide a reference for your club's movement. If your downswing is on the right swing plane and your path is good as you rotate through, the club will come back down mirroring the alignment stick lying on the ground. As you continue down to the ball, your hands and the grip of the club will go a little lower before starting to rise as you rotate through impact.

If you can get the feeling of low to high here, you're going to be on an ideal, slightly inside path. If your movement is over the top from high to low, you will be swinging across the body, leading to slices, pull hooks and even shanks. Use this drill with just small swings to help you control the club and the face better through the ball.



Photography: Kevin Murray, shot on location at Ashdown West Golf Course, East Sussex



1 From low to high
This drill will help give you the low-to-high feeling of the ideal swing path slightly from the inside, leading to better strikes.



2 Not over the top
If you're coming over the top, the movement will be from high to low, generating different types of mishits.



3 One, two, three...
From the quarter-swing position, go just beyond it three times before swinging through and hitting the ball.

**TOP
25
COACH**



Ged Walters
True Fit Golf Centre,
Warrington



BY APPOINTMENT
TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
SILVERSMITHS AND CLOCK SPECIALISTS
HAMILTON & INCHES LIMITED
EDINBURGH

Hamilton & Inches

EDINBURGH SINCE 1866

JEWELLERS *for* GENERATIONS

www.hamiltonandinches.com

NEW GEAR

LAUNCH OF THE MONTH



MOTOCADDY M-SERIES TROLLEYS

FROM £499.99



Continuing its impressive list of electric-trolley innovations, Motocaddy has launched its new car-boot-friendly M-Series trolley range. Comprising four new models, this collection boasts a host of useful features – like space-saving inverted wheels and lightweight and powerful lithium batteries – and includes the world’s first GPS-enabled, compact-folding electric model in the shape of the M5 Connect.

Other features across the M-Series include a height-adjustable handle, an integrated safety cut-out system, an auto-open stand mechanism and the Easilock bag-to-trolley connection system, which removes the need for a lower bag strap.

The most cutting-edge model in the range is undoubtedly the M5 Connect, which uses Bluetooth

Motocaddy says the M-Series trolleys have a folded footprint 11 per cent smaller than the nearest competitor



to sync to the free Motocaddy GPS app to display front, middle and back distances on the sunlight-friendly digital display.

Smartphone notifications can also be viewed, alerting the golfer to a missed call, text message, email or range of app alerts, including WhatsApp and Facebook. The smartphone can remain connected even when placed in a bag pocket or being charged using the trolley’s patented USB charging port.

The latest M3 Pro is the trolley for golfers looking for high-performance features. It is simple to set up and includes three distance measurements (Drive, Round and Life), a new-look, high-resolution LCD colour screen and a six-step Adjustable Distance Control (up to 60 yards).

The updated M1 also incorporates the new colour screen and comes in a DHC

version, which features a parking brake and will maintain a constant speed while moving down the steepest of slopes.

The new M-Series trolleys are available from early July 2018. Prices for the M5 Connect start at £599.99; M3 Pro £549.99; M1 £499.99 and M1 DHC £549.99.

GM SAYS

Motocaddy has modernised the frame and battery to improve the compact-folding mechanism without affecting performance or ease of use. Golfers short on space, be it in their car or where the trolley is stored at home, have plenty of options depending on the features they require.



£249.99

GOLFBUDDY VTX

This pocket-sized GPS displays full-colour hole views on the touchscreen and comes with 38,000 pre-loaded courses that automatically update via Bluetooth. It also gives distances to all hazards.



£269

TAYLORMADE SPIDER MINI PUTTERS

Have a 15-per-cent-smaller head than the original Spider Tour. The T-shape sightline aids alignment; an adjustable weight on the sole allows you to alter the feel and weight. Comes in red or silver.



£99.99

STUBURT ENDURANCE SPORT EVENT SPIKED SHOE

Stuburt's eVent fabric is air-permeable but won't let water through. This means feet stay cool but dry, helped by the eVent membrane system between the upper and interior layers.

HOT PICKS

£22.99

STUBURT ENDURANCE BLOCK STRIPE POLO

This wallet-friendly shirt features Stuburt's Dri-back moisture-transfer tech to help regulate body temperature for comfort.



£400 PER CLUB

PXG 0311 P GEN2 IRONS

One of four new models to feature a hidden cavity with a vibration-dampening material. This improves COR for higher ball speeds and offers more mishit performance, aided by tungsten weight screws around the perimeter.



£400 PER CLUB

PXG 0311 XF GEN2 IRONS

This model features a longer blade length than 0311 P and 0311 T (Tour), a thicker topline, a wider sole and a higher launch angle. The amount offset in each head has also been increased compared to its predecessor.



£400 PER CLUB

PXG 0311 SGI GEN2 IRONS

The Super Game Improvement (SGI) set has lower lofts and a noticeably thicker topline and sole compared to the other three models to inspire confidence, be more forgiving and help get the clubface back to square.



£415

PXG OPERATOR PUTTER

This high-MOI mallet features five adjustable weight ports that can change the weight from 330g-400g. A TPE insert softens the feel.



£329

YONEX EZONE GT DRIVER

A Vertically Polished Face reduces unwanted sidespin for improved accuracy. A new graphite shaft with faster kick-back maximises ball speed for improved distance and accuracy over previous Yonex models.



FROM £349

YONEX EZONE GT IRONS

A new G-Brid (Graphite Hybrid) head reduces vibration for improved feel. Distance comes from the chromoly steel face and a faster-kick-back graphite shaft that adds club speed. Available in steel (£749).



£129

YONEX EZONE GT PUTTER

The G-Brid head optimises the CG position and expands the sweetspot for improved accuracy and a soft feel. The face's CNC milling helps generate the desired forward rotation after impact for a truer roll at the hole.



£349

MACGREGOR DCT2000 PACKAGE SET

Ideal for beginners, it features a 460cc titanium driver, a fairway wood, two hybrids, oversized irons and a putter.



£139

PRECISION PRO NX7 LASER RANGEFINDER

This entry-level laser delivers a Pulse Vibration when you shoot the target. It also has a 400-yard range.

IN DETAIL HONMA BERES S-06 RANGE

KEY INFO

Honma Beres S-06 RRP:

Driver (9.5° and 10.5°) £900-£4,150; fairway (15°, 18°, 21°) £450-£4,150; hybrid (19°, 22°, 25°, 28°) £450-£4,150; irons £350-£4,150 per club.

A bigger face and expanded sweetspot on the Beres S-06 driver should aid confidence at address



Honma has been crafting high-end golf clubs at its base in Sakata – on the west coast of Japan – for the past 60 years, built on the foundation of in-depth research, cutting-edge technology and premium materials.

It is a brand that prides itself on a meticulous approach and control of the manufacturing process. Every component is built within its own factory and at least 100 craftsmen handle every club before it reaches the customer. The attention to detail is second to none, a classic example being the hand-rolled carbon graphite shafts that are matched

precisely to the clubheads for improved performance.

The Beres S-06 is one of three ranges available in the UK in 2018 and it is aimed more at the mid-handicapper. It's graded from two to five stars, depending on which grade of carbon graphite is selected for the shafts and other premium bespoke customisations.

The clubs are built by craftsman with a minimum of 35 years of experience, which sets Honma apart.

The Honma Beres IS-06 Forged iron features an L-Cup face structure with a wide sole to provide a high trajectory for greater distance. The sole on the mid- and short-irons incorporates three deep grooves to increase ball speed, while long-irons have a deeper CG for added forgiveness.

At 280g total weight, the Beres S-06 driver is one of the lightest on the market to help increase clubhead speed. A longer face and a flatter sole and crown than its predecessors should improve forgiveness, as should a deeper CG and a larger sweetspot. A new lie angle, meanwhile, helps promote draw bias and reduce spin.

The Beres S-06 fairway wood also features a groove on the sole to increase forgiveness, while the Beres U-06 utility has a 12g weight on the sole to increase launch and forgiveness. The lightweight shafts are made with Torayca carbon fibres, which are specifically selected for consistency while also reducing backspin.

There are currently 40 Honma stockists available in the UK, and you can find your nearest at www.honmagolfeurope.com

WANT TO SEE MORE?



For full reviews of all the latest golf clubs, visit golf-monthly.co.uk/reviews

THE INSIDE LINE



Alejandro Sanchez, general manager for Honma Golf in Europe, explains what makes the Beres S-06 range unique...

1 What type of golfer is the Honma Beres S-06 range aimed at?

The discerning golfer who appreciates the quality of craftsmanship over mass-market products; who values attention to detail and searches for the ultimate set of golf clubs. These products, whose shafts and heads are designed as one using carbon material from the aerospace industry, aim to provide the best golfing experience.

2 What are the specific benefits of the hand-rolled shafts?

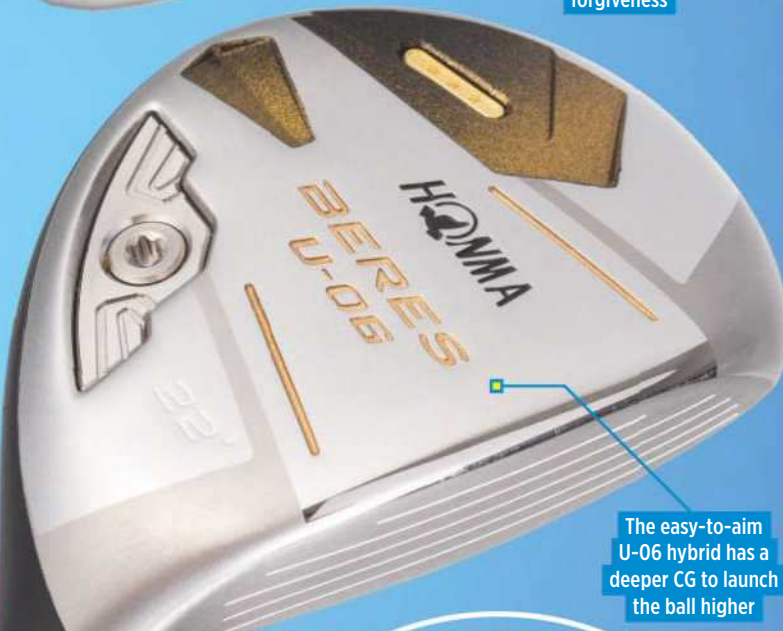
We can control and build bespoke kickpoints and frequencies for our tour players and consumers. What's more, we are able to reduce the little air bubbles that get trapped between the layers of carbon fibre and affect performance.

3 What are the benefits of upgrading to the more premium shafts with a higher star rating?

The main differences are in the torque of the shaft and how consistent the dispersion is. A five-star shaft has more glass material in the fibre, which improves the consistency of rebound timing and promotes a stronger flight. It also includes many cosmetic upgrades, like platinum rings on the ferrules.



Cast maraging steel faces increase both ball speed and forgiveness



The easy-to-aim U-06 hybrid has a deeper CG to launch the ball higher



"MORE AND MORE GOLFERS ARE BUYING INTO THE QUALITY OF PREMIUM BRANDS, AND HONMA IS CERTAINLY ONE OF THOSE"

Joel Tadman, GM technical editor

WHAT'S IN THE BAG? JUSTIN ROSE

The Englishman has moved to third in the Official World Golf Ranking



Driver

TaylorMade M3 440, 9°, Mitsubishi Tensei Orange 60TX shaft.



Fairways

TaylorMade M4, 15°, TaylorMade M3, 19°, Mitsubishi Tensei CK 80TX shafts.

Flying the flag

Francesco Molinari won the BMW PGA with a new Bettinardi



Dass BB Zero putter, with colours of the Italian flag and a sight dot added on top to help with alignment.

One of a kind

American Jason Dufner is the only player on the PGA Tour using a set of bespoke National Custom Works irons crafted by Don White, formerly of MacGregor.



Irons

TaylorMade P790, 4-iron, TaylorMade P730 Rose Proto, 5-9-iron, KBS Tour C-Taper 125 S+ shafts.

Putter

TaylorMade TP Red Ardmore 2 Putter (Custom), Lamkin Flat Cat grip.



No more Nike for Tiger

Tiger Woods has finally ditched his last remaining Nike clubs, switching out his VR Forged for some raw TaylorMade Milled Grind wedges ahead of the Memorial Tournament.



Wedges

TaylorMade Milled Grind, 48°, 52° and 56°, Milled Grind Hi-Toe, 60°, KBS Hi-Rev 2.0 135X shafts.



Ball

TaylorMade TP5.



NEWS ROUND-UP

The top gear stories on tour, plus insight into some of the more interesting clubs that have helped players cross the finishing line

Adam Scott was 5th in driving accuracy at the Players with a Titleist 910D3

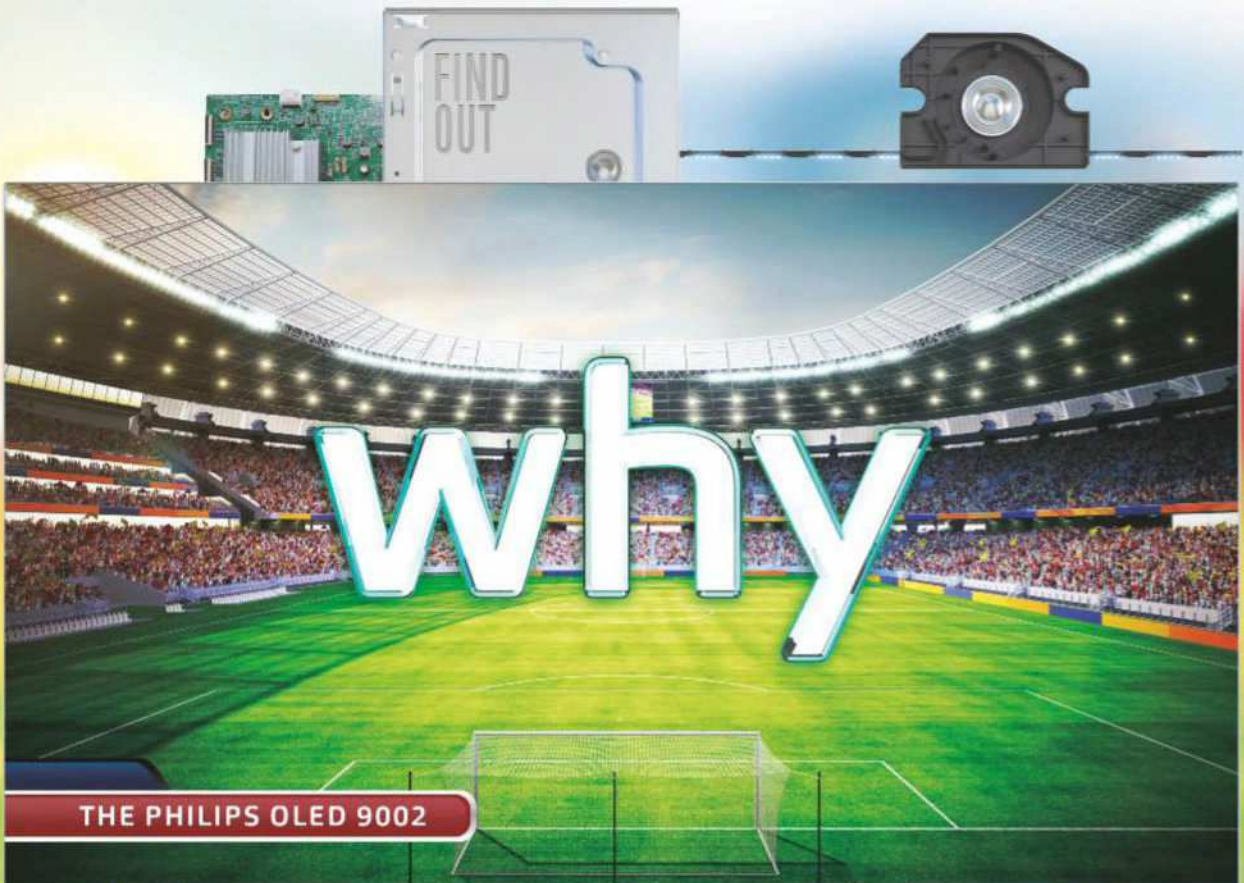
Rory McIlroy swapped his TaylorMade M3 fairway for an M4 model

Dustin Johnson put a TaylorMade Spider Mini putter in play at the Players

Aaron Wise hit 89% of fairways at the Byron Nelson with a Callaway Rogue

Webb Simpson won the Players with a 23.5° steel-shafted Titleist 915Hd

The winner of the Memorial Bryson DeChambeau used Cobra's One Length irons



THE PHILIPS OLED 9002



Trusted  Reviews

Have a good look at the Philips OLED 9002 and you'll see more than just a 55 inch 4K HDR OLED screen on a subtle barely there stand, you'll see a whole world of innovation that will make the big game feel bigger than ever. Visit [trustedreviews.com](https://www.trustedreviews.com) to compare it with what else is out there, and find the perfect TV for you.

The why before you buy

How can we get more women and girls into golf?

Words: Fergus Bisset | Photography: Getty Images

With participation figures declining, attracting more females to golf could help turn the corner.

What more can be done to achieve this?



Only 14% of club members in the UK and Ireland are female. There are two ways to look at that statistic: from a negative standpoint, emphasising the stereotype that golf is the preserve of middle-aged, middle-class men; or, from a more positive angle, that the low number of women presents a tremendous opportunity to grow the game by increasing female participation.

Research by Syngenta conducted in 2016 suggested that latent female golfers could be worth \$35 billion to the industry worldwide. At a time when Sports Marketing Surveys Inc's global participation reports show a decline in golfing numbers of 2.4% since 2012, this should be an opportunity the game pursues with vigour.

A report commissioned by The R&A and published earlier this year, considered women's, girls' and family participation in golf and highlighted the opportunity that exists globally. Following the report, The R&A, working in collaboration with the wider golf industry, published the *Women in Golf Charter* that seeks to develop a more inclusive culture and increase the number of women and girls playing.

One of the key steps The R&A has made in order to make this vision a

reality is a commitment to invest £80m over the next ten years to help fuel this growth. This includes an initial three-year funding package to support new women's golf development managers in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Australia.

"Change won't come overnight, but I think we can make golf a more inclusive sport for all," says Maria Dunne, who has been appointed as the development manager for Ireland.

Dunne – who enjoyed a successful amateur career and was a member of the GB&I Curtis Cup team that defeated the Americans at Dun Laoghaire in 2016 – is a great role model for aspiring female golfers, and the good news is there are plenty of role models at the highest level of the game to inspire women and girls of all ages.

Exciting home-grown golfers like Charley Hull and Georgia Hall, who

are making a name on a global level, can spur on youngsters, while established stars like Dame Laura Davies, still competitive on the LPGA Tour at 54, and Solheim Cup captain Catriona Matthew demonstrate golf is a sport in which older generations can continue to enjoy great success.

Events like the Solheim Cup at Gleneagles in 2019 and the Women's British Open are key opportunities to showcase elite women's golf and reach wider audiences. Events such as the recent GolfSixes, featuring pros from both the European Tour and Ladies European Tour, are important and The Olympics, where men and women compete over the same course for the same prizes, is crucial in establishing greater equality in high-level golf.

At a grass-roots level, all the national home amateur associations



Georgia Hall and Charley Hull are great role models



Only 14% of UK club members are female

“The key is to create a product that families want to enjoy together”

are preparing to hold Women and Girls' Golf Weeks from July 30 to August 5, building on the buzz created by the Ricoh Women's British Open at Royal Lytham.

On June 5, Women's Golf Day, the national associations in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales promoted opportunities for women and girls of all ages and abilities to give golf a go, including the campaign Get into Golf.

The Golf Foundation continues to do great work in this area and its Girls Golf Rocks programme introduced over 1,000 girls to golf last year. With an expanded schedule in 2018, that number will only grow.

It's at a club level, though, that the most significant steps can be taken. With only 14% of club membership in this country made up of women and

girls – in Europe the figure is nearer 30% – there's clearly a chance for growth. However, if the needle is to move then golf clubs must shift their focus and become more family-orientated and be seen as places where everyone will be welcomed.

“Clubs are struggling because their product is aimed at a target market which is shrinking,” said Martin Slumbers, chief executive of The R&A, at the launch of the *Women in Golf Charter*. “The key is to create a product that families want to enjoy together.”

One of the issues is that those in decision-making positions at UK clubs tend to be men. For a real change in dynamics to occur, females need

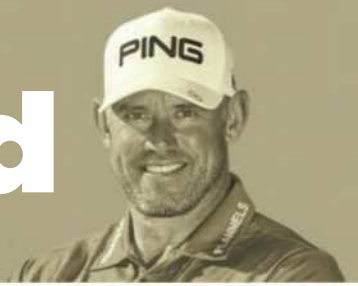
greater representation at management or committee level at UK clubs, enabling changes

to be made that could attract more women and girls to join.

Anybody considering a club membership will weigh up the cost against what they get out of it. Is membership going to offer a benefit in terms of physical and social wellbeing, fun and enjoyment? A golf club clearly can, and should, provide this. But, if the club is run by men, principally for the benefit of the men, how appealing is that to women and girls? Not very.

It's clear that there is a significant opportunity for the game to grow, and with the governing bodies making significant strides to create a shift in culture and a host of initiatives being launched, the future looks bright.

Lee Westwood



CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM

I played some good golf in the recent Rolex Series events and I'm feeling upbeat ahead of a busy summer, which of course includes The Open Championship at Carnoustie...

After a bit of a break, I returned to action at the BMW PGA Championship and then played in the Italian Open. I finished in a tie for 27th at Wentworth, which could have been much better if not for a disappointing closing round, and then I shot a final-round 63 in Italy to finish in a tie for 5th. I'm happy to report that my game feels in really good shape. All departments seem to be working and I'm pleased to have been able to get back into the swing of things so quickly after some time off.

Many pros will use time off to do a lot of practising, but I barely touched the clubs. I saw it as more of an opportunity to rest, relax and get myself ready for the busy part of the season. I spent a lot of time with family and friends and didn't think too much about golf. I'm very experienced at this stage in my career, so I'm able to switch quickly back into tournament mode when I need to. I enjoyed the break, but it's been good getting back into the competitive swing and I'm excited about what's to come over the next couple of months.

At Wentworth, I was announced as one of Thomas Bjorn's vice-captains for the Ryder Cup at Le Golf National in France in September. Thomas rang me about two months before the press conference and asked me if I wanted to be a vice-captain, and I told him I'd love to be involved. It's nice to be a part of the team in whatever capacity you can be. I've obviously got a lot of experience

in terms of playing in Ryder Cups and I'm eager to help out in whatever way I can. Being captain one day is definitely something that's on my radar, but I'm not sure when as yet, so this is clearly valuable experience for that.

I do think that you need to have been a vice-captain before you ultimately get the nod as captain, to see how it all works and see what happens on the inside. I've seen it from a player's perspective, so it'll be interesting to see how much more is involved in terms of strategy, picking partnerships and so on. We've had one meeting so far and we do a lot via calls and texts. Things will no doubt ramp up as we get into the busy period of the season.

The highlight of any summer of golf is the Open Championship, which is being played at Carnoustie this year. It's definitely one of the toughest layouts on the rota and it's just a really good test of golf. There are a lot of direction changes – it's not your classic straight out and back course – which makes reading the wind and course management very important.

The bunker placement is absolutely brilliant. If you're a good driver of the golf ball then you definitely have an advantage at Carnoustie. There are a lot of strong holes, but if you've got your game with you and you're swinging well, there are a good few birdie chances as well. It's a course that favours the good strategist – you can be aggressive on some holes but you have to be defensive on others, and working out which is which is crucial.

I thought the course set up wasn't quite right in 1999 – the fairways were tight in places and the rough was very thick, and I think most agreed – but last time around, in 2007, I think they got it spot on. As is the case with all links courses, a lot hinges on the wind. Take the 18th, for example. It can be a really tough hole – there's a lot of danger with the burn and the out of bounds, but you can also bang a drive down there and go in with pitching wedge if the wind is with you. Carnoustie also has some of the best greens on the Open rota with regards to trueness. They have subtle breaks and that makes them quite difficult to read, but you can be aggressive with your putts.

If I could take one shot again from all my Opens, it'd be my first putt on the 72nd green at Turnberry, but at the time I thought I had to make birdie as I expected Tom Watson to make a par in the group behind. I don't have any regrets about that.

I've played good golf at Carnoustie in the past – I did well at the British Amateur there and I also won the Dunhill Links in 2003 – my game's in decent shape and my Open record is solid, so I'm looking forward to it. It's also a great feeling being cheered onto every green by the home fans. I hope you all enjoy the action, wherever you're watching it.

■ Lee is sponsored by Audemars Piguet, Bioflow, Close House, Druh Belts, Flannels, ISPS Handa, Nike, Ping, Titleist, UPS and Your Golf Travel

“The bunker placement is absolutely brilliant. If you're a good driver of the golf ball then you definitely have an advantage at Carnoustie”

Featuring Our Summer Season Offers With The Latest Equipment

Proud To Be The UK's Biggest Online Retailer In Golf!

✓ 0% Finance

✓ Price Match

✓ Custom Fit

✓ PGA Advice

Callaway New Lower Prices On XR - Spread The Cost With Interest Free Finance

<p>XR 16 Driver</p> <p>Was £329.00</p> <p>Now £199.00</p> <p>Save £130 (40%)</p> <p>"Forgiveness Meets Fast With Boeing Inspiration"</p>		<p>XR 16 Fairway</p> <p>Was £249.00</p> <p>Now £149.00</p> <p>Save £100 (40%)</p> <p>"Forgiveness Meets Fast With Hotter Face Cup"</p>		<p>XR OS Hybrid</p> <p>Was £199.00</p> <p>Now £119.00</p> <p>Save £80 (40%)</p> <p>"Wider Head Design For Extreme Forgiveness"</p>	
--	---	--	---	--	---

Wilson Staff OFFER

FG Tour TC Wedge

Was ~~£99.99~~

Now **£54.99**

Save **£44 (45%)**

"Enhanced Spin With More Traction Control"



SRIXON OFFER

Z Series Cart Bags

Was ~~£184.99~~

Now **£99.99**

Save **£85 (46%)**

"Feature Loaded Design With 15 Way Dividers"



Titleist OFFER

716 AP1 Irons (5-GW)

Was ~~£799.00~~

Now **£449.00**

Save **£350 (44%)**

"Even Longer Distance With More Forgiveness"



TaylorMade NEW


Spider Mini Putters

33" - 35" Available

Price **£229.00**

Pure Roll Insert

"Stability Performance In A Smaller Package"



GARMIN NEW

S10 GPS Watches

Sleek Design

Price **£139.99**

Track Your Score

"Easy To Use With Instant Green View Distances"



Calvin Klein golf NEW

Summer Polo Shirts

Sizes S - 2XL

From **£29.99**

Stylish Range

"More Breathable With SmartTec Technology"



✓ Free UK Delivery Over £30

✓ Low Cost Delivery To Europe

Wayne Riley



ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

The recent BMW PGA Championship was a truly world-class event and hopefully next year's move to September will attract the biggest names from across the pond

I've just got back to Australia after covering the BMW PGA and the Italian Open, and what great events they were. Wentworth, in particular, was absolutely incredible. The recent renovations to the golf course have elevated it again and it's truly a world-class venue. I didn't have anyone come up to me and say anything other than how good the course was, which hasn't necessarily been the case in years gone by.

It's now set up perfectly for a golfer who has the complete game, which is why Francesco Molinari's victory didn't come as a surprise at all. Golf is such a difficult game, but Molinari was absolutely immense with his ball-striking and his chipping and putting looked as good as it ever has. In the past, he's struggled a touch with the short game and short putts, but he looks to have put that behind him, which makes him a real contender when it comes to the Majors and the Race to Dubai.

Once again, more than 100,000 people came through the door at Wentworth over the week. It was amazing to see and the BMW PGA is one of my very favourite events of the season. In fact, I feel as though it warrants more than being the premier event on the European Tour. I think it deserves a higher status, and World Golf Championship comes to mind.

Wentworth is near London – one of, if not the, best cities in the world – the tournament has so much history and the venue is outstanding. The European Tour has done a fantastic job with it and I

think it can be enhanced still. I think crowds could grow to 150,000 if we get people from all around the world playing.

I was slightly concerned when the announcement came that the event is moving to September from next year, but I've spoken to a lot of people who aren't worried at all. The FedExCup Playoffs will be finished by then and a series of lesser tournaments will be taking place on the PGA Tour, so the hope is that some Americans will come over. And they should. It's time for the Americans to get off their arses and on their aeroplanes and play around the world. There's no excuse – if you don't want to do it, it simply means you're playing for the money. Play for trophies against the best and let's get on with it.

Molinari was hugely impressive in Italy the following week. It was more of the robotic same, and he would probably have walked away with the trophy had it not been for a bad club selection off the 71st tee. But still, it was a second place in another Rolex Series event and he's now pretty much secured a place in the Ryder Cup side. And even if he somehow misses out on automatic qualification, it would take Stevie Wonder not to pick him. He's the kind of guy you want on your team and such an asset in the foursomes. He hits the ball dead straight, he's putting well and he's chipping well – what more could you want? I was actually shaking my head out in Italy at times, marvelling at the quality of his play.

Hats off to Thorbjorn Olesen for another terrific European Tour victory. He held off a very strong chasing pack and

secured his fifth title on the circuit in the process. What he needs to do, though, is find some more consistency. To play in the Ryder Cup or win Majors you can't go missing for large spells of the season. That's what separates good from great.

Given how Molinari and Olesen have played recently, it wouldn't be a surprise to see them contending in the Open at Carnoustie. I actually won the Scottish Open there in 1995, playing with Monty on day three and Faldo on day four, so it's a place I know very well. It's a great golf course and a very difficult one at that – I like to think of it as Carnoustie the Wee Beasty. It's a wonderful course, and if you're not inspired as you drive in then you shouldn't ever play golf again.

Carnoustie simply has to be respected. If you challenge the beast, you will come undone. You have to go into some greens with longer clubs to make sure you avoid the bunkers, but so be it – you're not going to win at Carnoustie with a 16-under-par total, so be sensible and be patient.

I said a few months ago that I fancy Rickie Fowler, and I haven't changed my mind. He's a fantastic player and the slow greens will play into his hands as he likes to hit putts aggressively. But there are so many contenders, and I'm very much looking forward to seeing how it all plays out. Don't forget to come and say g'day if you're at Carnoustie!

■ Wayne Riley is a former member of the European Tour and two-time winner who is part of the Sky Sports Golf Team. He writes exclusively for *Golf Monthly*

“To play in the Ryder Cup or win Majors you can't go missing for large parts of the season. That's what separates good from great”

Featuring Some Of The Most Popular & Latest Equipment For 2018

Spread The Cost With Our 0% Interest Free Finance!

✓ 0% APR Representative ✓ £0 Deposit To Pay ✓ 6, 9 Or 12 Months

Titleist

917 D2/D3 Drivers

New Lower Price

Only **£54.83[±]** per month!

Custom Fit Options

Total £329.00 - £0 Deposit - 0% APR
6 Month Term - Total Repayable £329.00



Ben Sayers


Electric Trolleys

36 Hole Lead Acid

Only **£44.83[±]** per month!

Free £150 Accessories

Total £269.00 - £0 Deposit - 0% APR
6 Month Term - Total Repayable £269.00



Cleveland GOLF

CBX Wedges

3 Club Multibuy

Only **£45.00[±]** per month!

Custom Fit Options

Total £269.97 - £0 Deposit - 0% APR
6 Month Term - Total Repayable £269.97



Bushnell

Hybrid GPS Rangefinder

#1 On Tour

Only **£66.50** per month!

Integrated GPS

Total £399.00 - £0 Deposit - 0% APR
6 Month Term - Total Repayable £399.00



ODYSSEY


EXO Putters

6 Head Shapes

Only **£54.83[±]** per month!

White Hot Feel

Total £329.00 - £0 Deposit - 0% APR
6 Month Term - Total Repayable £329.00



Callaway

X2 HOT+ Package Set

10-Piece Set

Only **£58.89[±]** per month!

Save **£470 (47%)**

Total £529.99 - £0 Deposit - 0% APR
9 Month Term - Total Repayable £529.99



Scobra

FLY-Z S Package Set

11-Piece Set

Only **£66.56[±]** per month!

Save **£400 (40%)**

Total £599.00 - £0 Deposit - 0% APR
9 Month Term - Total Repayable £599.00



ONLINE - www.clubhousegolf.co.uk CALL - 0845 375 1716

Dan Walker



REACH FOR THE STARS

Like it or not, today's celebrity-obsessed culture is something golf needs to embrace, and certain high-profile fans can help the game engage with the younger generation

The BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth has become a rather impressive event. It has always been prestigious, but in recent years the organisers have added an extra layer of quality.

It's been my privilege to play in the Pro-Am there for the last six years, and this year the course was showing many of its sharpened teeth. To give you an idea of the difficulty... only two members broke 80 in the medal in April when the course was playing to 'tournament conditions'.

The low hum that fills your ears as you wander the course is where the real money has been spent. The constant rattle of the sub-air system allows the green staff to control the moisture in the ground and therefore make things as firm and as fast as they like.

I was playing with Richie Ramsay this year, who produced a wonderful exhibition of how to hit a driver. On the par-4 8th he was a little miffed because his drive down the right side was about three yards off the perfect line... oh to be cursed with that sort of inaccuracy.

Growing the game of golf is a regular topic of discussion on these pages and events like the PGA are a huge part of that. The week kicked off with a charity night featuring Mike Rutherford from Genesis, Nick Mason from Pink Floyd, Roger Taylor from Queen, Roachford and Tom Chaplin from Keane. Once the pennies had been counted they had raised almost £350,000 for Diabetes UK. The figures for the number of people who came through the gates were equally

impressive: 111,112 in total, and almost 21,000 of them on the Wednesday before day one of the tournament.

I know it leaves a grim taste in the mouth of some, but those 'A'-listers (and I don't count myself in that, in case you were asking) who slashed their way around the West course are crucial to the future of the game.

We all know that, as much as we love the game, golf has a few problems. It has always been an expensive sport, but participation levels are in decline and many clubs are struggling to keep their member numbers up.

There were 74 million golf-based social media interactions from the celebrities at the Pro-Am at Wentworth, with 40% of those from Niall Horan, who has become a pivotal figure in the sport.

According to a recent survey of 15- to 25-year-olds, 42% of them said the main reason they hadn't taken up golf was because they "didn't know how to get started". Some 57% of those people said that either seeing their friends, or people they admire, playing golf would make them want to get involved.

That's one of the reasons why it's important to see Niall Horan, Justin Timberlake, Will Smith, Justin Bieber, Jodie Kidd or Zac Efron swinging a club.

That's why it's important that nearly 21,000 people at Wentworth saw the likes of Alan Shearer, Kevin Pietersen, Damian Lewis and Vernon Kay enjoying a game that they love.

Like every other sport in the world, golf is constantly looking for new ways to engage the younger generation. We

can all sit around drinking shandy complaining about slow golfers and the potential for bigger holes but – love it or hate it – celebrity golfers are crucial.

Earlier this year Horan tweeted a picture of his breakfast. Within an hour it had been liked by 75,000 people. Last time I looked at the size of his Twitter following, he had over 40 million potential golfers at his fingertips. To put that into perspective, the combined Twitter reach of the top-ten golfers on the planet is only ten million.

Golf needs to reach a new audience and – although I've never met anyone who has taken up golf because of Niall – at Wentworth I saw an awful lot of people who had never been to a golf club before queuing for an autograph.

On another note, I should say thanks to all those who asked me about #OperationScratch. Wentworth is not the best place to test your game. Not only is it ridiculously tough but we played tournament scramble, which encourages you to smash it as far as you can because you only play the best drive out of the four. I'm still working on strengthening my left wrist in the backswing with Ben Mason in Sheffield and my bag man at the PGA was Neil Wain, one of the pros from The Belfry, so I picked up some great short-game tips. The tuition is first class, so if I don't start going seriously low soon there's only one person to blame.

■ You can see Dan on BBC Breakfast Mon-Wed or every Saturday on Football Focus. You may also find him on a golf course... probably missing a four-footer

“I know it leaves a grim taste in the mouth of some, but those ‘A’-listers who slashed their way around the West course are crucial to the game”

GLENMUIR

1891

CRAFTING SCOTTISH QUALITY SINCE 1891



WHY YOU SHOULD SUPPORT THE GOLF FOUNDATION

Photography: **Leaderboard Photography, Getty Images**

The Golf Foundation encourages young people from all backgrounds to enjoy the benefits of golf. Here are five reasons to back the charity...



The HSBC Golf Roots programme

1 BENEFIT FOR CLUBS
The 'HSBC Golf Roots' programme reaches 500,000 young people in schools and the community each year, aiming to encourage 50,000 youngsters to try golf at a club per year, with 15,000 becoming regular players and 5,000 joining clubs as juniors.

Those clubs that join in and support the charity can secure Golf Foundation discretionary funding. This helps them to grow junior sections while building a valuable relationship with their local community.

2 INVESTING IN YOUTH

According to research, more than half of adult players first played the game as a junior. Investing in youth is a benefit for children and parents alike. Sports Marketing Surveys Inc found that 99 per cent of parents whose children play the sport see it as providing a safe environment. The majority of parents also see golf as one of the best sports for teaching positive behaviours to their children and for developing life skills. Families are being encouraged to visit clubs together and the Golf Foundation is supporting this.

CASE STUDY: the GolfSixes League is a fast, fun, new team format for young golfers. This joint England Golf/Golf Foundation initiative is designed to foster a sense of team spirit and belonging

for young players, with the purpose of helping to grow and maintain junior sections. This summer, around 1,500 boys and girls will be representing their clubs, wearing coloured team shirts with GolfSixes branding. They receive tuition in the lead-up and in last year's pilot many parents took on volunteering roles.



One of the many Skills For Life award winners



4 SKILLS FOR LIFE

All Golf Foundation activity is underpinned by encouraging the learning of Skills for Life, the positive attitude and behaviour that golf teaches its players which can help young people on the course but also in their wider lives – attributes like respect, sportsmanship, discipline and focus.

A number of PGA pros have been involved in a project testing a new way of teaching Skills for Life.

The view that the sport can play a highly positive role in a young person's life is central to the Foundation's 'Golf for All' philosophy; the message being that golf is good for you and offers a 'game for life, skills for life and a healthy life'.

3 GROWING THE SPORT FOR GIRLS

The Foundation has a focus on helping to increase the number of female golfers and much work has gone into this in the last two years. This includes delivering golf with regional Girl Guide and Brownie groups and the growth of the thriving Girls Golf Rocks initiative.

Girls Golf Rocks, in partnership with England Golf and the County Associations, provides taster sessions, weekly coaching and opportunities to play at par-3 courses. Crucially, each participating club enjoys the help of an established county girl golfer who acts as a mentor for the new young players, showing them golf can be cool and fun while providing a sociable environment to make new friends. Girls Golf Rocks started as a pilot in Essex in 2016 and is being delivered in 21 counties this year.



5 GOLF FOR ALL

In nearly 3,000 schools, the Tri-Golf format for younger children (and StreetGolf for older kids) encourages all abilities to get started (Tri-Golf, with its large-headed plastic clubs, easy-to-hit soft balls and colourful targets, offers immediate encouragement). Foundation

programmes also encourage youngsters with special educational needs and disabilities, while the reach of the charity's programmes offer golf in traditionally non-golfing areas, such as urban environments. Andrew 'Beef' Johnston has recently become a Golf Foundation ambassador to help promote its Golf For All philosophy.

FIVE WAYS TO SUPPORT THE GOLF FOUNDATION

1 Choosing the Golf Foundation as the captain's charity, or dedicating an existing club competition, such as a monthly medal or Stableford, to the Golf Foundation with a donation as an entry fee.

2 Giving members the opportunity of adding an optional donation to the Golf Foundation as part of their annual club subscription.

3 Entering a team into the annual Golf Foundation Pro-Am, supported by the European Tour, which this year is taking place at London Golf Club on Monday October 8.

4 Leaving a legacy to the Golf Foundation is a special and personal way of providing opportunities for future generations to enjoy the game.

5 Supporting initiatives such as the Etiquis Charity Challenge and the Brooch Competition (information on the Golf Foundation website), or staging putting/chipping/Tri-Golf events at your club with small entry fees.

To find out more, visit www.golf-foundation.org or call 01992 449830. Like @TheGolfFoundation on Facebook and follow @GolfRootsHQ on Twitter

WIN A NEW M5 CONNECT ELECTRIC TROLLEY FROM MOTOCADDY

WORTH £800!

Your chance to take home the world's first compact-folding Smart Cart

Golf Monthly has teamed up with the world's leading trolley brand, Motocaddy, to offer one lucky reader the chance to win a brand-new M5 CONNECT - the world's only GPS-enabled compact electric trolley.

Ideal for golfers with limited boot or storage space, the groundbreaking M5 CONNECT provides yardages for over 40,000 courses around the world direct to the trolley handle when synced to the Motocaddy GPS app via a Bluetooth® connection on any compatible smartphone.

The sunlight-friendly digital display can be used in place of a conventional GPS device and is powered by the trolley battery.

Golfers can access front, middle and back distances, plus shot measurements, par of the hole and clock and round timers.

Optional smartphone notifications can also be viewed on the trolley display, alerting golfers to a missed call, text message, email or range of app alerts, including WhatsApp and Facebook. The smartphone can remain connected, even when securely placed in a golf bag pocket or being charged using the trolley's patented USB charging port.

As well as the innovative 'Smart' technology, the M5 CONNECT also features a

unique SlimFold design and space-saving inverted wheels to achieve a significantly reduced folded footprint, plus a next-generation 28V High Power system, making it twice as powerful as other compact electric trolleys on the market.

Other standout features include a soft-touch ergonomic handle, fully adjustable to any height by hand; nine speed settings and Adjustable Distance Control up to 50 yards; a whisper-quiet 230W motor; an integrated safety cut-out system; and the EASILOCK bag-to-trolley connection system, which removes the need for a lower bag strap. It also features a new oversize frame to offer unprecedented handle stability.

To be in with a chance of winning this great prize, simply visit golf-monthly.co.uk/competitions and answer the following question:

How many courses are available on the M5 CONNECT 'Smart Cart' handle?

- A) 40,000
- B) 20,000
- C) 10,000



 MOTOCADDY®

Golf Monthly competition terms and conditions: The closing date for entries is June 25, 2018. All prizes are non-transferable and must be accepted as offered. Employees of Time Inc. (UK) and its subsidiary companies, their families, agents or anyone connected with this promotion are not eligible to enter. Only one entry per person. Entries must not be sent through agencies or third parties; any such entries will be invalid. The promoter cannot accept responsibility for entries that are incomplete or delayed. The winners will be the specified number of winners and/or runners up drawn at random after the closing date. Some competitions will be decided by a judging panel. All winners will be notified within 28 days of the draw. Winners must be prepared to co-operate with any publicity arising as a result of winning the competition. A list of the winners can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope specifying the name of the competition to Golf Monthly Marketing Department, Pinehurst 2, Pinehurst Road, Farnborough Business Park, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 7BF. No correspondence will be entered into. The decision of the promoter in all matters is final and binding. The promoter is Golf Monthly Magazine, Time Inc. (UK), Pinehurst 2, Pinehurst Road, Farnborough Business Park, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 7BF. Entry implies acceptance of these rules.

16-PAGE
SPECIAL

P60

PATH TO
GREATNESS

RORY REVEALED

P54

WHAT'S IN
THE BAG?

P58

LAUNCH
DATA

P66

POWER
POINTS

What's In My Bag?



“What’s In My Bag?”

Interview: **Neil Tappin** | Portraits: **Angus Murray**

The four-time Major winner talks us through the clubs which he hopes will help add to that tally

ver the last two years, one of the most intriguing tour-related storylines has revolved around the equipment choices of many of the world’s best golfers.

When Nike dropped out of the golf club market in the summer of 2016, a vacuum was created and a host of players were left with important decisions to make. Rory McIlroy was one of those players and in May 2017, he signed an equipment sponsorship deal with TaylorMade. Since then, the Northern Irishman has worked closely with the brand, regularly tinkering with his line-up as he searches for the best possible combination. McIlroy now plays 14 TaylorMade clubs and the company’s TP-5x golf ball.

Here, he talks through his journey to the gear line-up he uses today. From driver to putter, the incredible detail that follows illustrates just how carefully McIlroy thinks about his equipment and offers a candid insight as he searches for his fifth Major Championship.

DRIVER

TaylorMade M3 460, 8.5°

Shaft: Mitsubishi Tensei Orange 70X

I played the TaylorMade M2 last year and this year I thought I was going to play an M4. Easy, you go from M2 to M4, it's the logical transition, but when I hit them both, the M3 felt a little bit better and I found the clubface a little bit easier.

It was a surprise to me that I went with an M3 over an M4, but I love it. It's performed really well this year. The head is 8.5° and I've moved both of the adjustable weights all the way forward to try and lower the spin. I have shied away from adjustability in the past and I try not to overcomplicate things, but having these two weights forward has made a huge difference in terms of just getting that spin down. It carries a few

“It was a surprise to me that I went for an M3 over an M4, but I love it”

more yards, but because it's coming down a little bit hotter, the ball gets more run on the fairway.

I had been playing the same Kuro Kage shaft for seven years, and I just thought that there are all these advances in technology, whether it be with clubheads, shafts or golf balls, so there must be something better than what I was using.

So I tried a couple of different things and settled on the Tensei Orange. But the great thing about this shaft is that I didn't really have to move the weights

around too much in the M3 head. I could set it at standard loft, which was great as well. The shaft has been a brilliant addition – tighter ball flight and a little less dispersion.

3-WOOD

TaylorMade M3, 13.5°

Shaft: Mitsubishi Tensei CK Pro White 80X

It's just personal preference – I like the TaylorMade M3 head shape and the head size. The M4 is a little bit more of a spoon shape and the M3 has a flatter face, more of a straight face. I actually have an M4 5-wood that I sometimes carry, but right now I have got the 2-iron in the bag.

I've got my 3-wood in the lower setting so it's probably at 13.5°, and I've

got it just a notch to the draw setting with the adjustability. These days, drivers just go dead straight – they might go a couple of yards left to right or a couple of yards right to left – so I wanted to put the 3-wood in a draw setting so it is a little easier to turn over.

2-IRON

TaylorMade P790 UDI, 18°

Shaft: Project X HZRDU5 6.5 105

Traditionally I've carried a 5-wood and then if I've needed to I will carry a 2-iron.

Now it's almost the other way around. This is a great club off the tee, and from the fairway it carries about 260 to 270 yards and runs out to 285 yards. It's a good club to have in the bag. The flight is really strong, it's great in the wind, so it's been a fantastic addition.

Photography: Getty Images



THE LINE UP



TaylorMade M3



TaylorMade M3



TaylorMade TP Black
Copper Soto
Spec: 34.25", 2.75°

Then from 5-iron through to 9-iron it's the TaylorMade P730s. They are very traditional blades – great feeling, great sounding, very consistent – so they've been really good.

WEDGES

TaylorMade Milled Grind 47° SB09, 54° SB11, TaylorMade Hi-Toe 60°
Shaft: Project X Rifle 6.5

I've moved away from using a set pitching wedge, so I go to 47° in the Milled Grind and then it depends on the course. I carry a 52° and a 56° with me, but I usually use a Milled Grind 54° and then a 60° in the TaylorMade Hi-Toe.

PUTTER

TaylorMade TP Black Copper Soto
Spec: 34.25", 2.75°

Bay Hill was the best putting week of my career. I changed putter from the Mullen, which was 33 inches, to a 34-and-a-quarter-inch Soto with a slant neck. I just wanted to go with something that I was a little more familiar with, head-shape wise. It has a little more toe-hang to get the toe of the putter releasing a bit more.

I love the Surlyn insert in it, it feels really soft. It's a very traditional-looking blade-style putter, something that I've used quite a lot in the past, that I've been very successful with.

Obviously, it's a different neck. It is not quite the plumber's neck that I've used before, but it is just something that I went back to and it felt really familiar. It felt like reintroducing myself to an old friend.

IRONS

TaylorMade P750 (3- & 4-iron)
TaylorMade P730 (5- to 9-iron)
Shaft: Project X Rifle 7.0

I have a bit of a combo set, so my 3- and 4-iron are the P750 – everybody needs a

little bit of help! They are just a tiny bit more forgiving. They also launch a little bit higher, which I like, as well, going into the par 5s. They've helped a lot. In the past I've actually moved away from combo sets, but these have been a really good addition.



RORY'S LAUNCH DATA... REVEALED!

Photography: **Angus Murray**

Keith Sbarbaro, vice president of tour operations at TaylorMade, takes a look behind the numbers

Like every golf fan, I had followed Rory McIlroy for years and I knew he was a phenomenal driver of the ball. However, when we started working with him I was able to see just how well he presents the driver to the ball. He hits the most beautiful high draw, maximising every inch of his speed. It's poetry in motion.

When he joined us, Rory was struggling to get the ball to turn over and he was using a 7° driver, so my goal was to get him a little bit more loft and I knew that with our TP-5x ball, which is lower spinning, I could go up in loft. That would get him better launch conditions and also help him turn it over. So he originally played an 8.5° M2. With similar ball speeds, I was able to get him more launch and less spin.

In December last year we introduced Rory to the M3 during a photoshoot and we did a fitting that day. His M2 driver was so good, the initial goal was to get him something as good as that. The difference this year was that we started with the M3 and he just started flushing it right out of the middle. We then went into the M4 and he started heeling it a little more. The M3 actually fit him better.

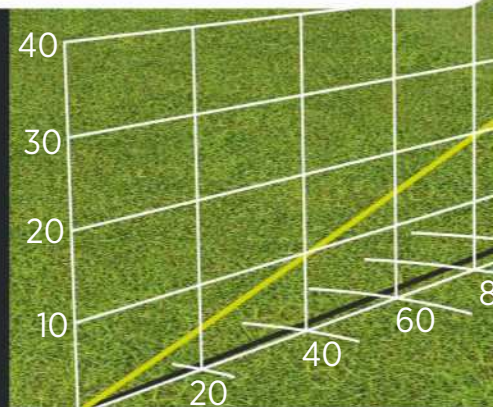
Speed
Your ball speed measures how solidly you're hitting it. At impact, is the ball

lined up with the centre of gravity of the driver? Rory's normal clubhead speed would be 120mph and then he gets 180mph of ball speed out of it. That's incredible efficiency.

Dustin Johnson, Jon Rahm and Rory are about as efficient as you get. They all maximise their ball speed for their clubhead speed. When you match maximum ball speed with perfect launch and spin, that's when you start to hit it really far.

Spin
Rory spins the ball between 2100 and 2300rpm with his driver. When he hits cut shots, the spin can get up to 2400rpm, and if he really gets one high on the face it might dip a little under 2000rpm, but it is still maximised. The beauty with the M3 was the ball speed actually went up from the M2 the year before. It wasn't game-changing speed, but there was a little bit in there and because of that we could get him a few extra yards.

At that initial fitting Rory averaged 317 yards of carry, with TrackMan normalised. It was just one shot after the other as well. Rory has said



CLUBHEAD SPEED

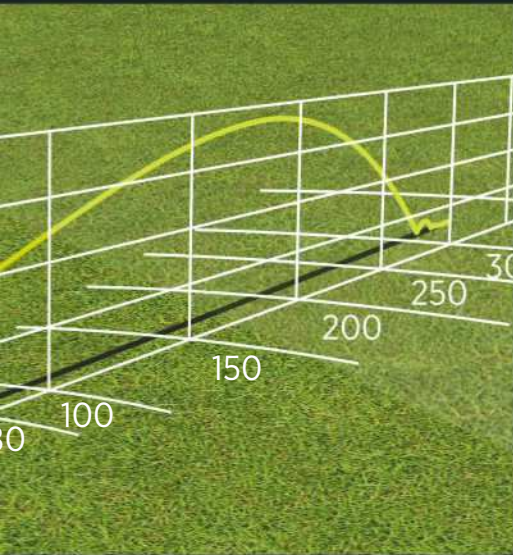
120
mph

CARRY

317
yards

“He hits the most beautiful high draw, maximising every inch of his speed. It's poetry in motion”





BALL SPEED

180
mph

LAUNCH ANGLE

13
deg

SPIN

2100
rpm

HEIGHT

105
ft

LANDING ANGLE

36
deg

TOTAL

343
yards

that he is getting a bit more distance from the ball rolling out further, and that would be an indication that it's spinning a hair less, but I haven't seen that in our fittings. Having said that, he's the one out there on the course playing it and it could well be the case.



Dispersion

When Rory first saw the M3 we used a head tracker. He had one miss that was 9mm off the heel using the Twist Face and it went straighter than his 2mm miss with his old M2. The 2mm off the heel went nine yards off line, and the

9mm went three yards off line. It was compelling. His concern was that his heel miss cuts back towards the fairway, which is his safety play. These strikes are going to spin more than a centred hit, but they just have less side spin so they go further and straighter. It's genius technology.





McILROY

GREATNESS

Words: **Neil Tappin** | Portraits: **Angus Murray**

**The Ulsterman tells us how aggression
and a positive mindset have helped
propel him to the top of the game**

As the clock hits 8am on an unusually dreary morning in Southern California, a blanket of milky grey cloud conceals the sun. My flight arrived from London the previous evening and this was a disappointingly familiar scene to wake up to. More Lake District than Los Angeles.

Despite the weather, there is a telltale mix of excitement and tension in the air, the sort that only

comes when something big is about to happen. Today, Rory McIlroy is due to make his first-ever visit to the TaylorMade headquarters after signing for the brand the previous year. Pristine carpets are being hoovered, door handles are being polished and adorning the front of the main office building is a giant billboard of the man in question with the tagline, 'Hear The Rors'. As a snapshot of the value a single golfer can have to a major equipment manufacturer, this is compelling.

McIlroy's plan is to test some new equipment, meet the TaylorMade employees and then receive a tour of the facility. My own slice of the action will come after Rory has been shown some prototype clubs and balls. His feedback, combined with the data from his testing, will provide the basis for future design changes. Our makeshift studio/interview room has been built in the driving range bay behind where Rory will be testing. I've stumbled into a front row seat that could sell for thousands. ▶



Rory's textbook finish position has changed very little over the years

The driving range at the Kingdom, TaylorMade's outdoor testing facility, is roughly triangular in shape. The further you hit the ball, the narrower it gets and for a player of McIlroy's length, keeping the ball within the boundary is easier said than done. No matter. With driver in hand, Rory flushes ball after ball down this narrow shoot with an imperious, high draw. Whoosh, crack. It's a masterclass of athleticism that perfectly blends power with control, speed and balance. For any golf fan, watching McIlroy hit his driver is an ethereal experience.

What is all too easy to forget in moments like this is that you are observing the finished article in action. As I watch, I am reminded of Matthew Syed's superb book, *Bounce*, in which he looks at how elite athletes reach the very highest levels of performance, supporting the Malcolm Gladwell theory that 10,000 hours of purposeful practice over a ten-year period is a pre-requisite to greatness. As the viewing public are exposed to the end product – a Federer backhand, a Ronaldo

free-kick or, in this case, a McIlroy drive – it is easy to ignore the journey that has led to this moment and simply wonder at the talent on show.

I had interviewed McIlroy two years previously and it was a point he stressed to me then. "It's hard to put it across to people sometimes because all they see is us on the golf course," he told me. "But even as a teenager and turning pro, I spent so much time

practising and putting... You're born with a certain talent, but you need to work as hard as you possibly can to turn that talent into something more."

Road to glory

Indeed, it is this journey that I want to explore in greater detail now.

Believe it or not, McIlroy has more than a decade of tour experience under his belt. In some ways he has changed



Back to winning ways at Bay Hill



His trademark headcover

beyond recognition, but in others he is the same youthful, fearless teenager he always was. One thing that has certainly never changed is his picture-perfect finish position. This signature pose is evident in the earliest photographs I can find of McIlroy in action and seems like a good place to start our interview.

“Yeah, I actually got that from my dad,” he says. “He always said to me, ‘hold your finish’ and that’s why I always have. My finish position and my balance were drilled into me by my dad at an early age. ‘Hold your finish, hold your finish,’ he’d say. If you have a good finish position it means that

“My finish position and my balance were drilled into me by my dad at an early age”

everything that’s come before it has been in sync and in balance, and it has worked pretty well. From a couple of feet before the ball to a couple of feet after, that is where you need to be good. A good finish position can help you with that.”

Looking at his finish position and his technique as a whole, McIlroy’s golf swing appears to have changed very little over the years. However, behind the scenes, important adjustments have been made. As an elite-level golfer, McIlroy will have been exposed to any number of potentially game-improving technologies, from body mapping to dynamic balance systems. Indeed, it was one of these that revealed a previously unknown truth about his swing.

“The first time I was tested biomechanically, we realised that the maximum velocity in my golf swing was about 18 inches before I’d even hit the ball,” he reveals. “This meant that I was actually slowing down at impact. That was happening because of a few things physically – I wasn’t strong enough in my left side. My left quad and my left glute weren’t supporting the speed that was going into the ball, so I needed to strengthen that in order to be able to hold that speed all the way through impact. Understanding things like that have helped me hit the ball a little bit longer and maybe a little

straighter, just because of the stability I now have in my golf swing.”

Herein lies one of the biggest challenges faced by those striving to reach the top of the game. We can all agree that every golf swing is different and that no golf swing is perfect. The question is, how do you improve when what makes you an individual might be the small technical deficiencies that, in some unquantifiable way, are your biggest strength? Making your own idiosyncratic movements more orthodox could be the making of you as a player, but it could also damage you, badly. There are no shortage of examples of golfers who have

unpicked their techniques and in doing so have unravelled. Getting better, it seems, is a risky business.

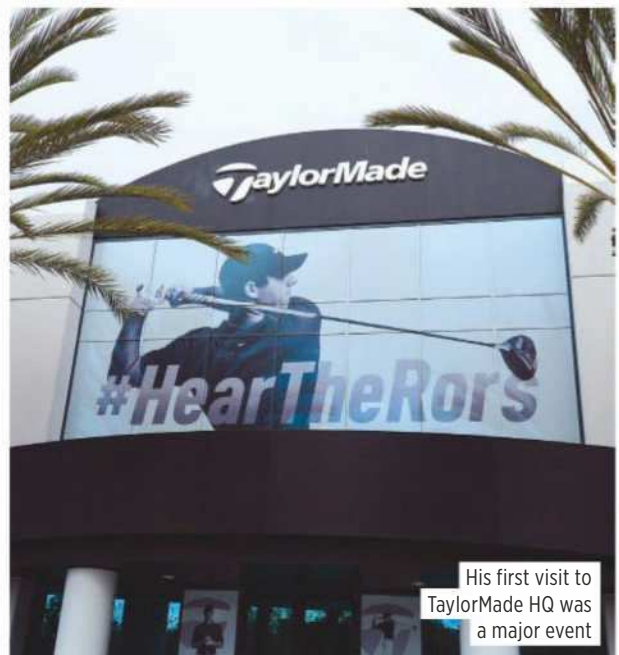
“You have to learn what works for you,” Rory explains. “People look at me and they might think that I set the club a little too steep or my right elbow isn’t tucked in enough at the top of the backswing. There are loads of things I do a little differently to other people. But they work for me, I’ve created good feelings from them and I’ve had good results with them. Golf is such an individual game and no two swings are the same. Just be as individual as you possibly can, don’t try and copy anyone else and try to learn what works for you and go from there.”

“The little swing thoughts I have, they trigger something in me that enables me to hit the ball where I want it to go, but those swing thoughts may not necessarily work for someone else. So you have to figure out a key for you

that works and something that’s constant. You need constants in your golf swing. For me they are set-up, grip, posture – it’s the fundamentals. If you can keep those things the same and start from a really good position it makes everything else that little bit more simple.”

Hard work pays off

Some players spend hours on the driving range during tournaments, but McIlroy is not one of them. His pre-tournament warm-up is just that, a warm-up. He hits enough balls on the range to get his body moving and then after some chipping and putting he heads to the course. Simple. It is one of the least technical pre-event routines you will find. The hard work is almost always done away from the cameras, the smartphones and the prying eyes. McIlroy once revealed to *Golf Monthly*



that a typical practice day starts at 5.30am and finishes 13 hours later. So, given what Rory has already said about consistency and individuality in his technique, what exactly does that time consist of?

“There have to be technical parts to your practice where you are working on your swing. It is important to work on different positions that will allow you to hit the ball better and hit the ball more consistently. But then you have to get away from that as well and play games, put yourself under pressure. ▶

The more you can simulate what it's going to be like on the golf course while you're on the range, the better you are going to perform. You might do some drills where you're working on your set-up, alignment, practising taking the club halfway back, whatever it may be, and do enough reps so that it beds in without much thought. Then you have to pretend that there is a pin in the middle of the range and say to yourself, 'okay, this is a back-right pin and I can't hit it right'. Put yourself under pressure. I really enjoy games like that on the range because that's what makes you better. When you're under pressure, with a one-shot lead, hitting a shot into the last hole, those sessions on the

three days, but from the moment his opening tee shot left the clubface on Sunday, it was clear his game was off. The difference between the McIlroy of 2008 and today was the maturity of his reaction. Disappointed? Of course, but he knows that success can come just as quickly as it can go. Golf is not one of those sports where you ever 'expect' to win, no matter how good you are.

The benefit of experience

It seems this maturity has filtered through into his strategy, too, a point that becomes clear when I ask him to mark himself out of ten for aggression.

"If you had asked me that question about five years ago, I would have said



He was philosophical about his final-day Masters struggles



Rory is a hero to kids all over the world

range are what is going to help you produce a shot that will hopefully win you the golf tournament."

There is no doubt that after a decade of enjoying the highs and battling his way through the lows of a life on tour, the McIlroy we see today is a more measured, experienced version. Take the 2018 Masters, for example. His final-round 74 certainly wasn't in the script. The Northern Irishman had jockeyed well for position over the first

ten, but nowadays it's a little less," he explains. "I am aggressive when I need to be but I'm conservative too, and I'm experienced enough to know that four days of golf is a long time and a lot can happen over 72 holes. I am still more aggressive than the majority of players – I'd probably give myself a seven-and-a-half or an eight out of ten."

When everything comes together, there is no golfer more captivating to watch than Rory. That natural

aggression, coupled with the ability to pull off the extraordinary, can seem superhuman. It is in these moments that those natural-talent arguments are at their most seductive. It happened earlier this year at Bay Hill, when McIlroy finished with five birdies in the last six holes to emerge from the pack and win by three shots. Sport psychologists describe this as the zone, a spell of sheer confidence.

"I think those moments teach you how important the mental side of the game is and what having the proper mindset can do for you," he says. "I'd say that if people went out there with the right mindset and thought about the right things, had confidence in themselves and didn't have doubts about what shot they were going to hit, it is amazing the difference that can

"I have doubts, everyone does. The best players in the world still doubt themselves over a shot"



DREAM TEAM

As CEO of TaylorMade, David Abeles has assembled an extraordinary team of top tour professionals. From Jon Rahm to Tiger Woods, he offers an insight into where they all fit in within the TaylorMade family...

“Rory McIlroy is a world talent, an incredible athlete but, importantly for us, his values are aligned with our company. He is awfully competitive, he is very authentic to the game of golf and he is innovative in his approach to his equipment. What is unique about Rory is how true he is to himself. He is so genuine about his own identity and secure in himself and that disarms people. They want to be a part of his world.

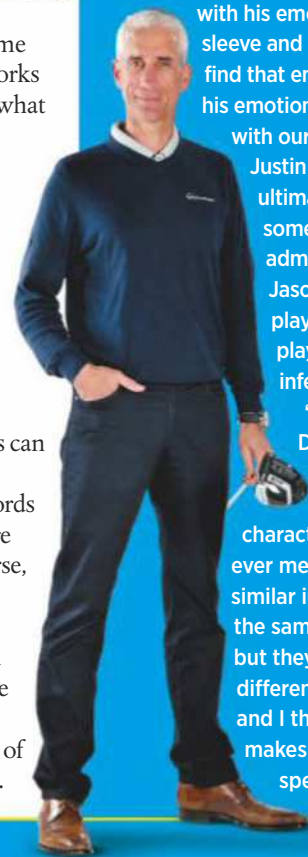
“We have assembled an incredible elite group of athletes at TaylorMade and I don’t think it has ever been done before. They all have a fierce desire to win. Not to finish, to win. However, each one of them is slightly different. Rory is extremely relatable. Tiger is this world icon that young athletes aspire to. Jon Rahm plays

with his emotions on his sleeve and I think people find that endearing because his emotions are consistent with ours, as amateurs.

Justin Rose is the ultimate professional, someone who I admire immensely.

Jason Day loves to play golf and as he plays, it is infectious.

“Then you have Dustin Johnson, who might just be the coolest character you could ever meet. They are all similar in that they share the same desire to win, but they are all very different personalities and I think that’s what makes it such a special team.”



make. It is hard, though. I have doubts, everyone does. The best players in the world still doubt themselves over a golf shot, but if you can free-wheel and let it go as much as you can, that’s when the results will start to show.”

A sporting icon

If you have ever attended a golf tournament in which McIlroy is competing, one striking discovery is just how popular he is with kids. As he walks to and from the practice ground, there is a chorus of high-pitched cries of ‘Rory’ that follow his every step. A high five en route to the first tee is greeted with the sort of pure, unfettered elation that can only be experienced by a child. From Abu Dhabi to Orlando, young children around the world look at Rory as the sporting hero they dream of becoming.

“I think it’s just the style in which I play,” he explains. “How hard I hit the driver also has a lot to do with it. I’m

aggressive and I maybe take on some shots I shouldn’t – sometimes it works out and sometimes it doesn’t. But what I would say is that it is a sign of a positive mindset and that’s a nice message to give to young people. Believe in yourself, be positive and back yourself.”

These words seem to have a fitting finality to them. Rory is soon ushered away into the TaylorMade offices to meet those responsible for designing his golf equipment. It is true that few golfers can claim to have the same level of confidence as McIlroy, but as his words suggest, it is worth pondering where that self-belief comes from. Of course, he was gifted with extraordinary talent, but by coupling that with a strong and clever work ethic and an aggressive mindset, you get what we see today. At times brilliant, often fallible but never boring, the appeal of Rory McIlroy is impossible to resist.

RORY'S POWER POINTS


Rory McIlroy is one of the game's best drivers of the ball. By breaking his swing down into pivotal positions and calling in *Golf Monthly* Top 25 Coach Clive Tucker, we've highlighted the simple keys any golfer can copy

1 Address position
Long, straight drivers of the ball possess certain characteristics, and Rory definitely has them. Before we start highlighting them, I should mention that even though we are looking at 'positions', the goal is to incorporate them into the motion of the swing as a whole. So slow swings while watching yourself in the mirror or on video will confirm your feelings are correct. Then you can add speed once you have a feel for the 'positions'. Rory has an athletic, poised set-up position, where his balance is centred and he is well aimed and relaxed. Notice also how his spine is tilted away from the target. This allows for an ease of movement into the backswing and enables him to create those crucial launch conditions Keith Sbarbaro talks about on page 58.



Rory's spine is tilted away from target slightly at address to help him wind up into the backswing


His stance is wider with his woods than his irons, creating a more stable base to support a powerful upper-body rotation



Maintaining the distance between the sternum and the mid-point of the grip will help you create backswing width

Good sequencing leads to power and accuracy

2 The takeaway
Typically, great driver swings are consistently wide in 'shape' back and through. For the technically minded among you, we are talking about the distance from your sternum to the mid-point of your grip in the backswing. This extension in the takeaway is created without any 'sway' off the ball - his weight moves towards his right side naturally as the club moves away from the target. The other key point is the sequencing of Rory's swing. In this position he has approximately 1/3 shoulder turn and 1/3 swing - essentially the club is working in synchronisation with the rotation of the body. Good sequences in the takeaway really help you create both power and accuracy in the downswing.



3 Top of backswing
Rory is incredibly solid at the top of his backswing; there are no unnecessary movements, which means he is in complete control. He maintains that wide look - his left arm is long and his spine is still tilted away from the target. A good image here is the two-to-one ratio of shoulder to hip rotation. His hips have rotated enough to allow his torso to fully wind up - this is an incredibly powerful position that creates energy for the downswing.

His hips rotate about half as much as his shoulders, creating energy that's released in the downswing

There are absolutely no unnecessary movements

**TOP
25
COACH**



Clive Tucker
Wildwood Golf & Country Club,
Surrey
clivetucker.com

Instruction

4

Delivering the club

Starting with a good set-up, having a well-sequenced takeaway and loading the shoulders and torso at the top is great, but you still need to deliver the club effectively! Rory does this well, as we can see here. His hips, having shifted left during his transition into the downswing, are providing some superb benefits. They tilt his spine slightly further away from the target, which helps promote a good inside path by lowering the trailing shoulder (this is something to copy if you're a slicer). It also encourages an upward attack angle, which makes for high-launch, low-spin drives.



His spine is tilted a touch more away from the target, creating an ideal upward angle of attack through impact

Rory's hips shift towards the target a fraction at the start of the downswing

You should look to attack the ball from the inside



Rory's hips are now pointing left of the target. This illustrates the full-body rotation that is a key ingredient of his swing

Allowing your right knee to move towards your left sets your weight over the middle of your stance

5 Finish position

Not all of us have the flexibility to finish like Rory, but you can have a similar look and hopefully feel. He is incredibly well balanced, and so should you be. A tip here is to try and get the trailing knee, the right one in this case, to finish as near to the left as possible. This brings your balance to the mid-line of your body where it is most comfortable. If the knees stay separated, the balance moves outward and will impede the consistency of the club path. Notice also how his pelvis is fully rotated and facing the target (or even a little left of it), which illustrates that his hips haven't 'stalled' through impact but continued their rotation. This aids shoulder speed and that, in turn, supports the arms, so he can maintain his wide swing for longer. By learning from Rory, you can acquire some sound swing principles that could well deliver outstanding results.

10 BEST TIPS

ALEXANDER BJORK

See how the Volvo China Open winner tackles power drives, masters match play and makes his practice more interesting...

1 Beating a slice
A slice usually comes from being outside the ideal plane and being steep into impact. To counter it, try to do the opposite – be more inside and hit up on the ball. You can do this by putting a club on the ground, pointing just right of your target, and then trying to swing along that line.

2 Reading greens
I always read putts from the low side as I think you see more of how the green is shaped. If you're standing over the ball on a downhill putt, you'll gauge it's downhill, but from the low side the size of slope is more obvious.

3 Match play
Not giving anything away is so important. If I have a 20-footer I'll want to hole it, but I'm really trying to make sure it's a gimmie. If your opponent sees you're always close to the hole, it keeps the pressure on. It's the same off the tee; it's quite frustrating to play against someone who is always in the fairway or on the green.

4 Next shot after a shank
Everyone is going to hit bad shots, just don't think about it. If you hit 100 good shots and one bad one, it's just a bad shot, so forget it and move on.



Bjork en route to victory in China

5 Holing out from three feet
I'm really specific on the line from close range. If the putt is left edge, focus on the left edge and make a positive stroke. If the greens are good, I hit my putts firm so they don't have the chance to break.

6 Increasing power
Tee your ball up a little bit higher, as you would on a downwind drive, to hit longer tee shots. To me, it's important to have a slow takeaway and build speed up gently, then rip it on the way down!

7 Greenside bunker shots
If you sway forward during your swing, it will increase the risk of hitting it thin into the face, so I always try to keep my lower body still to create a stable base.

8 Better ball-striking
If you're practising on the range, the mats can mask your quality of strike, so really focus on the front of the ball. You should take a divot, but only after the ball, not under or before it.

9 More spin with wedges
Take a shorter backswing to ensure you commit to accelerating through the ball. I focus on being low and fast. To create spin, you need an open face, a shallow divot and speed under the ball.

10 How to practise
Go on the course! If I'm on the range too long I find I get too technical. If you're on the range, try to hit to different flags and with different clubs, so it's more realistic. I also enjoy chipping against a friend. I play a game called 21, where you get two shots each and whoever is closest gets two points (second gets one). Then we change location and lie. The first to 21 wins! It improves your focus.



WHAT'S IN THE BAG?

- ▶ **Driver:** TaylorMade 2017 M1 8°
- ▶ **3-wood:** Cobra LTD 13°
- ▶ **Hybrid:** Callaway Apex 18°
- ▶ **Irons:** Cobra King Forged CB 4-6; Cobra King Forged MB 7-PW
- ▶ **Wedges:** Titleist Vokey SM7 51°, 55° & 60°
- ▶ **Putter:** Odyssey O-Works Red Rossie
- ▶ **Golf ball:** Titleist Pro VI



FAULT FIXER HEAVY IRON STRIKES

Lead with the body and retain the angles for longer to overcome your heavy contact...

1 Common causes
Heavy strikes are something all golfers suffer from at times, catching the ground before the ball or creating too steep an angle of attack and generating a very deep divot. I'm going to highlight three of the most common causes here, the first being the classic over-the-top swing, a shoulder-led move in which the right shoulder moves forward, sending the club outside the line. From there, you aren't only attacking the ball too steeply, but you're also cutting across it, causing both heavy strikes and major ball-flight issues.

Then there's the one where the club bottoms out too early behind the ball as a result of the body getting a bit active and moving forwards towards the target. This drops the club too early and causes a loss of angles, with the clubhead coming into the ball way too shallow. It's then very difficult to get the club to compress the golf ball and create good contact, and may sometimes result in a top as the heavy contact causes the club to bounce and catch the ball halfway up.

Then we have the early release, in which the right hand or dominant hand releases the angles between club and arms too early. That's a big loss of power, but more importantly for this article, it causes the club to bottom out too early.



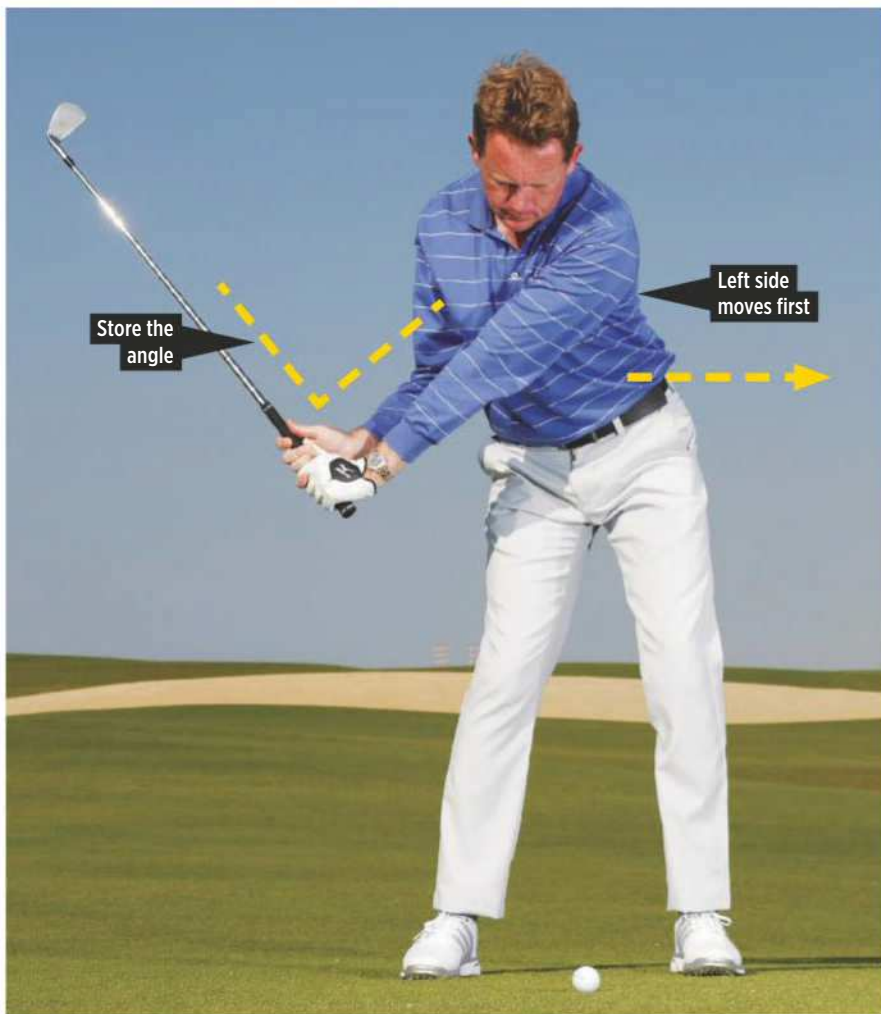
WANT TO
SEE MORE?



For more ball-striking tips, visit golf-monthly.co.uk

CHECKLIST

- ✓ Seek PGA pro advice to pinpoint your most common cause
- ✓ Retaining your angles for longer will improve both strike and power
- ✓ Left side moves first on downswing to stop right side dominating



2 Store the angles
 The key to eliminating heavy strikes is to store those wonderful angles you create in both wrists and the right elbow as you take the club back and then release them at the ball or beyond. If you can release those angles later and on the right path, your strike and power will improve no end as you compress the ball against the clubface. You need to lead a little bit with the body on the way down so your left knee is working away from your right knee, with the left hip just working slightly towards the target.



3 Soften the right side
 If you can make this your first move on the downswing, it will have the effect of 'softening' your right side, right arm and right shoulder so your club just drops into the ideal plane. This is something you can work on at the range, but also at home without a ball to get the feeling of that left side working first, allowing the club and arms to just drop a little bit and 'soften'. If you let them soften, the arms and shoulders won't lead as much and dominate the downswing, putting you in a much better position to compress the ball, which will mean you strike it purely.

TOP
 25
 COACH



Keith Wood
 Director of Instruction,
 Faldo Golf Centres

The club should drop into the ideal plane



ALZARAH
 GOLF CLUB

Shot on location at Al Zorah Golf Club, Ajman, UAE

SCORING ZONE PUTTING DRILLS

Try these four routines to help add that all-important competitive edge to your practice

1 Spiral drill
There is a big difference between the practice green and the golf course. Finding a stroke with the same freedom in both places is the key, and that's why it is worth trying this drill. Starting at 3ft from the hole, place seven or eight balls in a spiral around it, progressively getting further away from the target. Small differences in break mean this drill forces you to run through your normal routine before each putt. This is a great way to get yourself into the best competition mindset.



2 Random drill
Place as many balls as you have in your bag at different positions around the hole, from as near as 1ft to about 5ft away. Mark their positions with tee pegs. The game here is to try and hole all of them consecutively. As soon as you miss one, start again by returning each ball to its tee peg. This is a great drill for placing yourself under pressure. Again, as you move from ball to ball, try to concentrate on running through your normal routine.

WANT TO SEE MORE?



For more putting tips, visit golf-monthly.co.uk



TOP 25 COACH



John Jacobs
Head professional,
Cumberwell Park GC, Wilts

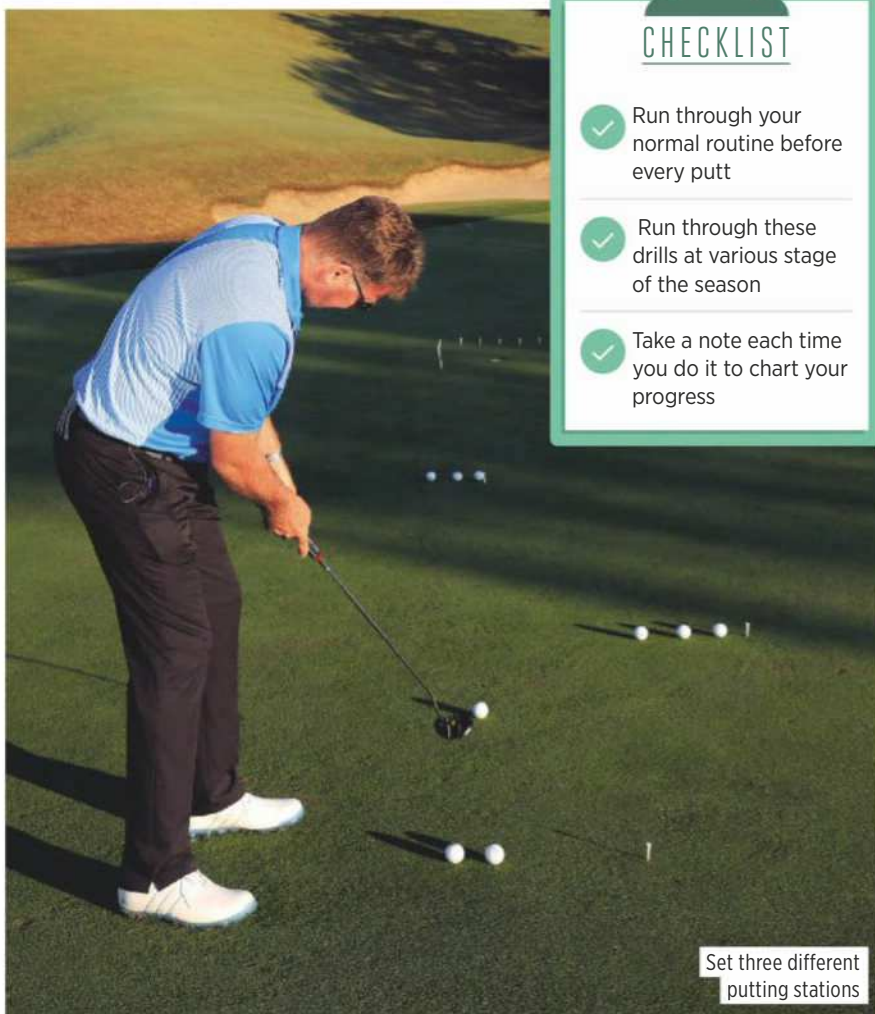
3

Box drill

If you get a feel for the pace of the greens from the start, your putts will have a much better chance of going in. To help, create a three-sided box of tees around the hole, as shown. The box should start at about a foot short of the hole and extended back past it by about 2ft. Now set three stations at different distances and hit three putts from each. Give yourself zero points for missing the box, one point for short of the hole but in the box, two points for in the box past the hole and five points for a hole-out. Keep a note of your score and run through this drill at various stages during the season. This is a great way to create pressure while testing your speed control.



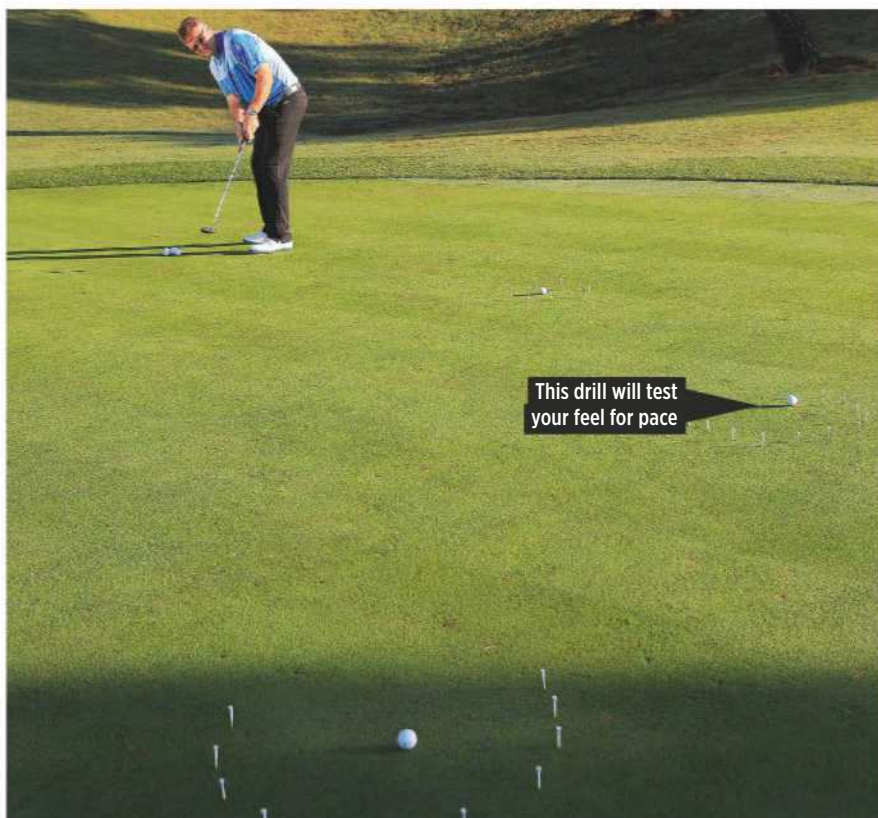
This will help create pressure



Set three different putting stations

CHECKLIST

- ✓ Run through your normal routine before every putt
- ✓ Run through these drills at various stage of the season
- ✓ Take a note each time you do it to chart your progress



This drill will test your feel for pace

4

Bucket drill

Here is another great drill designed to test your feel for pace and your judgement of break. Create three, relatively small U-shaped 'buckets' at different spots on the green and then hit a series of putts from a station about 20ft away from the furthest 'bucket'. Alternate targets as you go and use a scoring system to judge your success. This is much tougher than it looks, and if you use this drill on an undulating area of the practice green, you'll develop an excellent feel for pace.

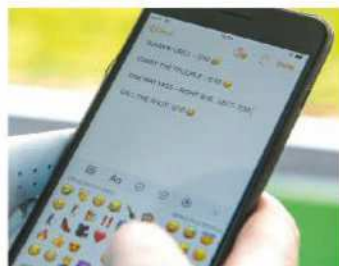


Shot on location at Las Colinas Golf Club, Spain

STRATEGY ADDING PRESSURE TO YOUR PRACTICE

Add a competitive edge to your range practice sessions with these four great long-game tests...

1 Runway drill
The first of my four tests is designed to build the confidence you need when you're out on the course. You need to have a 'fairway' in your mind on the range so you actually know whether or not you're hitting it, as wide ranges can give you a slightly false impression.

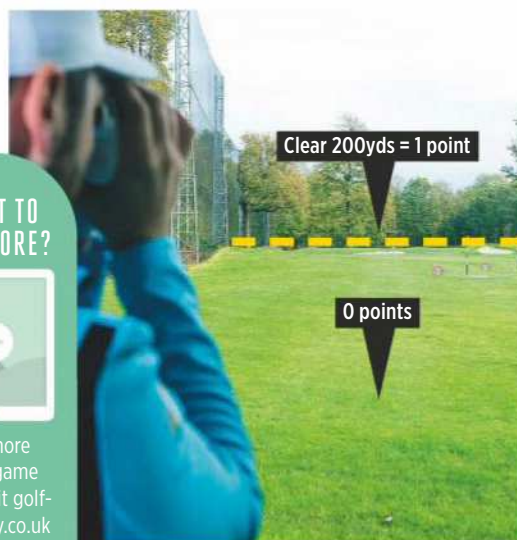


Here, there's a nicely defined 'fairway' between two lines of trees, so in this first test you get one series of ten shots and simply record how many times you hit the fairway. Importantly, go through your routine just as you would on the course. You don't see enough practice swings on the driving range! Set yourself a target to beat next time. It brings meaningful focus.

WANT TO SEE MORE?



For more long-game tips, visit golf-monthly.co.uk



2 Carry the trouble
This test can be done with a long-iron, hybrid or fairway wood. Select a target a specific distance away using a rangefinder, unless a suitably numbered target exists, then pick the long club you believe will just carry that. Again, you get ten shots and score a point every time you make it safely over. Then, when you're out on the course, you will know what percentage of the time you're likely to safely make a specific carry over water, sand or whatever, and can make a sensible decision over whether or not to take it on under pressure.

CHECKLIST

- ✓ Imagine a specific 'fairway' target
- ✓ Count how many shots carry a specific distance with a few different clubs
- ✓ Try to hit specific shot shapes and ball flights on demand



3 One-way miss
 Many top players have the ability to take out one side of the course when it really counts, perhaps when there's OOB or water down one side. If there's little trouble on the other side, you need to make sure you have a

shot that all but guarantees which way you will miss. Here, I've picked two trees and am going to record my score out of ten for misses to the right. Obviously, you're not looking to spray it anywhere, but a decent miss to the right counts as a point. You will probably want to aim a little

further right and open the face a little. Then repeat the exercise with the only permitted miss left by aiming a touch further left and ensuring you rotate the clubface a little through impact. This will build confidence in your ability to safely stay away from the worst trouble when the pressure is on.



4 Call the shots
 The final test will develop your ability to hit specific shots on demand. You can either come prepared with a list of ten shots to work through, or perhaps better, get a friend with you at the range to call the shots. For a high draw, for example, you will want to aim the clubface right, align yourself a little further to the right and focus on high hands through the ball. This test will help you to know whether or not it's wise to take certain shots on when it really counts. Can you hit the low fade under pressure? If you've never practised it, probably not. If you have, then maybe!



Shot on location at Silvermere Golf and Leisure, Surrey

HELP!

I NEED TO STOP CHUNKING PITCH SHOTS!

Could *Golf Monthly* reader Peter Foster be just 90 minutes away from solving his pitching woes?



GM coach Andrew assessing Peter's pitching problems

**TOP
25
COACH**



Andrew Reynolds
Royal Cinque Ports GC, Kent

Getting the ball into scoring range off the tee, only to go and make a double- or triple-bogey, is an all-too-familiar scenario for many teen- and higher-handicap golfers.

For *Golf Monthly* reader Peter Foster, who plays off 13, problems

have started to arise when he gets within 100 yards of the green. His hit-and-miss pitching technique is costing him a number of shots every round.

Looking to find some answers, he applied to take part in one of our reader lessons with GM Top 25 Coach Andrew Reynolds, an

experienced golf professional who boasts a top-20 finish at the Senior British Open and who has coached England's A squad.

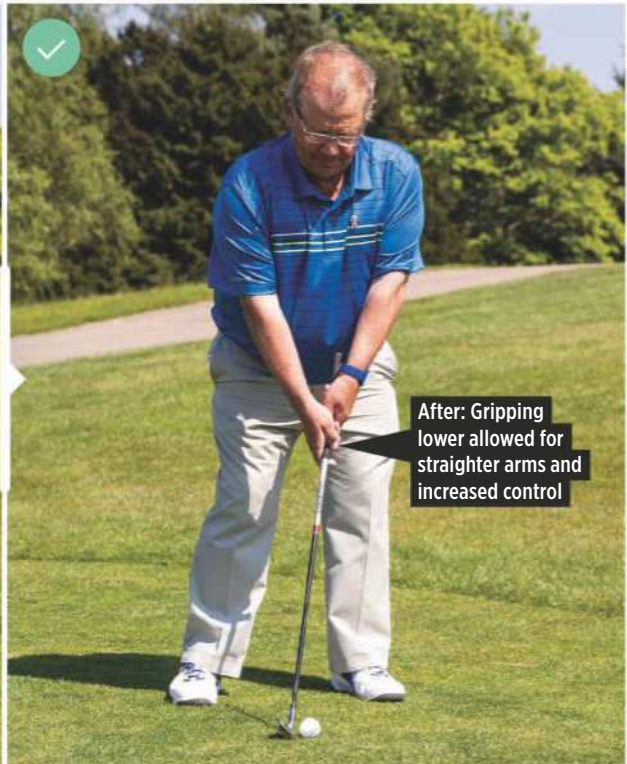
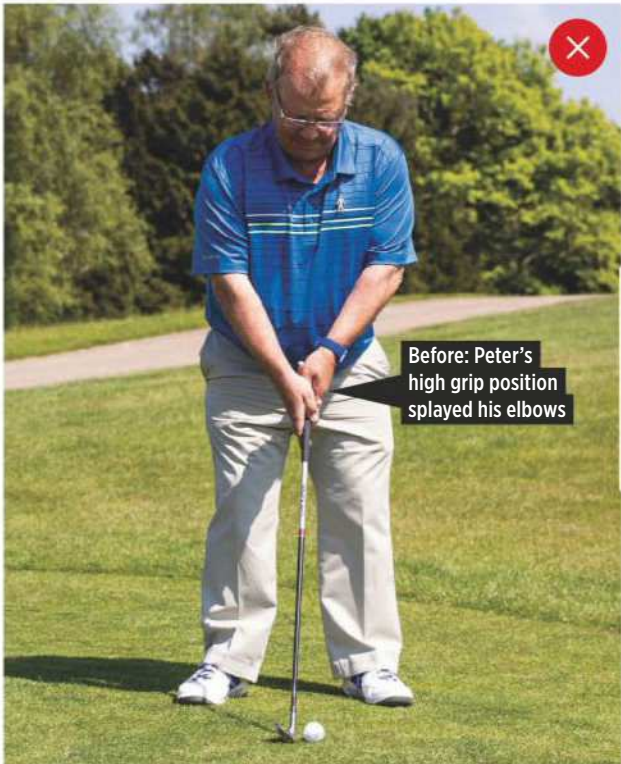
A few weeks later the pair met on the expansive pitching area at London Golf Club in Kent, where Andrew set to work on rebuilding Peter's short game.



PETER FOSTER | HANDICAP: 13 | HOME CLUB: BADGEMORE PARK GC

FAULT: I'M STRUGGLING WITH MY STRIKES

THE PROBLEM: I have issues with distance control on full pitch shots – the ball tends to go very high – and on shorter pitches I either fat it or pull it left



Andrew's assessment

Like many players, Peter felt he had to lift the ball into the air when pitching. He was holding the very top of the grip and both elbows were bent, plus his weight was very central and his grip pressure was very light. All together, it meant he lost control of the club and then tried to save the shot by flicking it into the air with his wrists. He was also using a sand wedge with lots of bounce, which meant anything mistimed could result in a fat or thin shot.



Andrew's remedy

We started by getting Peter's wedge sitting flat on the ground, so he wasn't adding any excess bounce. The idea behind this is that you want to start with the club in the same position it will return to at impact. I then asked him to grip further down the club to give his arms more room to swing. Peter had told me he felt he needed a

soft touch, but when you're pitching, control is key. As such, we switched to a firmer grip pressure to give him more control and stop his club from moving around. We also worked on Peter's body turn, getting his sternum and the shaft moving together. Before, he kept his head down and didn't rotate very well, which led to flicky arm movements. Ideally, he should keep turning with his core through impact, maintaining firmer wrists.

Peter's feedback

Before, I thought I needed to grip the club like I was holding a bird, but Andrew explained that while that's good for creating power, it doesn't help with precision and control. It felt very strange to start with, but under Andrew's guidance I saw some great improvements. Trying to keep accelerating and turning through impact was also difficult at first, but once it all came together, 90 per cent of my shots were getting airborne and finding the green, which will make a big difference to my game.

ALWAYS

Practise smart. Don't bash hundreds of balls to one target. Instead, take ten shots and focus on your target and the details of your swing



NEVER

Keep doing the same thing and expect different results. If your pitching is poor, put in more practice time or seek lessons with a golf professional



Words: Andrew Reynolds with Jake O'Reilly Photography: Chris Catchpole

Rules



Rickie Fowler's ball got stuck up a tree at The Players Championship

IDENTIFYING YOUR BALL

For the second year in a row, Rickie Fowler found trouble in the trees at The Players Championship. Shona McRae, R&A assistant director – Rules, reflects on what happened...

In 2017, Fowler had tree trouble on the 18th hole, but this time his ball rattled into the trees on the 6th hole in round two.

Fowler hit his tee shot on the par 4 towards the bank of palm trees on the right, but there was no sign of the ball coming down after it struck the branches.

Fowler could see a ball in the trunk of a palm, but he was not 100 per cent sure if it was his ball.

Using some binoculars borrowed from chief referee Mark Russell, Fowler tried to see if he could spot any distinguishing marks on the ball to identify it

conclusively as his. The use of binoculars for this purpose is permissible under the Rules. However, he still could not determine if it was his ball.

The referee consulted with the TV production team, but even with the help of TV footage zooming in to focus on a close-up of the ball, it wasn't possible to see if it was the make and brand of ball Fowler was playing with.

Fowler then asked the referee if the spectators could try to shake the tree to see if the ball would fall to the ground, allowing for a positive identification. The referee confirmed this would be permissible, provided Fowler intended to proceed under the unplayable ball Rule. Or, as it was lodged so high up, it was reasonable to assume he would not play the ball from there.



Identifying Ball Essentials

- You can use binoculars to help you identify your golf ball
- You must be 100 per cent sure the ball is yours; otherwise it is deemed lost
- You may try to dislodge the ball without penalty, provided you do not intend to play the ball as it lies

Otherwise, the player would be subject to penalty for causing the ball to move.

As there was no possibility Fowler could have played the ball, he gave the go ahead to his caddie and the spectators to try and shake the ball from the tree. Despite their best efforts, the tree did not give much and the ball remained in its secure position.

This left Fowler with no other option. If the ball is not clearly identifiable, it is treated as being lost and the player must proceed under stroke and distance (Rule 27-1). While a ball had been found, Fowler could not positively identify it as his. Therefore, he was given a lift back to the tee and had to put another ball into play. Much to his dismay, he eventually took a double-bogey on the hole.

YOUR QUERIES RESOLVED

Q Recently I was playing in a three-ball – two of us were off the yellows and one was off the reds. When it was the final player's turn, he started to tee up between the red markers, where the previous player had correctly played from, but he should have been playing from the yellows. I could see the error about to happen, and if the stroke was played it would be a two-stroke penalty, provided it was corrected before the next hole. But at what point am I supposed to say something? If I comment before the stroke is played is that advice, as it prevents a penalty and affects the next stroke played? If I say "two-stroke penalty" after the shot is played, he may well avoid a DQ, so is that advice too? Am I supposed to stay silent until the end of the round and then call a DQ? That seems unsportsmanlike. Can you advise please?

Matty, GM website forum

A Information on the Rules is not advice – see the definition of Advice in the Rule book. Therefore, advising a player that they are about to breach a Rule, such as playing from a wrong teeing ground, is not advice and there is no

penalty. Similarly, providing information on how to proceed under the Rules (for example, detailing the three options for relief when a ball is unplayable) is not deemed advice.

Shona McRae

R&A assistant director – Rules



Information on the Rules is not advice



R&A WINNERS

Each month, the readers whose queries are featured will receive an Open Championship putter cover, plus a sleeve of three R&A logo Titleist Pro V1 golf balls

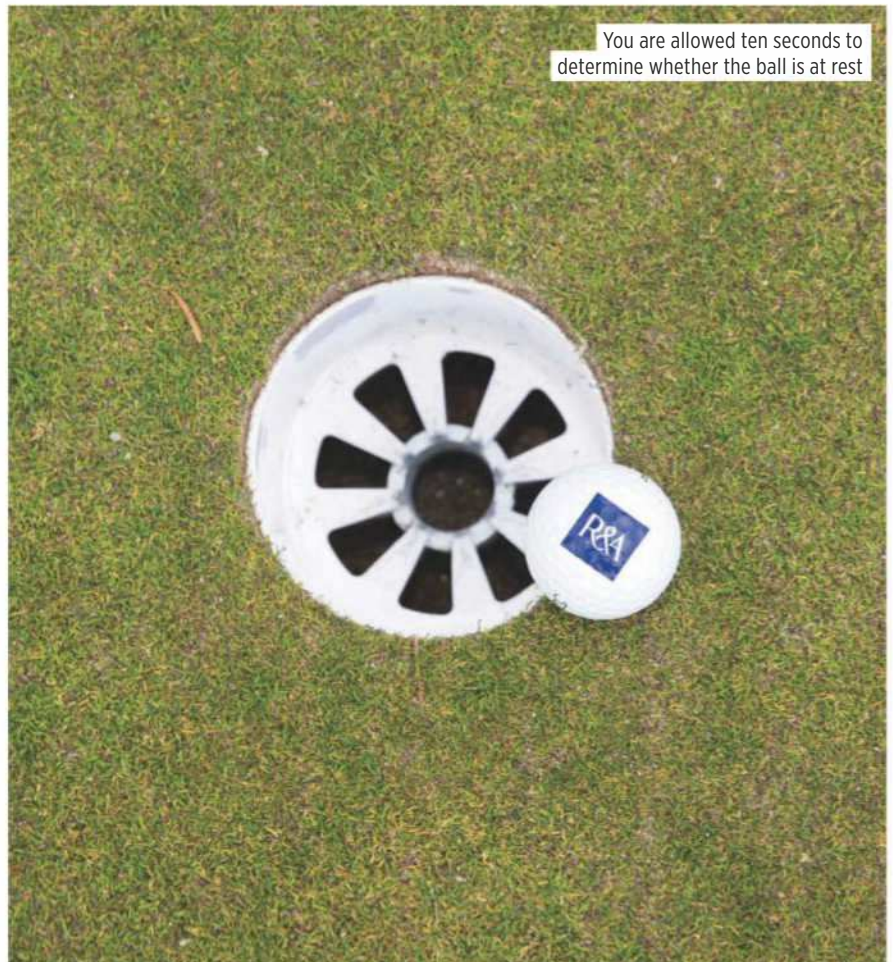
Q A par-3 tee shot looked very close recently, and when the player got to the green, it was teetering on the lip. As he walked towards it, but before he got closer than three feet, the ball dropped. There was no wind to speak of, so it seemed very likely that vibrations from his footsteps caused the ball to drop. Is the ball holed, or should it have been replaced on the lip?

cliveb, GM website forum

A When any part of the ball overhangs the lip, you are allowed enough time to reach the hole and an additional ten seconds to determine whether the ball is at rest. Provided he did not delay getting to the vicinity of the hole, as the ball fell into the hole when he walked towards it (so within ten seconds), the ball is considered holed. However, if ten seconds had passed, the ball would have been deemed to be at rest. If it subsequently fell into the hole, he would have been deemed to have holed out with the last stroke and had to add a penalty stroke (scoring two for the hole).

Shona McRae

R&A assistant director – Rules



You are allowed ten seconds to determine whether the ball is at rest

RULES EVERY GOLFER SHOULD KNOW

Match play v stroke play differences

In last August's issue, we looked at some of the Rules governing match play and how they sometimes differed from stroke play. We highlighted how penalties that are two strokes in stroke play tend to be loss of hole in match play, although that isn't always the case, so you can't automatically assume.

We then looked at the concept of the concession, which is only available in match play, and the slightly intriguing option for an opponent to disregard a Rules breach should he or she so choose in match play, although both opponents can't agree between them to waive Rules as that would lead to disqualification.

We also explained how playing out of turn in match play can also be overlooked by an opponent, but he or she is equally within their rights to ask for the stroke to be immediately cancelled and replayed in the correct order.

Here, we're going to look at three more big differences between match play and stroke play Rules, starting with playing from outside the teeing ground or from the wrong tee, covered in Rules 11-4 and 11-5. In stroke play, this attracts a two-shot penalty, and you must correct the error by going back and playing from the correct tee before you tee off on the next hole, or by stating your intention to do so before you leave the last green if you were on your final hole. If you don't, the penalty becomes disqualification. In match play there is no penalty, but again, your opponent is quite at liberty to ask that the stroke is cancelled and replayed.

On the putting green, there is another big difference that perhaps not all golfers are aware of. If you play a stroke from on the putting green and your ball strikes another ball in play and at rest, you will incur a two-shot penalty in stroke play. In match play, there is no penalty. Your ball must be played as it lies, while the ball that

was moved must be replaced on its original spot.

Finally, there are differences between what practice is permitted on the competition course ahead of stroke play and match play events. In the former, unless there is a condition of competition that states otherwise, you must not practise on the competition course or test the surface of any putting green ahead of a round, other than chipping and putting on or near your first teeing ground. If you are found to have done so, you will be disqualified. In match play, there are no restrictions – you are quite within your rights to play the entire course before your match.

As a footnote to the practice element, in both stroke play and match play, unless there is a condition that states otherwise, you are permitted to practise your putting and chipping on or around the last green played and on or near the next tee, provided you do not unduly delay play and do not practise from a hazard.

On the putting green, in stroke play you are penalised two strokes for striking another ball



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1 In stroke play, Jezz decides to lift his ball to identify it. He marks and lifts it, but fails to tell Fergus of his intention. What is the ruling?



- A Jezz incurs a one-stroke penalty.
- B Jezz incurs a two-stroke penalty.
- C Jezz is disqualified.

2 In stroke play, Jezz decides to tap in a short putt with a left-handed stroke and the back of the head of his right-handed putter. What is the ruling?



- A There is no penalty.
- B Jezz incurs a one-stroke penalty.
- C Jezz incurs a two-stroke penalty.

3 Fergus' ball settles inside the margin of a lateral water hazard. It is in an embedded lie, and although possible, he does not want to play it. What is the ruling?



- A Fergus may take free relief outside of the hazard.
- B Fergus may take free relief within the hazard.
- C Fergus must take penalty relief outside of the hazard.

4 Fergus finds his ball lying close to a wooden shelter in the semi-rough. He realises that his swing will be affected by the shelter. What is the ruling?



- A Fergus must declare the ball unplayable.
- B Fergus is entitled to free relief.
- C Fergus must adjust his stroke to play out to the side.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. A – Jezz incurs a one-stroke penalty. Before lifting the ball to identify it, you must announce your intention to your marker and mark the position of the ball. Failure to comply with this procedure results in a penalty of one stroke (Rule 12-2). **2. A** – There is no penalty. You may play a stroke with any part of the clubhead, provided the ball is fairly struck at and the club conforms to the Rules (Rule 14-1). **3. C** – Fergus must take penalty relief outside of the hazard. Relief for an embedded ball is only applicable if the ball lies in any closely-mown area through the green (Rule 25-2). As the ball lies in a hazard, the only option for relief is to take a penalty drop under Rule 26-1. **4. B** – Fergus is entitled to free relief. If your ball lies in or on an immovable obstruction or it interferes with your stance or swing, you are entitled to free relief (Rule 24-2b).



Reviews

FOOTJOY ARC SL SHOE

£100

COMFORT

The cushioning underfoot and around the ankle provides ample comfort without feeling bulky or restrictive. The shoe feels light and the leather is remarkably supple.



T

he Arc SL shoe is aimed at golfers seeking spikeless comfort and performance on a modest budget.

Key technology

The Arc SL gets its name from the Active Response Cushioning found within the midsole which offers high levels of comfort, while the TPU performance spikeless outsole provides the on- and off-course versatility. The leather uppers come with a one-year waterproof guarantee and are soft, breathable and durable. A new SofCollar hugs the foot, supports the ankle and helps to secure and support the golfer throughout the swing.

How we tested

We wore a white/blue-coloured pair over a number of rounds throughout April and May, in a variety of weather and course conditions.



STYLING

We'd say that Arc SL has a look that exceeds its modest price. It looks trendy and modern – generally clean and simple, but with enough subtle details on the upper to add shelf appeal.



The grip in wet and dry conditions was excellent



The styling should have a wide appeal



"THIS SPORTY DESIGN IS VERSATILE, EXTREMELY COMFORTABLE AND PROVIDES SURPRISINGLY GOOD GRIP"

Joel Tadman, GM technical editor

TRACTION

The nubs on the outsole are different shapes and sizes, working together to provide a surprisingly high level of grip. Even in wet conditions, our feet didn't slip when going after a shot.



UP AGAINST



SKECHERS GO GOLF ELITE V3

A low-drop design keeps your feet low to the ground, while a Resamax cushioned insole aids comfort and support.



UNDER ARMOUR PERFORMANCE SL

Rotational Resistance elements on the lightweight, flexible outsole improve traction during the swing.



ADIDAS ADICROSS BOUNCE

Lightweight Bounce cushioning provides enhanced stability, while a forged upper gives added lateral support.

VERDICT

Arc SL comes in at a very attractive price point with very little sacrifice. It may not quite have the stability or shelf appeal of the Pro/SL, but it's ideal for golfers who want a simple, stylish and comfortable pair of spikeless shoes that don't break the bank. Arc SL can easily be worn on the way to and from the course, as well as on it. There's a hint of stability on offer and the snug fit really helps in boosting the comfort and performance. This sporty shoe has a lot to offer for under £100; it's well worth considering in 2018.

WANT TO SEE MORE?



To see all our golf shoe reviews, visit golf-monthly.co.uk/reviews



FootJoy's Arc SL comes in blue, silver or all-black colourways

CALLAWAY ROGUE IRON

£849

This iron is aimed at golfers looking for more distance and forgiveness.

Key technology

Callaway's 360 Face Cup expands the portion of the face that delivers the fastest ball speeds. Tungsten-infused internal weighting helps optimise both launch and spin. Urethane behind the face is filled with air pockets called microspheres, which allow the face to flex but also dampen vibration to improve sound and feel.

How we tested

We hit the Rogue irons on our GC2 launch monitor in controlled conditions before testing them out on the course.

VERDICT

While there are plenty of iron models in Callaway's 2018 range that focus on delivering distance with forgiveness, the Rogue iron provides a hint of playability, too – certainly more so than Rogue X

or Big Bertha OS, with marginally more manageable distance for the faster swinger. That said, Rogue is still better suited to golfers who lack clubhead speed, because the faces are fast, forgiving across a wide area and get the ball up in the air with consummate ease. Traditionalists may lean towards the more compact and lighter finish of the Rogue Pro, but Rogue is a happy medium between the Pro and the X. Above-average golf shots will seem easier to come by and won't sound loud or harsh, as distance irons can do. Overall, Rogue is an appealing prospect for the game-improver.



The Rogue iron is very user friendly

PERFORMANCE

Very low spin, combined with a surprisingly high flight and explosive ball speed, produced long carries – in excess of 190 yards, on average, with the 26°-lofted 6-iron.

LOOKS

The offset Rogue iron offers plenty of meat behind the ball at address, without looking overly chunky. The double white score lines at the bottom of the face assist with alignment.

Callaway's Face Cup is a shallow, flexible rim around the perimeter of the face that flexes at impact to increase ball speed

XXIO X DRIVER

£1399

T

his driver is aimed at moderate-swing-speed golfers seeking distance and control.

Key technology

With lighter components and a higher balance point, XXIO X's Low Swing MOI helps increase clubhead and ball speed without any swing changes. The Smart Impact Shaft has a unique flex profile that works to reduce the forces that pull golfers off balance, resulting in more consistency. A High Energy Impact head provides increased ball speeds on shots struck in the low heel and toe, where most players tend to make contact.

How we tested

We put a 9° stiff-shafted model in play for 18 holes at West Hill GC.

VERDICT

In the right hands, this driver can certainly deliver performance comparable with most other offerings on the market. Our average-swing-speed tester was impressed with the forgiveness levels of the

clubhead, as well as how the lightweight feel (the shaft is a mere 40g) translated into extra clubhead speed to maximise carry distance. This won't be the case for everyone – in fact, some might find the lightweight, 45.75in shaft difficult to control. But for slower swingers who need help getting the ball in the air, the make-up of this driver is ideal. It feels well balanced and incredibly solid from the sweetspot, and it seems to have a tendency to reduce a slice. It's admittedly a lot of money, but it's worth a try if you lack distance and want to sample something a bit different in 2018.

LOOKS

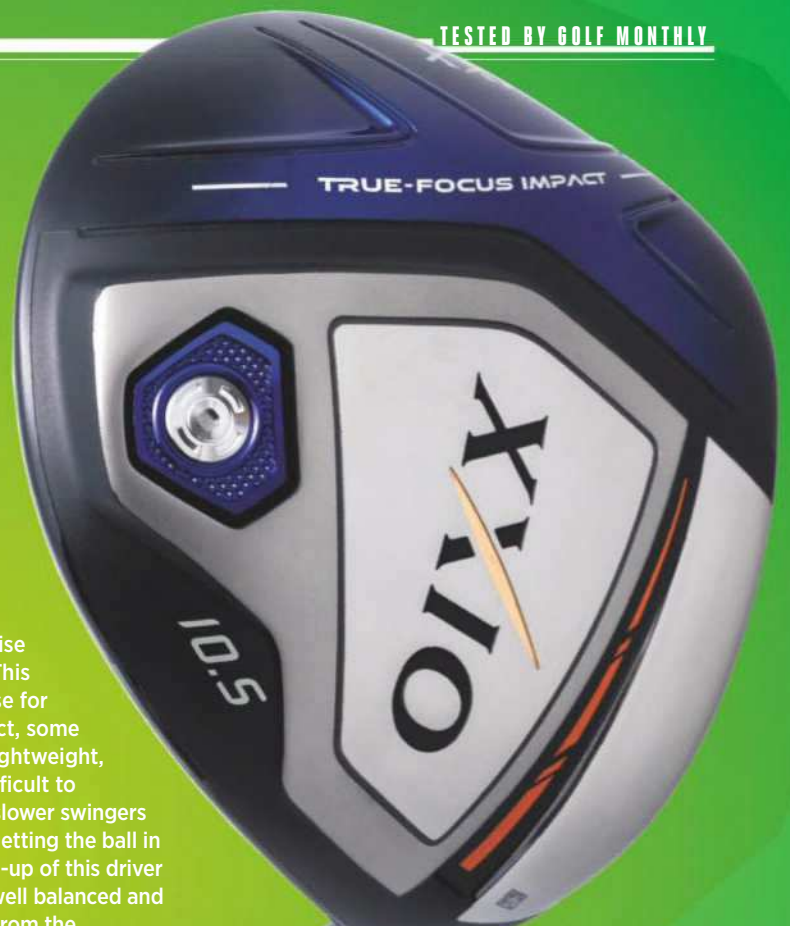
The dark, two-tone blue crown will please the eye of the majority. The fact it doesn't extend right up to the face makes it look more lofted. It sits a touch closed, but has an oversized profile that boosts confidence.

PERFORMANCE

Slow- and medium-swing-speed players should experience an increase in club speed from the lightweight feel, assisted by the forgiving clubhead. This boosts distance and helps with dispersion.



Tee shots were generally high and straight with the XXIO X driver



TAYLORMADE MILLED GRIND HI-TOE WEDGE

£139

This model is aimed at golfers seeking more control and versatility from their highest-lofted wedge.

Key technology

The MG Hi-Toe's full-face scoring lines aid a consistent contact out of the rough, while the high bounce and channel-cut midsole make for cleaner turf interaction. The cavity features three pockets that optimise weight distribution for better feel. A higher, more-centred CG launches the ball lower while generating more spin from a variety of lies. Comes in a new, aged copper finish.

How we tested

We hit a 58° sample on the GCQuad launch monitor and during a full round at West Hill Golf Club.

VERDICT

A tour-inspired offering, but one amateurs can also benefit from. The extra full-face grooves make it look more inviting to hit, while the extra bounce makes it more forgiving through impact. This is especially noticeable on bunker shots, where the grooves in the high-toe section should provide extra spin when the face is wide open. It seems easy to manipulate the clubface – you can hit square or even closed-face shots – making it extremely versatile. The stock shaft is 15g lighter and softer in the tip than the one on the standard MG wedge, which helps launch the ball a little higher on full shots. The shape isn't drastically different, either, but the face does scuff quite easily. That said, those who frequently use their lob wedge should certainly consider giving the Hi-Toe a try.

LOOKS

Unusual in many ways and slightly more triangular in shape than the standard MG wedge. The face starts as silver, contrasting with the aged copper finish elsewhere, but wears off soon after use.

The Milled Grind Hi-Toe wedge comes in 58°, 60° and 64° versions with a KBS Hi-Rev 2.0 shaft

CONTROL

For most shots, levels of spin were similar to the standard Milled Grind wedge, but on some really open-faced shots from the rough and bunkers, a touch more grab was evident.

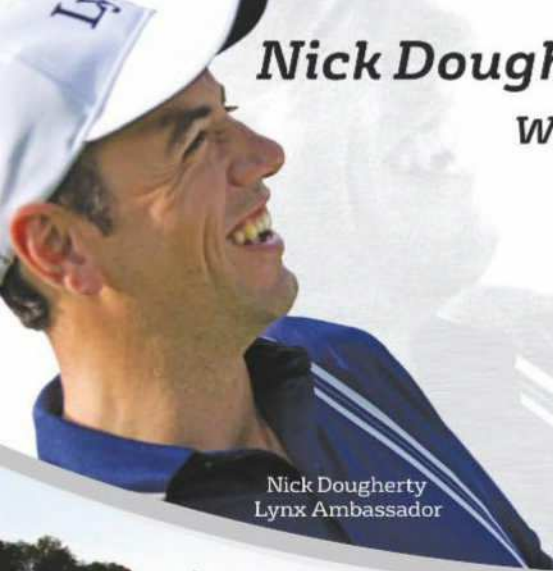


The Hi-Toe wedge excelled from sand



Nick Dougherty plays VT Irons, so can you

Whatever your ability Prowler VT will perform



Nick Dougherty
Lynx Ambassador



- Variable Thickness technology
- Forged Face insert
- KBS® Tour Shaft
- Men's RH
- Satin Chrome and gun metal finish
- Full Custom Fit available

PROWLER®

Lynx®

f Lynx Golf UK

t @LynxGolfUK

ig @lynxgolfuk

lynxgolf.co.uk

R.R.P. ~~£2100~~
£1975
SAVE £125

TITAN-S POWERED BY POWERHOUSE LITHIUM BATTERY
Single Seater Golf Buggy

Product Code: GB15001



Offer includes:
1 x Titan-S Golf Buggy, 1 x 18-27 hole Lithium Battery, 1 x Lithium Battery Charger

Other models available. See web site for details

FREEDOM T2s
Electric Lithium Golf Trolley

Product Code: FB125001



Offer includes:
1 x Electric Golf Trolley 18-27 hole Lithium Battery with USB Socket, 1 x Lithium Battery Charger

R.R.P. ~~£399~~
£349
SAVE £50

POWERHOUSE GOLF.CO.UK the power behind your game

POWERED BY POWERHOUSE LITHIUM BATTERY

LIMITED 5 YEAR WARRANTY

USB FITTED

Product Code: MSC036



12V 18-27 hole (16Ah) Golf Trolley LiFePO4 Lithium Battery

Inc. Intelligent Charger, Carry Bag, and "T" bar Sutable for any golf trolley.

36 Hole (22Ah) option at £179 Normally £249

Was ~~£179~~
£149
SAVE £30

24V 18 Hole+ (200A) Golf Buggy LiFePO4 Lithium Battery
Inc. Intelligent Charger, Carry Bag, and fitting instructions

Was ~~£599~~
£498
SAVE £101

Lithium Battery Features:

- 1000-2000 charges life expectancy
- 75% lighter than lead acid
- Suits buggies using 2 x 12v lead acid
- Now with battery indicator
- Fraction of the weight
- Cannot be overcharged or used.

Product Code: MSC042

0% FINANCE AVAILABLE
See web site for details.

TELEPHONE: 0161 654 6981

96-100 Rochdale Road Middleton Manchester M24 2QA www.PowerhouseGolf.co.uk

Offers subject to availability. Charge applies. *Price shown on buggy and 24V lithium battery is VAT exempt. conditions apply. See web site for details.





The Go Golf Pro V3 shoe comes in black, grey or white colourways

STYLING

The neutral design means the shoe will go with multiple outfits, and there are a range of colours to choose from. Details like the perforation and stitching on the leather add shelf appeal.

COMFORT

Exceptionally high right out of the box. These shoes have noticeably soft padding around the ankle and underfoot, plus the leather is soft and supple too – ideal for the walk between shots.

SKECHERS GO GOLF PRO V3 SHOE

£130

T This is aimed at golfers who want neutrally styled, comfortable shoes that offer cleated performance.

Key technology

A Resamax insole provides comfort and support, assisted by Skechers' 5-Gen lightweight and responsive cushioning. A full-leather upper has an air-mesh lining for enhanced breathability. Skechers' H2GO Shield delivers waterproof protection, while a dynamic traction plate provides a strong base and aids in the quick removal of dirt.

How we tested

We wore an all-white pair over five rounds at various courses.

VERDICT

Skechers golf shoes continue to impress, and a strong argument could be made that the Go Golf Pro V3 is the brand's best model to date. Breathability was a problem last time around, but no such complaint can be made of V3. The only negative might be that we felt a little high off the ground, but we're being very picky. We're unable to comment on the durability at this stage, nor did we wear the shoes in a downpour, but our initial impression is that Go Golf Pro V3 is robust, comfortable and stylish. It offers very good grip, ample stability and support during the swing, while being

one of the more comfortable cleated shoes on the market. The clean, versatile and modern styling will also have a wide appeal across different age brackets. You simply slip the shoes on and don't think about them for the rest of the round, which is a great quality to have. Pound for pound, the Go Golf Pro V3 is one of the best golf-shoe offerings on the market.



The Go Golf Pro V3 is comfortable and robust



LONDON GOLF CLUB ACADEMY

The tuition available at London Golf Club is outstanding and provided by our highly qualified PGA Professionals.

The team is headed up by Paul Stuart who has a wide range of experience with a proven track record with players at all levels.

Paul enjoyed a successful playing career culminating with England honours in 1995 and a spell on the European Challenge Tour in 2000.

For more information please contact us on **01474 879899**
or email academy@londongolf.co.uk

JOIN THE CONVERSATION





THE HEAT OF BATTLE

Readers Andy Wright and Peter Howe put their new COBRA clubs to the test in the EuroPro Tour Pro-Am at Frilford Heath as part of our Smarter Ways To Lower Scores project with COBRA Golf...

For the second year in a row, *Golf Monthly* has teamed up with COBRA Golf for 'Smarter Ways to Lower Scores', an exciting project in which two readers have enjoyed full COBRA Golf club fittings to help take their games to the next level.

Andy Wright, a 7-handicapper from Cheshire, and Peter Howe, a 24-handicapper from County Durham, were fitted for full driver-to-wedge COBRA Golf sets at Silvermere in March to help with the quest to make serious inroads into their handicaps in 2018.



This year the 'COBRA Connect powered by Arccos' shot-tracking system is fitted into every club, allowing our readers to pinpoint exactly which areas of their

COBRA Connect has been an eye-opener for both our readers

games need attention. In mid-May we met up again at Frilford Heath in Oxfordshire, along with Alex Higgs from Arccos, to play in the Pro-Am at the EuroPro Tour's season opener and discover what the COBRA Connect data had revealed so far.





Andy Wright
Handicap: 7
Home Club:
 Lymm GC



On COBRA Connect powered by Arccos...

Alex Higgs: Andy has about six or seven rounds under his belt, and the data shows that driving and approach play is the strongest. We rate the handicap level of each aspect and his approach play comes out at +0.8, and the driving at 10, so quite a big difference. He's losing a little bit of distance, and dispersion is both left and right. He's also averaging 1.9 putts per green, so if he can improve his driving and hole a few more putts,

there's much potential for handicap reduction.

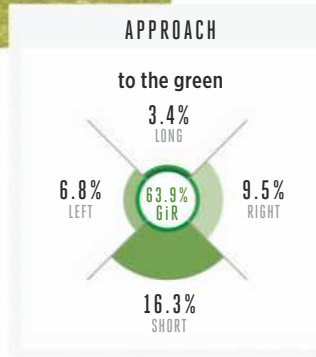
Andy on his COBRA clubs...

Switching a whole bag of clubs in one go is a big change, but I've got used to them now and am really enjoying my new COBRA gear. I actually had a level-par round at St Annes Old Links, but sadly it was just a

bounce game! I'm not really a stats person but I'm getting quite addicted to COBRA Connect. I would have said my putting and short game had been my biggest struggles, but the Arccos data shows that my driving needs some work too, so I'm working with the COBRA guys to get my COBRA King F8 really dialled in.

Andy on the Pro-Am...

This was my first Pro-Am and I really enjoyed it. I played quite well and hit the ball nicely, but struggled a little around the greens. I ended up pretty much on handicap though. I made a couple of birdies from hitting wedges close, but was really pleased to hit a lot of drives down the middle. My irons weren't quite as good, but overall I was pleased. I didn't have any three-putts, either, and think I'm playing well enough to get down to 5 if I can just tidy everything up a bit.



Peter Howe
Handicap: 24
Home Club:
 Hartlepool GC

On COBRA Connect powered by Arccos...

Alex Higgs: Most elements of Peter's game are coming out at about a 22 handicap, but his driving is the main weakness at 28.7. He's losing a lot of distance and missing about 50 per cent of his drives right. That's his biggest issue, and he has confirmed to me that it's a slice rather than a push. If he can improve his driving that should make the approach play a bit easier, so we should see that improve as well.



SMART DISTANCE AND RANGE



DRIVING ACCURACY



Peter on his COBRA clubs...

The guys I play with have told me I'm now a bit more consistent, so I'm happy with how it's going. The COBRA King F8 3-wood is by far my favourite club - it has saved me on quite a few holes - but I'm slicing my driver a lot. It's twice the size of my old one and I'm struggling to get used to it, but it's

gradually getting better. Now Alex has explained about Arccos I'll be delving into the data more and getting my coach to look at it. It certainly highlights things you wouldn't pick up yourself!

Peter on the Pro-Am...

This was my Pro-Am debut and nerves got the better of me for the first few holes, but after that I relaxed a bit. I managed a birdie on our final hole and I parred a couple of the par 3s. The drives were going pretty well later on, which was pleasing too.

The next stage sees Andy and Peter tee it up in another EuroPro Tour Pro-Am at Caversham Heath and enjoy a short-game masterclass with COBRA PUMA Golf's James Ridyard...

SHOES

It's often said that power in the golf swing starts from the ground up. So if your golf shoes aren't offering the grip and stability you need, it's time to look for something new.

As well as traction and support, comfort will be high on many wish-lists. Most companies utilise a foam-like material between the insole and outsole to cushion your stride. Some are noticeably bouncy, while others are firmer and more responsive.

You'll also need to choose between cleated and spikeless models, or take the plunge and join the many golfers who own both. Doing this can help reduce wear and provide more outfit variations, as well as different options for dry and wet weather.

There are also structured and more flexible models, so hopefully you can use this guide to narrow down a few options to go and try on for size.

The Tour-S, FootJoy's new flagship shoe, is stable like the DryJoys Tour, but lightweight like the Pro/SL

Ecco's Tri-Fi-Grip outsole has three different sections to aid lateral stability, walking comfort and mid-swing rotation

The Under Armour Spieth 2 is a great all-rounder, with cleated traction and Gore-Tex protection



TOP BUYING TIPS

1

As a rough rule, golfers with faster swing speeds will tend to require a more stable shoe with good traction, to help them use the ground more efficiently.

2

Spikeless shoes tend to be more comfortable when the ground is harder in the summer, while cleated shoes will typically offer you extra stability and grip.

3

Some brands offer a Boa lacing option. This dial-lace system lets you tighten the shoe in an easy and incremental way for the perfect adjustable fit.

"TRYING BEFORE YOU BUY IS ESSENTIAL, AS SIZES AREN'T STANDARDISED BETWEEN BRANDS. SHOES SHOULD FEEL SNUG SO YOUR FEET DON'T MOVE ABOUT INSIDE AND RUB"

Jake O'Reilly, GM technical writer



**BEST FOR
STABILITY**



£220

FOOTJOY TOUR-S

This new shoe is lightweight, yet it's undeniably stable. Its carbon fibre mid-foot plate and nine LaunchPods add structure and maximise grip, while its PowerStrap provides lateral support.

**BEST FOR
COMFORT**



£139

SKECHERS GO GOLF FOCUS 2

Sitting low to the ground, this shoe has a full-contact bottom with Softspikes cleats. Comfort comes in the form of a responsive, cushioned insole and a soft, synthetic upper.

**BEST
SPIKELESS**



£180

ECCO BIOM HYBRID 3

This model comes with yak leather uppers with Gore-Tex for the best in waterproof protection. It also boasts a Tri-Fi-Grip sole, where three zones cater for stability, comfort and rotation.

**BEST FOR
STYLE**



£140

PUMA IGNITE PWRADAPT

This flexible shoe utilises Ignite Foam cushioning that runs the entire length of the midsole. Its upper is also supported by a Pwrframe in high-stress areas for extra support and stability.



£160

UNDER ARMOUR SPIETH 2

This structured, performance shoe boasts a breathable Gore-Tex waterproof upper. Key to its stability are the unique Rotational Resistance Spikes that reduce unwanted mid-swing foot twisting.



£180

MIZUNO WAVE CADENCE

This model fuses a running shoe's support and comfort with the lateral stability and traction needed for golf. Mizuno's Wave platform also helps absorb walking forces for a more cushioned feel.



£140

FOOTJOY PRO/SL

Now available with MyJoys, the Pro/SL has a perimeter-weighted outsole that enhances stability. It also boasts a roomy rounded toe and a thicker insole for better comfort and cushioning.



£99.95

ADIDAS ADICROSS BOUNCE

This sporty option takes its name from the Bounce midsole that delivers round-long comfort. Its Cloudfoam sockliner aids a snug fit, while a wrap on the upper has multiple eyelets for lacing.



£149.95

ADIDAS TOUR360 BOOST 2.0

This modern classic combines comfort with stability, thanks to Boost cushioning and a 360Wrap that supports your foot. A Torsion Tunnel also provides great arch support.



£100

FOOTJOY ARC SL

FootJoy's latest spikeless shoe was created for comfort. Active Response Cushioning in the midsole is joined by a SofCollar around the ankle and generous forefoot room so your toes can spread out.



£89

SKECHERS GO GOLF ELITE V3

This leather and waterproof spikeless shoe comes in four colours. It features a low-drop design to keep you close to the ground and a cushioned insole for added comfort.



£189.95

DUCA DEL COSMA KUBA

The Italian fashion brand's flagship golf shoe is an eye-catching option that can be worn on and off the course. It's ultra-lightweight and its waterproof membrane keeps your feet nice and dry.

Joel Tadman



YOU THINK YOU'RE GOOD AT GOLF?

Joel Tadman recently teed it up in a EuroPro Tour Pro-Am, where the differences between his own game and that of a playing professional became abundantly clear

Golf, as we are all too familiar, is a frustratingly difficult game. But in the grand scheme of the 7.6 billion people in the world, I was of the opinion that being a lowish single-figure handicapper meant I was relatively good at it. This view came crashing down, however, when I played in the Pro-Am of the Motocaddy Masters, the season-opening event of the EuroPro Tour – the third tier of professional golf.

The following day, 155 golfers would be slugging it out over three days for the paltry (by pro golf standards) £10,000 first prize. The field included some household names, including Phillip Price – slayer of Phil Mickelson in the 2002 Ryder Cup singles at the Belfry – and former European Tour player Gary Boyd. One of the 155 would have to endure a team event with myself, digital editor Neil Tappin and *Golf Monthly* reader Dan Gregory. That unlucky man was Steve Robins, a likeable player from Hull Golf Club who turned pro two years prior off an obscene handicap of +5, finished 14th in 2017's Order of Merit and was also runner-up in this event last year. Clearly a man who knows how to golf his ball...

While we all immediately showed how difficult golf can be, Steve demonstrated

how this game should be played. But it wasn't just the shots he hit that left me in awe, it was his approach to them – his pre-shot routine that never wavered, his reliance on the finest details within his yardage book and his accumulation of pars in such a monotonous fashion.

My first observation of what makes Steve's golf different (let's face it, better) than mine was his course management. There were plenty of holes – slight doglegs or tighter par 4s – where driver was certainly an option, one I often took to my detriment. Given his length and

golfers will usually greet one of these during a round, but not Steve. Why? He of course has excellent fundamentals and technique, but I think a lot of it comes down to how much practice time he puts in. Even after our round, he was so disappointed with his +1 score that he went to hit balls on the range before meeting us in the bar afterwards. A typical non-playing day for him would consist of eight hours of practice, and while the breaks away from golf are important, he admitted that he feels very guilty every time he has them.

"The stories of sleeping in cars and struggling to make ends meet were fascinating to hear"

the fast fairways, he could comfortably get close to a lot of the greens. Yet, more often than not, he chose an iron for position, found his spot and proceeded to make the easiest of pars while I was still hacking out of the gorse.

The second was his inability to hit a really bad shot. You know the one I mean – the 40-yard block with a driver, a semi-duffed iron shot or a slightly knifed chip. Even low-single-figure

My final observation was on his short game. It was sublime. Steve often spoke of its importance during the round, specifically practising holing out and chip shots from inside 30 yards. These shots are integral to a good score, and it showed with Steve. He got up and down far more than us and, quite frankly, did so in a nonchalant fashion.

Not only was Steve an exceptional player, he also talked candidly about his career and what it's like to play on this level of tour – the financial struggles, being overlooked for his country, stories of people sleeping in their cars, others being misled by golf management companies and so on. It was fascinating to hear what's required to make ends meet and I wish him all the best.

He even agreed to a better-ball match against me and Neil for the last five holes of our round – you can see how that played out on the *Golf Monthly* YouTube channel in one of my upcoming vlogs. The finish is not to be missed!

■ Joel Tadman is GM technical editor

WHAT I'VE BEEN TESTING THIS MONTH...



G/FORE DISRUPTOR SHOE

The textured insole feels strange at first, but it's comfy, has good grip and looks at home off the course.



TAYLORMADE TP BLACK COPPER SOTO PUTTER

A soft feel with good speed and the finish looks great. It's the third putter that's gone in my bag this year already!



CALLAWAY XR SPEED DRIVER

A lightweight feel helps to boost club speed for plenty of extra distance over the XR 16 model it replaces.



CLOSE HOUSE

BOOK YOUR

STAY AND PLAY

AND YOU MAY BE JOINED ON
THE TEE BY LEE WESTWOOD*



PACKAGES
FROM
£99
PER PERSON

This is your opportunity to tee off with our Attached Tour Professional Lee Westwood at Close House, official venue of the 2017 British Masters and home to two Lee Westwood golf courses.



• Prize will include a meet and greet with Lee and the chance to play a few holes with the former world number 1

• Winning group will be selected by Close House in 2019

*Group booking of at least 12 golfers to be eligible to win this amazing prize

Call 01661 85 22 55 or email james.howard@closehouse.co.uk

CLOSE HOUSE, HEDDON ON THE WALL, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE15 0HT

WWW.CLOSEHOUSE.COM

HEAD TO HEAD

Two of the best adjustable compact hybrids on the market battle to come out on top



£239



JOEL TADMAN
Technical Editor
Handicap 5



£255

TAYLORMADE M3 RESCUE

Loft: 19°

Shaft: Mitsubishi Chemical Tensei Blue 80HY stiff

TITLEIST 818H2

Loft: 19.75°

Shaft: Aldila Tour Green 85H x-stiff



LOOKS

It certainly looks modern, but it's arguably a touch busy at address. Easy to align thanks to the contrast between the crown and clubface. Compact and slightly less pear-shaped than the Titleist.

FEEL/SOUND

Strikes out of the middle definitely felt more powerful and explosive than the Titleist, with a slightly louder and more metallic sound at impact, although mishits felt noticeably harsher.

PERFORMANCE

It was interesting that even though the shaft was slightly softer, the M3 launched and spun lower with less speed. But it still gave us more carry distance, even with the sliding weight in its neutral setting.

VERSATILITY

Perfectly capable of shaping shots in both directions, but the 30g sliding weight can promote one shape if preferred. Mud does gather in the slot after a few shots from the turf, but only really in wet conditions.

OVERALL APPEAL

This cutting-edge rescue packs plenty of punch for its modest size. Many will enjoy its length, and the intuitive adjustability on the sole allows golfers to make more regular subtle tweaks to the shot shape.

LOOKS

Much more traditional at address, with an all-grey crown and slightly more pear-shaped head. The full-face white scorelines assist alignment and there's plenty of tech underneath to add shelf appeal.

FEEL/SOUND

Only the GCQuad's tech could tell us if we'd found the middle; it was difficult to distinguish between well-struck shots and slight mishits. That said, the sensation from both was impressively consistent.

PERFORMANCE

The 818H2 gave us more consistent carry distances without the 'wow' factor. Higher flight and spin gave us more control of the ball's curvature and also added stopping power into greens.

VERSATILITY

The 818H2 is able to extract the ball from different lies with aplomb and work it gently through the air, while being very forgiving. Golfers can adjust shot-shape bias, among other things, via the SureFit CG.

OVERALL APPEAL

Traditional looks with modern performance, notably good stopping power. Only a custom fitting will allow golfers to maximise performance, but the end benefit is a hybrid that can fulfil many jobs on the course.

40

41

	Ball Speed (mph)	Launch (°)	Peak height (yards)	Spin (rpm)	Carry (yards)
▶ TAYLORMADE M3	141	14.9	38	3683	223
▶ TITLEIST 818H2	142	15.3	39	4009	220



A stepped crown lowers the CG to help get the ball up in the air more easily

A 30g sliding weight on the sole allows golfers to adjust the shot shape

WANT TO SEE MORE?



For video reviews of both these hybrids, visit golf-monthly.co.uk



Active Recoil Channel 2.0 generates faster ball speeds through its improved design and flexing polymer insert

The H2 has a smaller profile, ideal for players with a steeper angle of attack and who prefer the look of an iron



ADAM KISZCZUK

IAN MURGATROYD

TESTED BY YOU

Two GM readers test the new **Titleist Tour Soft ball** on their home courses

When Titleist announced it was replacing its popular NXT Tour ball with the new Tour Soft, expectations were high among the loyal band of players who had enjoyed its performance and value over recent years.

The Tour Soft (£32 per dozen RRP) was created to deliver a softer feel than the NXT Tour had ever offered. This was achieved thanks to the largest core Titleist has ever used in a ball. The Tour Soft also boasts an ultra-thin surlyn cover that is just as thin as some urethane balls.

But how does all the R&D stack up on the course? Were Titleist's claims of soft feel, long distance off the tee and control into greens warranted? To find out, we sent two *Golf Monthly* readers three dozen balls each to try from the comfort of their home courses.

Our duo, Ian and Adam, then spent the following month playing as many rounds as possible and conducted a number of tests to see how the new ball fared. They then met us for a game at West Hill GC to share their feedback.

Here, they tell us how things went...

WANT TO BE INVOLVED?



Keep an eye out for opportunities on our forum at golf-monthly.co.uk/forum

1. IAN MURGATROYD



Ian sizing up a drive...

Ian's ball feedback

My initial impressions of the Tour Soft were very good. It felt very soft and it was long off the tee, flying on a penetrating trajectory. It also felt nice off the putter, too, so it performed pretty well through the bag. My early impressions have

only been solidified. It's been billed as a soft-compression ball and it felt very soft with my irons, wedges and when putting. I'd go as far as to say that it felt just as soft as any premium ball I've tried.

The only downfall seems to be that it doesn't spin quite as much as my usual ball on shorter shots around the green, so I have to land it a few feet shorter to account for some extra roll. It means I'd happily keep playing the Tour Soft in softer conditions and between the autumn and spring, but I'd probably look to spend a bit extra and switch to something with a urethane cover that spins a little more, like Pro V1, when the greens are firmer and I need maximum control.



...and rolling in a putt



Name: Ian Murgatroyd
Handicap: 8
Club: Whipsnade Park GC

ALSO CONSIDER



SPIN CONTROL

TAYLORMADE PROJECT (A)

This three-piece, 70-compression ball boasts a seamless cast urethane cover that provides spin on chip shots.



TOUR PROVEN

CALLAWAY CHROME SOFT

A tour ball without the premium price tag, the Chrome Soft's new graphene Dual SoftFast core boosts long-game distance.



VALUE

SRIXON AD333 TOUR

Srixon claims this offers "tour performance for moderate swing speeds" thanks to its Spin Skin and low 72 compression.



STAND OUT

VOLVIK VIVID

This ball comes in nine colourful matte finishes, but it's no gimmick thanks to a Power Core that creates distance with feel.



Name: Adam Kiszczuk
Handicap: 16
Club: Lilleshall Hall GC

2. ADAM KISZCZUK

Adam's ball feedback

I like a soft feel off my wedges and putter, so I tend to be drawn to this type of ball. When I first got Tour Soft I wasn't able to get to the course for the first few days, so I spent a while putting on my carpet and during this test I thought it felt the same as the more expensive Chrome Soft I usually use. Once I got out on the course it still felt just as soft with all my clubs, but I did notice it spins less and releases further when chipping. I found once I started chipping with more loft, I soon adjusted.

I also noticed it didn't stop as quickly on the greens on some of my full shots. But, saying that, the greens have been really firm recently and I did notice a



Adam testing the spin on offer



The Tour Soft flew well off the tee

ORDER FORM

Post the completed order form to:

FREEPOST Time Inc (No stamp needed – UK only)

YES! I would like to subscribe to Golf Monthly

- UK Annual Direct Debit: Pay just £49.49 annually, saving 23% (full price £64.80) **BEST DEAL**
- UK 2 year cheque/ cash/ credit card (26 issues) – pay just £99.49, saving 23% across the two years (full price £129.60)
- UK 1 year cheque/ cash/ credit card (13 issues) – pay just £52.99, saving 18% across the year (full price £64.80)

Overseas readers can save up to 35%

Visit the web address on the opposite page for all prices

YOUR DETAILS:

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms: Forename: _____
Surname: _____
Email: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Home Tel. No: (inc area code) _____
Mobile: _____
Date of Birth:

By submitting your information, you agree to our Privacy Policy available at www.timeincuk.com/privacy. Please keep me up to date with special offers and news from Golf Monthly and other brands within the Time Inc. UK Group by email, post, telephone and/or SMS. You can unsubscribe at any time.

GIFT SUBSCRIPTION:

Please fill out to give more than one subscription, please supply address details on a separate sheet.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms: Forename: _____
Surname: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____

CHOOSE FROM 3 EASY WAYS TO PAY:

1. CHEQUE

I enclose a cheque/postal order for: £ _____ made payable to Time Inc. (UK) Ltd.

2. CREDIT/DEBIT CARD

Please debit my: Amex Visa Visa Debit Mastercard

Card No.

Expiry Date

Signature: _____ Date: _____
(I am over 18)

3. DIRECT DEBIT: To pay £49.49 annually by UK Direct Debit, please complete your details below:

PAYMENT DETAILS DIRECT DEBIT		
Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit. For office use only: Originators Reference – 764 221		
Name of Bank: _____		
Address of Bank: _____		
Postcode: _____		
Name of Account Holder: _____		
Sort Code:	Account No:	
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
Instruction to your Bank or Building Society Please pay Time Inc. (UK) Ltd Direct Debits from the account detailed on this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Time Inc. (UK) Ltd and if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank or Building Society.		
Signature: _____ Date: _____ (I am over 18)		

Pay just £49.49 a year by Direct Debit with the price guaranteed for the first 12 months and we will notify you in advance of any price changes. Offer open to new subscribers only. Direct Debit offer is available to UK subscribers only. Offer closes 18th July 2018. All orders will start with the next available issue - please allow up to 6 weeks for delivery, 8 weeks for overseas orders. The full subscription rate is for 1 year (13 issues) and includes postage and packaging. *The gift is available for first 100 subscribers only. In the unlikely event that we run out of this gift, we promise to offer you a discount on the price or an alternative gift of the same or greater value. Your gift will be delivered separately within 28 days of your first payment having been taken. Gift only available to subscribers on the UK mainland. If the magazine ordered changes frequency per annum, we will honour the number of issues paid for, not the term of the subscription. For enquiries and overseas rates contact help@magazinesdirect.com or call +44 (0) 330 333 4333. (Lines are open Monday- Saturday, 8am to 6pm UK time) For full terms and conditions visit www.magazinesdirect.com/terms. The Rewards scheme is available for all active print subscribers of magazines published by Time Inc. (UK) Ltd, free of charge. Digital subscribers also get access as long as the subscription has been purchased directly through the publishers at magazinesdirect.com. Full terms and conditions are available at mymagazinerewards.co.uk.

XGM CODE 15JE



ENJOY THESE GREAT SUBSCRIPTION BENEFITS

- Pay only £3.81 per issue
- 13 issues delivered to your home
- Free exclusive rewards for subscribers every month. Join us at golf-monthly.co.uk/rewards

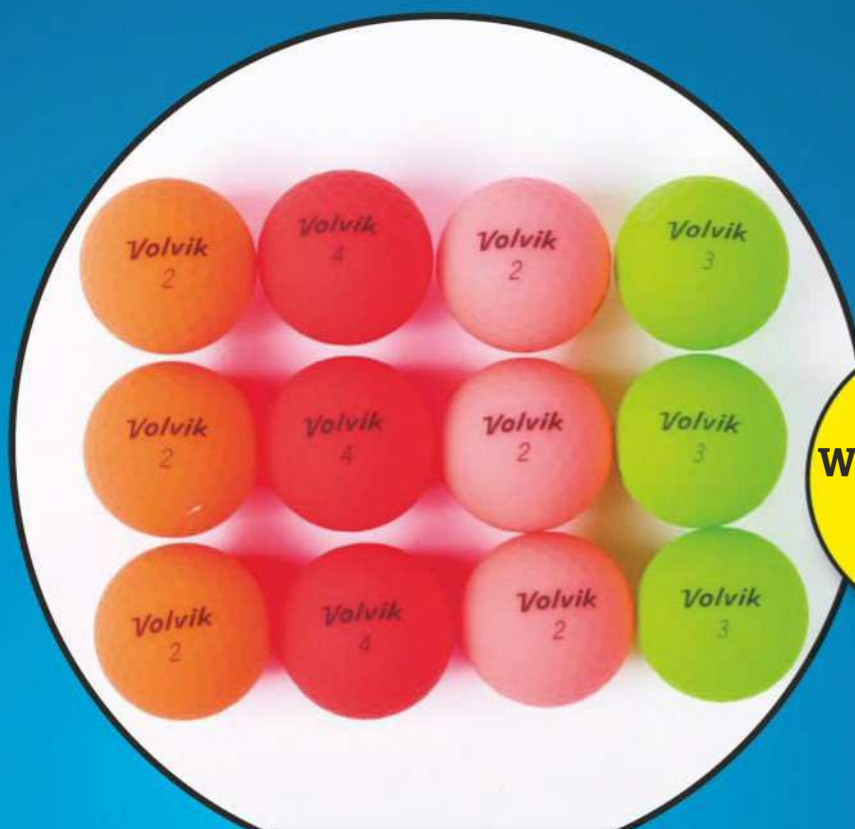


0330 333 1113

Quote code: 15JE

Lines open Monday to Saturday from 8am and 6pm (UK time)

Subscribe to Golf Monthly and receive a dozen Volvik VIVID golf balls*



**GIFT
WORTH OVER
£39**

Volvik[®]
VIVID

The Volvik VIVID is the world's first and most popular matte-finish coloured golf ball. It comes in 10 different colour options - Red, Orange, Pink, Green, Purple, Blue, Sherbet Orange, White, Black and the latest Mint green version.

The distinctive 3-piece performance ball provides longer distance for golfers with slower swing speeds and those looking for a softer feel and more consistent flight. Its vibrant colour makes it easier to spot off the tee and to find both on or off the fairway.

The Korean-based market leader in multi-coloured golf balls, Volvik has almost 40 years' experience in making quality products and amassed more than 50 international design patents.



Subscribe online at
golfmonthlysups.co.uk/15JE



Complete
the coupon
opposite

THE DIRECT DEBIT GUARANTEE: This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits - If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit Time Inc. (UK) Ltd will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request Time Inc. (UK) Ltd to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request. - If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by Time Inc. (UK) Ltd or your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society - If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Time Inc. (UK) Ltd asks you to - You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

COURSES

MUST PLAY KINGSBARNs

It comes as a surprise to many that the beautiful links at Kingsbarns is actually a pay-and-play facility, albeit one of the very highest order. There are no members here, and the course closes over the winter months to give it, and its excellent and friendly staff, a rest. The focus here is very much on customer service, a relaxed atmosphere and the warmest welcome, all of which are complemented by one of the finest, most beautiful and most varied links courses in the world.

HISTORY

Golf was first played over this stretch of the Fife coast as long ago as 1793, although the original course was converted to farmland in the mid-19th century. Kingsbarns Golf Club was subsequently founded in 1922, at which point Willie Auchterlonie designed a nine-hole course here, which also reverted to rough pasture when the land was mined during the Second World War.

Half a century or so later, this fabulous and thoroughly modern

links opened to great acclaim. It was designed by one of today's leading golf course architects, American Kyle Phillips, and play began in the summer of 2000. In just its second year, the course shot to fame when it became one of the three co-hosts of the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship, along with the Old Course and Carnoustie. It has staged the

The picture-perfect 7th

tournament every year since, and last year was also home to the Ricoh Women's British Open.

Rather than a standard out-and-back routing, there are three sections to the course: the main body, which has the majority of the holes, the clubhouse and extensive practice facilities, and two wings which are home to holes 2 to 5 and 12 to 15. The



course has ridden high in the *Golf Monthly* Top 100 rankings since their inception and continues to receive glowing praise from its worldwide visitors.

SIGNATURE HOLE

There are so many lovely holes at Kingsbarns that to choose one over the others has a touch of *Sophie's Choice* about it. If

pushed, then perhaps it's the 12th – a glorious, sweeping par 5 that hugs the shoreline as it works round to a fabulous green site. Then again, there's the thrilling and theatrical short 15th played out over a rocky inlet. Happily, you don't need to decide and can enjoy both during a round that includes plenty of other outstanding holes.

STATS:
Par 72,
6,842 yards

GF:
Round: £268;
£134 if you replay
within seven days

Address: St. Andrews, Fife, KY16 8QD
T: 01334 460860
W: kingsbarns.com

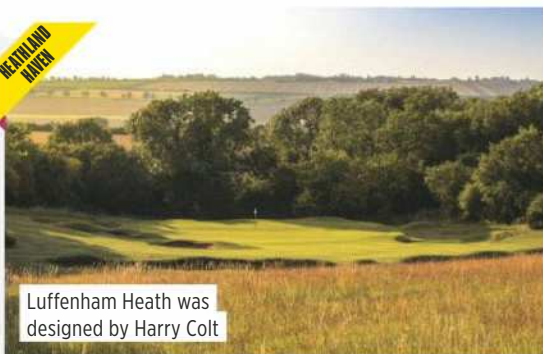


LUFFENHAM HEATH
Rutland

Reaching its centenary in 2011, this Next 100 course runs over a beautiful tract of heathland and was designed by Harry Colt. It is one of the finest such courses in the country and is around 6,500 yards from the competition tees. There are two par 5s which run in opposite directions, but also some stern par 4s such as the 2nd, 11th and 13th, which make playing to handicap very tricky indeed. That the area is not so widely known for golf is the only reason this delightful course is not far more famous.

W: luffenhamheath.org
GF: Round: £65wd/£70we;
Day: £80wd/£90we

HEATHLAND
MIXED



Luffenham Heath was designed by Harry Colt



DUNDRUM
County Tipperary

It may be a long way to Tipperary, but it's worth the drive if you want to enjoy a round of golf on a scenic parkland course close to the River Multeen. Designed by Ryder Cup winner Philip Walton in the mid-1990s, it's a proper test from the blues but far more manageable for holiday golfers from the forward tees. The hotel is set to re-open next year following refurbishment, but there are golf lodges and other accommodation options to tide golfers over in the meantime.

W: dundrumhousehotel.com
GF: Round: €20-€35 depending on time/day, check website for details



Pleasant views abound at Dundrum

SCENIC
PARKLAND



BEST OF UK & IRELAND

Heathland, parkland, links - something for everyone in this month's tour



SHISKINE
Isle of Arran

Originally a nine-hole course designed by former Open Champion Willie Fernie, Shiskine was extended to a full 18 by another past Open winner, Willie Park Jr. Six of the holes fell into disuse during the First World War, meaning what remains is a remarkable and extremely pretty 12-hole course. There are just four par 4s, seven short holes and a solitary par 5, but if golf were only about charm, setting, natural beauty and fun, this lovely seaside course on the Isle of Arran would be an award-winning layout.

W: shiskinegolf.com
GF: Round: £25wd/£30we;
Day: £40wd/£45we

A UNIQUE
LAYOUT



Shiskine boasts an unusual 12 holes



PYLE AND KENFIG
Glamorgan

If ever golf was a game of two halves, then the Next 100 course at Pyle and Kenfig, not far from Royal Porthcawl, would be a perfect example. It's perhaps not quite as stark in variation as the course further round the coast at Porthmadog, but there is nonetheless a fairly extreme difference. Harry Colt's original front nine is played over a common on the east side of the road, and Philip MacKenzie Ross's back nine mounts a rollercoaster into and through the most glorious and stirring dunes on the west.

W: pandkgolfclub.co.uk
GF: Round: £60-£80; Day: £95-£105



A game of two halves at Pyle and Kenfig

GREAT
VARIETY

Words: Rob Smith Photography: Tom Sharpe, Hamish Bernatlyne

FOCUS ON... WEST CORNWALL



Roderick Easdale discovers some beautiful, unspoilt courses in England's most south-westerly county

1 MULLION

After an eagle on the 410-yard 3rd, I am liking this course very much. I am on 11 Stableford points and wondering how to promote the notion that the truest test of a golfer is how they play the opening holes at Mullion.

My round tails off after that, the first dent to the scorecard inflicted by the plummeting 314-yard 6th. It looks spectacular from the tee and apparently if you hit a long drive "it's a doddle".

But I scuff one off the tee never for it to be seen again. The first part of the fairway, obscured from the tee, is tight and slopes severely from left to right.

The 10th green, nestling attractively alongside a cove, makes this dogleg par 4 probably the best-known hole here. But the par-4 7th is another elegant design, and then comes an extremely beautiful corner of the course, bordered by a cove and a church used in the filming of the TV series *Poldark*.

Mullion provides superb views

The elevated middle section of the course gives superb views all around – sea, sandy coves and rolling hills. This is a delightful spot made even better by the engaging golf course.

Stats: Par 70, 6,053 yards

W: mulliongolfclub.co.uk

GF: Round: £40; Day: £48

The stunning downhill 10th



FROM
£40

2 CARLYON BAY

Normally reviewers at Carlyon Bay play with a club figure, who guides and informs. Here, I was on my lonesome, adopted on the first tee by fellow visitors and *Golf Monthly* readers Craig Wilson and his friend Tony, who were both excellent company.

Unfamiliar with this scenic clifftop layout, we discovered hidden challenges such as bunkers secreted in a dip on the 8th fairway. I remarked to Tony as we passed them: "That's mean – did

you know they were there?" He replied in the manner I imagine Jeeves addresses Bertie Wooster: "I would not have had I not checked the course planner on the scorecard before playing the hole."

The test on this course is more on the approach as opposed to the drive. But as many fairways slope left to right, a slicer has much to think about off the tee, especially as the sea lurks to the right on the early holes.

Stats: Par 72, 6,433 yards
W: carlyonbay.com
GF: £35-£55 depending on time



The sea comes into play at Carlyon Bay

4 WEST CORNWALL

The oldest club in the county, West Cornwall was founded by Rev. RF Tyacke, vicar of St Uny, the church that serves as a backdrop to the early holes at this charming and characterful links.

There are some fine views, and looking across the expanse of Hayle Sands underlines why St

Ives is such a draw for artists, tourists and golfers.

The back nine allows you to open your shoulders marginally more than the front does, but this is a reasonably tight layout that favours good course management.

Stats: Par 69, 5,850 yards
W: westcornwallgolfclub.co.uk
GF: £40 Sun-Tue, Thu, Fri; £45 Wed, Sat

West Cornwall offers fine views of Hayle Sands



FROM £40

3 CAPE CORNWALL

The early holes at Cape Cornwall give little hint of the quirky drama to come, although the 3rd is a fine short hole.

The run from 12 to 15 is absolutely spectacular, clambering across land which cascades beside the sea. The 12th is a short par 4 to a hidden fairway before a wonderful par 4 at 13, which rises through its own private valley over a wee wall. It's fun, fair, memorable and intimate.

On the driveable par-4 14th, you hit towards the sea to a fairway shelf cut longways into sloping ground from the left. Miss the short grass to the right and the ball will bound away – you'll probably need to reload. The 15th then runs uphill and doglegs over a walled orchard.

When the wind blows, as it often does, it is a fierce test to navigate your ball around the fast-running and sloping terrain.

Stats: Par 70, 5,801 yards
W: capecornwallgolfclub.co.uk
GF: £20-£35 depending on time

FROM £20



The 3rd green at Cape Cornwall

5 TEHIDY PARK

My satnav directed me to Tehidy Country Park just over a mile away – a common occurrence, apparently. Still, it gave me a chance to enjoy more of the locality. The fairly flat course lies within beautiful landscape, surrounded by rolling hills.

This tree-lined parkland layout relies upon subtle borrows on its greens as its main defence. I played on a still day, but the pro said golfers can get fooled when the wind swirls above the trees.

Stats: Par 71, 6,271 yards
W: tehidyparkgolfclub.co.uk
GF: £35.50 Mon-Fri; £40.50 Sat-Sun



FROM £35.50

Tehidy Park is a parkland gem



STAY

Carlyon Bay Hotel

As well as the 18-hole course, this four-star hotel has a nine-hole pitch-and-putt and a putting green, 250 acres of gardens and a private beach. Facilities include a spa, indoor and outdoor heated swimming pools, tennis courts, two restaurants and three bars. There is an adventure playground and a free entertainments programme during school holidays.

W: carlyonbay.com



EAT/DRINK

The Ship Inn, Mawgan

This pub, run by a husband-and-wife team on the Lizard Peninsula, has a policy of sourcing local ingredients. It is noted for its steaks and fish, as well as its local ales. It also offers takeaway fish 'n' chips and a children's menu. It is closed on Sunday and Monday.

W: shipinnmawgan.co.uk

VISIT

Eden Project

This internationally famous global garden is housed in tropical biomes in a crater the size of 30 football pitches and features the largest rainforest in captivity. A new permanent exhibition this year is Invisible Worlds, which includes interactive exhibits, experiments... and zombie ants.

W: edenproject.com

6 FALMOUTH

This is a layout with contrasting loops. The first shot is to a tight, tree-lined fairway rising slightly and curving away – a common theme in the early holes.

From 12, the course becomes more cliff-top in feel, with some splendid views, and is more forgiving off the tee. The par-4

15th, curving round the cliff-top, is a delight. But it's tough, as it slopes towards the sea. In fast-running summer conditions, you need to hit the small, flat area on the fairway. Nick Rogers, the head pro, says you should play the hole as two par 3s.

Stats: Par 72, 6,036 yards

W: tehidyparkgolfclub.co.uk

GF: Round: £20-£32.50; Day: £50

From the 12th, Falmouth takes on a more cliff-top feel



The Gold Standard

The Costa Daurada on Spain's north-west coast is establishing itself as a must-visit destination for golf tourists and others alike...



The Costa Daurada, meaning the Golden Coast, suits its name well, with long stretches of beautiful golden beaches and crystal-clear turquoise waters. As one of the most popular destinations on the Mediterranean, tourists can enjoy a rich and varied territory, with the golden coastline bathed by the waters of the Mediterranean and an interior dotted by quiet villages in the Prades Mountains.

With glorious summers and mild winter temperatures, it is no wonder that outdoor pursuits such as golf have taken off in the region



Costa Daurada translates as 'Golden Coast'

in recent decades. The Costa Daurada is creating a growing reputation for its stunning golf courses, many of which have been laid out by globally renowned designers such as Robert Trent Jones Jr and Greg Norman.

Stunning golf

Lumine Mediterranea Golf and Beach Community, near the coastal towns of Salou and Cambrils, is undoubtedly the jewel in the region's golfing crown. Lumine, just 50 miles south of Barcelona, is home to 45 holes of golf and the European Tour Qualifying School - Final Stage.



Left: the closing hole on Lumine's Hills course; Top: Bonmont GC

experience a wealth of historical heritage, imposing medieval monasteries, landscapes of great natural beauty, hundred-year-old vineyards, exquisite Mediterranean cuisine and relaxing health spas.

An idyllic setting

There are 20 towns that make up the Costa Daurada. It features more than 81 kilometres of coastline, spacious beaches with clean fine sand and transparent shallow waters. Many of the towns are built around the silhouette of an ancient castle or fortress, which preserves the traditional essence of the area. Many of these small towns are easily accessible, offering tourists ample opportunities to explore.

Below: Port Cambrils; Bottom: Costa Dorada GC



Vineyards are a prominent symbol of the Costa Daurada and Mediterranean culture. A large part of this majestic territory is covered in a remarkable variety of vineyard landscapes. In these locales you can visit wineries, walk among the vineyards and attend festivals, wine tastings and wine-pairing lunches. Combine the local wine with the gastronomic delights the area has to offer and you're in for a real sensory treat.



With all the region has to offer, the world-renowned city of Barcelona just to the north and numerous daily flights from a host of UK airports, it's no wonder the Costa Daurada is proving so popular with tourists. Indeed, Reus airport is just 15 minutes away from the main places of interest, beaches and courses. Why not head to this idyllic corner of north-east Spain when the time comes for your next golf break?

Alongside Lumine, there are a number of other stunning courses to enjoy within the region. These include nearby neighbour Club de Golf Bonmont, Costa Dorada and Reus Aiguesverds. The mixture of courses makes the region suitable for all the family, as they range from 18-holers to academy and pitch-and-putts layouts.

On top of some exceptional golf, the Costa Daurada is the perfect destination to suit all tastes and interests. It offers a wide range of leisure activities, culture, nature and history in an ideal setting of peace and tranquillity. Guests to the area can

Photography: Paul Severn

SOUTH-WEST STUNNERS

The *Golf Monthly* UK&I Top 100 is packed with big names that justifiably attract premium green fees, but it also contains clusters of terrific-value golf. Rob Smith heads west...





The 18th hole on Saunton's East course

Links golf dominates our course rankings, and one of its many assets is that great conditioning and playability is available throughout the year. There are strongholds of such courses lining our shores that are well-known hotspots and natural magnets for golfing groups on tour. Many of these also command wallet-emptying green fees that make them a rare treat at best.

One very welcome exception to this is the beautiful coastline that runs from Somerset down into Cornwall via Devon, which is home to no fewer than six much-loved and very varied Top 100 Courses. All are beautiful, and in places such as Saunton and St Enodoc, the dunes are comparable with those at any of our most celebrated links.

It's about 100 miles as the seagull flies from Burnham and Berrow in the east to Trevoise in the west – a little further by car – but the spectacular scenery and delightful villages and towns along the way are an absolute draw in their own right. For golfers, this is a veritable pilgrim's way which also takes in the history of Royal North Devon and the dramatic dunescape at St Enodoc. Even better, there is quite remarkable value for money available at this six-pack of Top 100 stars.

BURNHAM AND BERROW

At number 31, the Championship course at Burnham and Berrow boasts the highest ranking of our south-westerly sextet. It is one of those courses that has enormous strength in depth, rather than particular standout or signature holes. Its immaculate pedigree features input from Herbert Fowler and Alister MacKenzie, among others, but the modern-day design is generally credited to the genius of Harry Colt.

It opens with an attractive par 4 out towards the sea, after which you turn right and head north along the Bristol Channel for the next seven holes. The 5th is the first of four absolutely lovely short



holes, and is played over a valley to a green protected by run-offs and three deep, greedy sand traps. The 9th is of similar length but with twice as many beautifully revetted bunkers.

From the turn, you head south and homeward. The 12th takes you up to a green by St. Mary's Church, which dates back to the 13th century. The round comes to an exciting conclusion with the final par 3 at 17 – another cracker – and a very tough right-to-left par 4 back to the clubhouse. If there were a ranking devoted to nine-hole layouts, the Channel course would be a serious contender. The Dormy House sleeps 12 and there are excellent rates for stay-and-play packages.

SAUNTON (EAST AND WEST)

Saunton is one of those rare but exceedingly lucky clubs to have more than one course in the Top



100. The East is at 41 and the West 61, and there are plenty of golfers who actually prefer the latter as it offers more variety, especially in terms of par 3s and par 5s.

The East, however, is widely considered the tougher of the two, and it has hosted many important amateur events since it was redesigned by Fowler in 1919. A very young Sergio Garcia won the Boys Amateur Championship here more than two decades ago, and the event will return next year.

The West is no pushover and this summer it is home to the English PGA Championship. This means there are 36 holes of

Saunton's West course offers great variety

top-level, tournament-standard golf on offer at this glorious and spacious site that is separated from the beach by towering dunes. Both courses have been improved in recent times, and the club is one that never rests on its laurels, constantly looking to make the visitor and member experience the very best it can be.

ROYAL NORTH DEVON

Just about everything at Westward Ho! contributes to making it exactly what it is – a living, breathing history of English golf. Not only is the course (ranked 74) the oldest in the country, but inside the clubhouse, the museum and honours boards are testimony to the roots of the game and its pioneers.

Running over common land, the course was originally laid out by Old Tom Morris and opened for play in 1864. It was subsequently

COUNTDOWN
TO THE TOP
100

Our new Top 100 list will be published in December this year



bunker that waits with open arms at the 4th, fast-running fairways and frequent encounters with pot bunkers, reeds and rushes, and at various times of the year, a variety of livestock. Royal North Devon is the very definition of natural golf.

ST ENODOC

If there is one course among this splendid six that stands out from the rest in terms of drama and romance, it is probably the extremely photogenic Church course at St Enodoc (ranked 56).

and overgrown scrub area that ran along the length of the hole.

This has resulted in improved visibility on the approach, while the stream by the green has been widened. The famous Himalaya bunker on the superb par-4 6th is one of golf's most photographed.

TREVOZE

The most westerly Top 100 Course (ranked 75) on this wild, Atlantic coastline is the ever-improving links at Trevoze. Here, the course, accommodation and facilities have

“The result is that the golfer is stimulated and engaged at every twist and turn”

Fifty miles up the coast from Land's End, this is a James Braid classic that serves up more variety and surprise than you will get at almost any other traditional links.

Indeed, some of the holes are so far removed in design and setting from links that they are an entirely different breed. The result is that the golfer is stimulated and engaged at every twist and turn. Former Poet Laureate John Betjeman is buried in the Norman churchyard up by the 10th green, and work was conducted during the winter to remove the invasive

been regularly upgraded and expanded over recent years to the point where this is now the consummate golfing venue.

The panoramic vista from the clubhouse over the Championship course is enticing, and the golf is first-class from the opening drive, with the first four holes offering as exciting and challenging a start as they come. The last of these has been remodelled and is now an imperious par 5.

There is plenty of excitement and fun all the way, with the regular distraction of great views out over the white horses on the ocean. The course finishes with a classic par 4 back up to the clubhouse with OOB left. For golf of this quality, as well as the complete holiday experience, Trevoze offers excellent value.

From Somerset to Cornwall, this group of six outstanding Top 100 links courses represent arguably the best return of quality and variety on your investment anywhere throughout the UK&I.



Great strength in depth at Burnham and Berrow

remodelled by Fowler, but since then very little has changed at this completely natural and unfussy links, where the opening and closing holes act as a conduit to and from the rest of the course. This most elemental links was impacted by last winter's storms, when high tides resulted in erosion at the far end of the course. Happily, only the championship tee on the 8th went out of bounds and everything else is now back in fine order.

There are many memorable features, including the giant Cape

The photogenic Church course at St Enodoc



STAY & PLAY CALLY PALACE

Jeremy Ellwood visits this grand 18th-century mansion and golf course in Dumfries and Galloway

THE GOLF

par 71, 6,062 yards

The course plays mostly over rolling terrain around a large lake to the front of the hotel, with the final trio, including the delightfully pretty but very long par-3 17th, the other side of the mansion. The 5th doglegs round to a raised green backed by swathes of gorse, while the par-5 8th is a real shock to the system at 590 yards!

The 9th is another attractive hole with a raised green playing towards distant wooded hills, while coming home the two par 5s at 13 and 15 stand out. The former plays straight back towards the hotel and even the lay-up is a little scary, as you play past the lake and then finally across a burn to the green. The 15th doglegs sharply right late on before the final approach over water.

■ **Also play...** The fine Philip Mackenzie Ross links at **Southernness** (southernnessgolfclub.com) is just 45 minutes east of Cally Palace.

ACCOMMODATION

The grand 18th-century mansion was designed by renowned architect Robert Mylne, who designed Blackfriars Bridge in

The resort boasts 56 bedrooms



Photography: David J Whyte



The opening hole at Cally Palace

STATS:

Par 71,
6,062 yards

GF:

£20-£32
per round

Cally Palace Hotel & Golf Course,
Gatehouse of Fleet, Dumfries and
Galloway T: 01557 814341
W: mcmillanhotels.co.uk

London. As you might expect, it boasts a step-back-in-time feel, elegant architecture and 56 generously sized rooms with tall ceilings, many of which look out over either the golf course or the putting/croquet green.

The AA-rosette restaurant draws on local seasonal fare, with the Conservatory Bar a fine spot to enjoy a pre-dinner drink. The leisure complex offers a swimming pool, gym, sauna and spa bath, while there are extensive grounds to wander through and woodland walks aplenty in Cally Woods.

■ **Where else...** Cream O'Galloway (creamogalloway.co.uk) in Rainton offers ice cream, cheese, a superb woodland adventure playground and much more.

BEST DEAL

The Summer Offer starts from £186pp for a two-night stay. It includes full Scottish Breakfast, a four-course dinner each evening, three rounds of golf and complimentary use of the leisure facilities on site.

WHERE

Head west on the A75 in Dumfries and Galloway and turn onto the B727 Old Military Road signposted to Gatehouse of Fleet. The entrance to Cally Palace Hotel & Golf Course is just before the village.

CHECKLIST

Buggy hire: £25 per round

Trolley hire: £4 per round

Power trolley hire: N/A

Club hire: N/A

Driving range: No

Putting green: Yes

Short-game area: Yes

Pro shop: No

Changing rooms: Yes

Sky TV: No

Price of a pint: From £3.50

LUXURY LIVING IN NORTH WEST IRELAND

FOR SALE

A CHOICE OF LUXURY HOLIDAY HOMES IN IRELAND'S PREMIER GOLF AND SPA RESORT

- Holiday Homes ranging from 1,745sq to 3,000sq
- Full Membership of The Faldo Championship Golf Course
- Playing Rights at Castle Hume Championship Golf Course
- Full Use of The Thai Spa with discounts throughout the resort
- Located only 10 minutes from Enniskillen and just over 2 hours from Dublin and Belfast



For further information please contact McGovern Estate Agents Ltd.
Tel: +44 (0)28 6632 8282 or visit www.mcgovernestateagents.com

Holidays - Overseas

Golf Holiday experts
WWW.CHAKATRAVEL.COM



MAURITIUS from £1,895 PP

4* C Palmar
10 nights **All Inclusive**
Daily golf & buggies, incl. flights, transfers
10 nights from **£2,260 PP** winter 2018

MAURITIUS from £1,695 PP

5* Belle Mare Plage
10 nights **Half Board**
unlimited golf, incl flights & transfers
Or All Inclusive supplement from £700 pp



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

5* Casa De Campo from **£3,095 PP**
12 nights **All Inclusive**
Unlimited golf + shared cart & range balls
Incl. flights & transfers

MALAYSIA from £1,695 PP

5* Shangri-La's Rasa Ria Resort
12 nights **B&B**
6 rounds of golf with buggy
Incl. flights & transfers



SOUTH AFRICA from £2,695 PP

Cape Town & Fancourt
10 nights **B&B**
6 rounds of golf on 6 courses
Incl. flights & hire car

ESCORTED GOLF TOURS

Join us on one of our popular escorted tours. Suitable for golfers and non-golfers alike, our PGA pro will be your guide throughout.
South Africa | Bulgaria | Mauritius | more...

MADEIRA MEXICO SEYCHELLES DUBAI SPAIN ITALY IRELAND MOROCCO TENERIFE
WWW.CHAKATRAVEL.COM ENQUIRIES@CHAKATRAVEL.COM CALL OUR SPECIALISTS: 028 9023 2112





£50 CASH BACK

WHEN YOU TRADE-IN YOUR OLD ELECTRIC TROLLEY*

**THAT'S ANY BRAND,
MODEL, AGE OR CONDITION**

Purchase any NEW Motocaddy Lithium Trolley between 20th April to 30th June 2018 and claim £50 Cashback when you trade-in your old electric trolley.

Simply register your claim online, then send us your old trolley (minus the battery) using our FREE UPS[®] shipping service.

We're committed to responsibly recycling your old trolley, so we've partnered with an electronics recycling specialist. You can trade in any electric trolley, any brand, model, age or condition (working or not).

There's never been a better time to upgrade your game with Motocaddy.

WE RECYCLE — YOU SAVE



motocaddy.com/trade-in

*Terms & conditions apply.

Euroselect for the best **experience** in golf today.

www.euroselectgolf.co.uk

euroselect

GOLF ALLIANCE

Euroselect are a group of **20 Independent Golf Retailers** with over **500** years combined experience. We employ over **100 PGA Golf Professionals** and hold over **£25 million of stock**, with state of the art **coaching** and **custom fitting facilities**.

www.euroselectgolf.co.uk

SILVERMERE GOLF STORE



GET THE WHOLE GOLF EXPERIENCE

- SHOP ▶ **33 STORES**
- ONLINE ▶ **19 ONLINE STORES**
- PRACTICE ▶ **17 DRIVING RANGES**
- PLAY ▶ **21 GOLF COURSES**

Please check availability at your local Euroselect store.

FIND YOUR LOCAL EUROSELECT OUTLET:

www.euroselectgolf.co.uk

FIND YOUR LOCAL EUROSELECT OUTLET

▶ INSTORE

- Affordable Golf**
48 Kelvin Avenue, Hillington Park,
Glasgow G52 4LT 0141 810 4811
- Affordable Golf**
Unit 3, 126 Hyde Park Street, Glasgow,
G3 6BW 0141 5641580
- Affordable Golf**
2-4 Whin Place, East Kilbride, G74 3XS
01355 571999
- Andrew Morris Golf LTD**
Laganview Driving Range Ballyskeagh
Road Lisburn, BT27 5SY 02890 430888
- Cardiff Golf Centre**
Began Rd, Old St.Mellons, Cardiff, CF3 6XJ
02920 361122
- Centregolf - Brentwood Golf Centre**
King George's Playing Fields, Ingrave
Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5AF
01277 218714
- Centregolf - Rayleigh Golf Range**
Rear of Carpenter's Arms, London Road,
Rayleigh, Wickford, Essex, SS11 8TZ
01268 781706
- Centregolf - Thorndon Park Golf Club**
Ingrave, Brentwood, Essex, CM13 3RH
01277 810736
- Complete Golfer**
1/2 Clive Parade, Maxwell Road, Northwood,
Middlesex, HA6 2QF 01923 836059
- Complete Golfer**
Moor Park Golf Club, Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire, WD3 1QN 01923 774113
- Duncan Lambert**
West Malling Golf Club, London Road,
Addington, Kent, ME19 5AR 01732 644022
- ExpressGolf Centre**
The Fairways, Bradford, BD9 6RX
01274 491945
- Foregolf**
Sealand Golf Centre, Sealand Road,
Chester, CH1 6BP 01244 881800
- Gillingham Golf Club**
Woodlands Rd, Gillingham, Kent ME7 2AP
01634 853017
- Gloucester Golf Superstore**
Barnett Way, Gloucester, GL4 3RT
01452 613864
- Golf Gear Direct Store**
24 Longley Rd, Rainham, Kent, ME8 7RU
01634 262002
- Golfers Choice**
47 Barrack Rd, Northampton, NN1 3RL
01604 620808
- JamGolf at The Club**
The Golf Club, St Pierre Park Hotel Spa
and Golf Resort, Roehais, St Patar Port,
Guernsey, GY11FD 01481 727039
- Left Handed Golf Store LTD**
Silvermere Golf Complex, Redhill Road,
Cobham, Surrey, KT11 1EF 01932 584384
- Parkstone Golf Club**
49a Links Road, Poole, Dorset, BH14 9QS
01202 706027
- Portsmouth Golf Centre**
Burrfields Road, Portsmouth, PO3 5HH
023 9266 4549
- Royal Jersey Pro Shop**
Grouville, Jersey, Channel Islands, JE3 9BD
01534 852234 www.rjproshop.com
- Scottsdale Golf**
148 Cross St, Sale, Manchester, M33 7AQ
0161 969 4644
- Sheffield Pro Shop**
605 Queens Road, Sheffield, S2 4DX
0114 255 1969
- Snainton Golf**
Snainton Lane, Snainton YO13 9PG
01723 85001
- Sittingbourne Golf Club**
Wormdale Hill, Newington, Sittingbourne,
Kent, ME9 7PX 01795 842261
- Silvermere Golf Store**
Silvermere Golf Complex, Redhill Road,
Cobham, Surrey, KT11 1EF 01932 584323
- The Weald of Kent Golf Course**
Maidstone Rd, Headcorn, Kent TN27 9PT
01622 890866
- Tim Jenkins Golf LTD**
Cleveland Golf Club, Redcar, Cleveland,
TS10 5BJ 01642 498772
- Tim Jenkins Golf LTD**
Castle Eden Golf Club, Castle Eden,
Hartlepool, TS27 4SS 01429 836689
- Tony Valentine Golf Centres LTD**
Unit 5, Barnfield Road, Great Western
Way, Bruce Street Bridges, Swindon,
Wiltshire, SN2 2DJ 01793 644448
- Tony Valentine Golf Centres LTD**
Unit 2, Bradford Road, Corsham,
Wiltshire, SN13 0RB 01249 714466
- Westridge Golf Centre**
Brading Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight
PO33 1QS 01983 613131

▶ ONLINE

- Andrew Morris Golf**
www.andrewmorrisgolf.com
- Affordable Golf**
www.affordablegolf.co.uk
- Cardiff Golf**
www.cardiffgolf.com
- Centre Golf**
www.discountgolfstore.co.uk
- Click Golf**
www.clickgolf.co.uk
- Complete Golfer**
www.completegolfer.co.uk
- Duncan Lambert**
www.duncanlambertgolf.com
- Express Golf**
www.expressgolf.co.uk
- Gloucester Golf**
www.gloucestergolfdiscount.com
- Golf Gear Direct**
www.golfgeardirect.co.uk
- House of Fraser Golf Store**
www.houseoffraser.co.uk
- Jam Golf**
www.jamgolf.com
- Ladies Golf**
www.ladiesgolf.co.uk
- Left Handed Golf**
www.lefthandedgolf.co.uk
- Scottsdale Golf**
www.scottsdalegolf.co.uk
- Silvermere Golf Store**
www.silvermeregolfstore.com
- Sheffield Pro Shop**
www.sheffieldproshop.co.uk
- Snainton Golf**
www.snaintongolf.co.uk
- Tim Jenkins Golf LTD**
www.timjenkinsgolf.co.uk
- Tony Valentine Golf**
www.tonyvalentine.com

The Manor House & Ashbury Hotels

- The Only Sport, Craft & Spa - Hotels in the UK

FREE GOLF & A Whole In One!

at The UK's Largest Golf Resort

Set in the foothills of Dartmoor National Park, Devon. The Ashbury Hotel is the ideal venue for your golf break.

At least 27 holes of FREE golf with each night of stay!

- 99 Holes of Exceptional Golf
- **OVER 400 BUGGIES** to Hire from £8 - £16
- ALL Breaks **FULL BOARD**
- **FREE Sport, Craft, Leisure & Spa Facilities**
- **FREE Golf Practice Facilities**
- **FREE Teetime Pre-Booking Service**



Kigbears 15th
415 yards, Par 4



Pines 17th
442 yards, Par 2

We are already talking about returning for our next tour and we've not been home for 24hrs!!

Bakes71 - Trip Advisor



Multi-Sport Simulators with Rugby, Football, Golf & more!

"I've never played such fantastic courses"

Stephen W - Trip Advisor

0800 197 7551 ashburygolfhotel.com



3G and MUGA Sports Pitch at Ashbury

Our Fantastic Courses - All on One Site!

Kigbears	Par 72	6528
Pines	Par 72	6400
Beeches	Par 68	5738
Oakwood	Par 68	5502
Ashbury 9 + Pines Front 9	Par 70	5501
Ashbury 9 + Pines Back 9	Par 72	5837
Willows	Par 54	1939

Summer Sizzlers 2018

16/7/18 - 29/8/18

- **FREE Unlimited Golf**
- **½ Price Buggies - £8**

September Breaks from:

3 Night Weekends £282pp

4 Night Midweeks £308pp

Autumn to Spring Specials

04/10/18 - 24/04/19

- **FREE Golf**
- **½ Price Buggies - £8**

Unrivalled Choice at the Manor House & Ashbury Hotels...

11 Tennis Courts



12 Badminton Courts



Range Activities



28 Snooker Tables



11 Bowls Rinks



Pedal Karts



Water Slides



Hydro Spas



3 Swimming Pools



18 Tutored Crafts



Equipment

THE LITHIUM SPECIALISTS

topcaddy

topcaddy@btconnect.com | topcaddy.co.uk | 01236879815

Property

Ideal Retirement Home for Sale

Situated in the tranquil village of Longside Aberdeenshire on a corner plot, modern spacious 3 bedroom bungalow. With lounge, dining-room, modern kitchen, family bathroom with en suite master bedroom. Garage with 3 car drive, manageable front and rear mature garden. From front door 4 min walk to the first tee of Longside Golf Club, with further 5 popular north east courses with in a 20 minute drive. They are Cruden Bay-Peterhead-Inverallochy-Fraserborough-Ellon, offers over £210,000, contact selling agent Aberdeen Considine (ph@acando.com), local office 01779 475365

Accessories

BEST IMPRESSIONS New corporate website NOW LIVE visit www.bestimpressionsgolf.co.uk
Golf societies • Company Golf days • Events

Prokes chips **£4.99** for 3
Your name, text or image
Alex Jayne
Hybrid Pinchfix **£10.99** each
CAPTAIN CHRIS David Choice of 8 colours

For all our personalised gifts, visit www.bestimpressions.co.uk Tel: 01484 448030

Golf Courses

100 HOLLER 2017 **TOP 150 GOLF COURSE 2016**

The DORSET GOLF RESORT

JULY & AUGUST GOLF BREAKS

5 Star Log Home Resort **TOP 100 GOLF RESORTS IN BRITAIN & IRELAND 2018**

Stay from **£83.95** p / person including Dinner, Bed & Breakfast with FREE Golf!

t: 01929 472244 www.dorsetgolfresort.com

NEED A HANDICAP? Est. 1968

www.golfclubgb.co.uk

Tel: 0208 391 4666

GOLF MONTHLY

WWW.GREGNICHOLSONGOLF.CO.UK

GOLF **GREG NICHOLSON** Est. 1978

DRIVING DOWN PRICES

CALL OUR PRO SALES TEAM FOR FANTASTIC GOLFING ADVICE **01606 351573**

TAYLOR MADE 2018 M3 & M4 RANGE - LOWEST UK PRICE!

TaylorMade MAJOR STOCKIST

2017 M1 IRONS FROM ONLY **£379**

2017 M2 DRIVER FROM ONLY **£195**

SPIDER PUTTER DEMO FROM ONLY **£139**

BEST UK PRICE GUARANTEED! UP TO 50% OFF! Don't buy new until you've spoken to us!

Titleist DEMO FROM **REDUCED! £219**

VOKEY WEDGES FROM ONLY **£84.95**

917 D2 DRIVERS FROM ONLY **£299** (WORTH £499)

LYNX COMBO FORGED IRONS 3 & 4 HYBRID 5-SW + FREE WATERPROOF BAG

LOWEST UK PRICE GUARANTEED!

NEW 2018 WATERPROOF CART AND STAND BAGS FROM ALL LEADING BRANDS

NEW BIG MAX RANGE OF BAGS INCLUDING DRI LITE ACTIVE CART BAG

G400 IRONS **STEEL DEMO SETS** NOW FROM ONLY **£399.00** (were £799)

FROM ONLY **£139** **REDUCED! £78.95**

Callaway MAJOR STOCKIST

XR DRIVERS RRP £329 **NOW FROM £159**

ROGUE DEMO DRIVERS **£349**

CUSTOM-FIT SPECIALIST made to measure golf clubs

NUMBER 1 UK GOLF SPECIALIST

NEW Electric Trolley Batteries Powakaddy and Motacaddy.

Lithium were £250, **£145**

Lead were £80, **£49.99**

ALIEN - SPECIAL SAND & LOP WEDGE FROM ONLY **£39.75**

Probably the easiest wedge to use on the market today.

ULTIMATE 3-WHEEL QWIK-FOLD CUBE PUSH TROLLEY **£119** (RRP £139.99)

FOLDS DOWN IN SECONDS, SUPER-LIGHT FRAME WITH FULLY ADJUSTABLE HANDLE. Plus FREE travel cover and deluxe umbrella holder WORTH £49.95

NEW! PRO RIDER & GO GOLF ELECTRIC TROLLEYS

£189 RRP £399 (2018 MODEL)

- ▲ MOTOR WITH 5 YEAR WARRANTY
- ▲ SUPER LIGHT ALUMINIUM FRAME
- ▲ 35 DEGREE GRADIENT CLIMB
- ▲ 7 SPEED CONTROL FUNCTION
- ▲ 36 HOLE BATTERY
- ▲ AUTO CHARGING CUT OFF
- ▲ BATTERY POWER GAUGE
- ▲ FREEWHEEL MODE
- ▲ 5 STAR HOME WARRANTY
- ▲ GRIPPIY 262MM WHEELS
- ▲ LATEST DIGITAL DISPLAY
- ▲ LATEST WHEEL DESIGN
- ▲ PRE SET SPEED MEMORY
- ▲ SELF DIAGNOSTIC FEATURE
- ▲ FREE SCORECARD HOLDER
- ▲ FREE GOLF BAG RAIN COVER
- ▲ FREE TROLLEY CARRY BAG
- ▲ FREE UMBRELLA HOLDER
- ▲ FREE DELIVERY
- ▲ FREE CUP HOLDER
- ▲ FREE CHARGER
- ▲ FREE BATTERY BAG

FULL RANGE OF ELECTRIC TROLLEYS AVAILABLE INC. NEW LITHIUM BATTERY & REMOTE MODELS

LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED!

stubburt NEW STUBURT SHOE RANGE FROM ONLY **£24.95**

BLAKEMERE VILLAGE, CHESTER ROAD, NORTHWICH, CHESHIRE CW8 2EB - OPEN 7 DAYS (10am - 5pm)

GREG NICHOLSON GOLF: LOWEST U.K. PRICES - GUARANTEED!

WE WILL BEAT ANY GENUINE PRICE FROM AN AUTHORISED DEALER

GOLF MONTHLY CLASSIFIEDS

Hasan.Mubarak@timeinc.com

Telephone: 01252 555346

Bill Elliott



DRESSED FOR SUCCESS

Our editor-at-large considers the changing face of golf fashion and has a warning for those of us whose bodies are beginning to show some wear and tear...

As the sun was finally shining and the meadowlarks were doing what they do best, which is mostly, er, larking about, I took myself off to Wentworth and the BMW PGA Championship.

Everywhere and everyone – well, nearly everyone – looked splendid. If the grass had been any greener it would have hurt the eyes, while the plentiful crowds looked a colourful picture in their summer gear. Even the blokes with white legs looked quite nice when set against the stunning backdrop of the West course. The women, of course, looked better.

The players, too, had made an effort. Some, of course, are paid fortunes to wear this and that shirt, trouser, shoe and cap combo, their daily outfits only decided after several lengthy meetings at the major clothing suppliers. Lunch is usually involved.

It used to be that what you wore on a course was pretty much what you most definitely didn't wear in public. For a time it was all but obligatory at the posher clubs to throw on the trousers and shirt you utilised while gardening. Anything else encouraged a barrage of scoffing.

How times have changed. Now many spend more time thinking about what to wear than they do actually playing. An industry has grown, its sole purpose to encourage this sartorial approach to the old game. Now most players look better than before, but the tendency to make shirts out of a material that clings to the abdomen more closely than one would wish has brought its own concerns.

I never thought I'd wonder if I could hit a 5-iron while sucking in my breath but, ludicrously, I do now. And don't get me started on the too-tight-to-wear-without-looking-a-prat trousers. Especially if your preference is for the white jobbies. My wife advises me that no one with an inside leg measurement less than 34 inches should ever wear white trews, and although I succeed in ignoring most of her advice, I do suspect she has at least a small point here.

Anyway, we are where we are and where we are is that there is now something known as golf fashion. Naturally, some older participants refuse to join in this technicolour race to the clothes rack, preferring the company of well-trusted and roomy trousers which they invariably pair with a shirt at least two sizes too big for them.

Well, as long as they are enjoying themselves there is still room for all of us, however we're dressed for action. Thankfully the days when a sweater without at least two obvious stains was considered rather showy have passed. Now the idea is to turn up looking like you can actually properly play the game.

Meanwhile, the other thing that struck me at Wentworth, apart from Wee Rory's occasionally lacklustre wedge play, was the absence of tattoos. There was a reassuring smattering of ink among the fans but, as far as I could see, none sported by the pros. I don't know why I haven't noticed this before.

Given that apparently half the adult population of these islands has a tattoo, it's hard to understand what pro golfers

have against them. Or maybe they don't. Maybe when many of them whip off those tight trousers and shirts their bodies are as illustrated as the blessed David Beckham's, a man who has yet to work out that one day even his cosseted skin will sag.

I remember when Boo Weekley first appeared on the scene. My former editor became very excited when Boo seemed not only to arm-wrestle alligators for relaxation, but to have had both arms heavily tattooed. "We've got photos," he gasped. "Can you have a word with him because this shows that golf isn't a dull game played by fuddy-duddies."

Heaving with anticipation I approached Boo, who listened politely to my enquiry before removing the tattoo arm sleeves he had been wearing to wind us all up. "I wondered how quickly someone would notice," he grinned.

So my search goes on. I live in hope that one day I'll discover that Sir Nick Faldo still has a picture of one of his wives somewhere upon his person, that Tiger has a big cat stamped across his chest and that Rory can whip off his shirt to display the red hand of Ulster across his back.

Of course, he doesn't have any such thing. It is, however, worth a try. If nothing else it just might sharpen up those wedges. A bit anyway, and a bit is all he needs as he approaches the most significant part of the season.

■ Bill Elliott is *Golf Monthly's* editor-at-large and Golf Ambassador for Prostate Cancer UK

“Thankfully the days when wearing a sweater without at least two obvious stains was considered rather showy have passed”

The all new 2018



CEI
THE COMPACT

with Simple-**EF**-Fold™



All Powakaddy electric trolleys have been awarded the Quiet Mark by the Noise Abatement Society.


POWAKADDY®
CUTTING-EDGE DESIRE
More game-changing technology
at powakaddy.com



TOUR-S™

Introducing FootJoy's most powerful and comfortable shoe ever, featuring Tour-validated PowerStrap™ and LaunchPod™ technologies.

#1 SHOE IN GOLF



**INTRODUCING OUR
MOST POWERFUL SHOE
YET. AND BY YET, WE
MEAN SINCE 1857.**



FJ FEEL
THE
JOY

2018 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Your Ultimate Carnoustie Preview



IN ASSOCIATION WITH *Titleist*

36-PAGE
GUIDE

AP1

POWER.PLAY.

ULTRA-FORGIVING, PROGRESSIVE DESIGN IRONS



MAXIMUM DISTANCE

A thin, fast, unsupported face generates more ball speed for more distance. Hollow-body long irons maximise carry distance on longer shots into the green.



MAXIMUM FORGIVENESS

A higher MOI provides you with more area across the face to hit it pure. An improved leading edge creates more efficient turf interaction for more consistent contact.



PREFERRED

Titleist 718 AP1 irons feature the looks, sound and feel that you've come to expect from a Titleist iron, delivered in a premium game improvement profile.

718 AP1. THE ULTIMATE GAME IMPROVEMENT IRON.
FIND THE PERFECT FIT FOR YOUR GAME AT TITLEIST.CO.UK/718

Titleist

Carnoustie

THE TOUGHEST OF TESTS



Words: **Bill Elliott** | Photography: **Getty Images**

Carnoustie has claimed many victims over the years, but who will be the last man standing when The Open rolls into town?

Even on an Open rota boasting the very best that British linksland can offer, Carnoustie stands proud. A challenge to be met, an obstacle to be treated as warily as a drunk wandering through a minefield at midnight.

Like any great Scottish links, this stretch of land that meanders along the Angus coast can look pretty enough when the sun is out and low in the sky.

Don't ever be fooled by this occasional soft-focus image because Carnoustie is not the beauty of the rota, it is without doubt the beast.

If this course was ever to spring to life and take human form – unlikely, I admit – then it would come at you with fists curled, a sneer on its lips and an aggressive tattoo on each forearm. It's a brute of a place and all the more wonderful for it. ▶



Carnoustie

Certainly the old comment by Michael Bonallack that when the wind howls this is the toughest course to be found anywhere, and his wry follow-up that when it's calm it remains the toughest, resonates hugely with those of us who have played there and been bludgeoned into submission.

It's the final limp home that seals the deal, of course, the Barry Burn twisting this way and that so you feel as if you're stranded on a giant snakes and ladders board. Funnily enough, this sceptred assault course of a climax was considered too weak until an accountant called Jimmy Wright took on the challenge of toughening it up around 70 years ago.

Bean counters are not usually listed among the most instinctively humorous of men, but Mr Wright did his profession, as well as the club, proud with what he created over the last few holes. In effect, he had a laugh and I suspect that if he was still with us he would stand between the 17th and 18th and snigger with sadistic joy as he watched the best players in the world tiptoe nervously across this terrain.

Gracious in defeat

As Jean Van de Velde proved in 1999 with his bleakly laughable brain-freeze at the 18th hole to lose a Championship he had in his pocket, nothing at Carnoustie is certain until the final putt drops. Jean found fame and a bit of fortune out of his daft-laddie routine and took his collapse with the sort of sangfroid only a Frenchman could muster, but beneath this exterior the memory still hurts for him.

This was the Open won by Paul Lawrie, of course, and the Scot has



Jean Van de Velde sees the funny side...

been able to rejoice in the fact that not only did he conquer all after a play-off, but that he did so on a Carnoustie universally acknowledged as the sternest it had ever been.

A significant wind helped set this accolade up, but really it was the rough and how it had been encouraged to grow that settled the issue. The problem was that if a player missed the fairway by just a few yards he was lucky to find his ball, whereas a really errant drive more often ended up playable. "Bloody ridiculous, mate. It's

a joke," a furious Greg Norman told me at the time.

As the criticism grew louder and the commentators and critics acknowledged that this was the most brutal Open venue of modern times, the word spread so that local golfers queued halfway around the town throughout the week after this Championship, anxious to impale themselves on the sharpest parts of a course many called almost unplayable. You don't have to be a masochist to enjoy the old game but, clearly, it helps.

Past Winners at Carnoustie

2007 Pádraig Harrington

The Irishman shot a final-round 67 to get into a play-off with Sergio Garcia after the Spaniard's putt agonisingly refused to drop on the 18th. Harrington would shoot level-par in the four-hole play-off to win his first Major Championship.



1999 Paul Lawrie

Remembered for Jean Van de Velde's final-hole explosion. The Frenchman had a three-shot lead going down 18, but a triple-bogey meant a play-off with Paul Lawrie and Justin Leonard. Lawrie would shoot level par to win the play-off by three.

1975 Tom Watson

The 1975 Open was also decided in a play-off, this time 18 holes between Tom Watson and Jack Newton. In a close contest, the pivotal moment came on the par-5 14th with Watson picking up an eagle to go ahead. He would not relinquish his lead.



not be? You never know what happens in life no matter how careful you are. However, I hit a good drive and I had a 3-iron to the green.”

But before he could hit his ball, he had to stand and watch a man in the distance raking a

demons and dark forces preventing his victory, encouraged a lot of media scorn. I was not, however, among those who felt he needed to man-up and take these things on the chin. Having watched a lot of play on the final green that Sunday afternoon, I knew that his ball should have turned. It was a perverse miss that, when added to the moment during the resultant play-off when his sublime approach to the par-3 16th thumped into the flagstick and hurtled off the green, meant he had grounds for a good whinge. More perversity, more angry regret.

Raking over the past

Several months later I had breakfast with Sergio and we talked about what had happened to him in Scotland. It turned out that a bloke raking a bunker quite probably cost him the Open Championship he craves above all else in a game he has illuminated from the moment he turned pro as a teenager.

“When I stood on that last tee I knew what Padraig had done, the shots he had dropped and so I knew I needed a par to win. I was thrilled but I was also a little nervous,” he said. “How could I

bunker. Not one bunker, but two. And doing this very, very carefully while a score of other men with rakes inexplicably stood by the final green and watched their pal raking.

For five minutes Sergio stood with his club, watching and thinking that this was the most important shot of his life to that point, until that thought grew and magnified and hung over him like a dark cloud of doubt. Time, it’s always about time, and not taking too much of it or too little but whatever is just right for you. For the Spaniard, this was too long.

“FIVE minutes,” he told me. “Five minutes I wait to make this shot and all I can see is this one man raking bunkers. It was too long. Look, maybe if I’d been able to hit my approach earlier I would still have gone into a bunker, but maybe not, probably not. We’ll never know, but it was not right, it should not have happened. There was no need for it to happen.”

Having finished stone last in his first Carnoustie Open in ‘99 and then suffered outrageous fortune in his second, he returns this time a Major Champion at last. Older, a bit wiser, ▶

“As Jean Van de Velde proved in 1999, nothing at Carnoustie is certain until the final putt drops”

There was a lot of whining after the 2007 Open, too. Most of this came from the sullen lips of Sergio Garcia who, after Padraig Harrington doubled the last, needed a par to win. Instead he knocked his approach into a bunker, splashed out to a dozen feet and then watched in horror as his perfectly hit putt did what no other similar putt had done that Sunday and turned away from the hole rather than into it over the last, few, heartbreaking inches.

Garcia’s performance at his big interview later, when he talked of

1968 Gary Player The 36-hole cut was introduced this year, and the course had been lengthened to 7,252 yards. As a result, the winning score was one-over, posted by Gary Player, who collected his second Open. His eagle three at the par-5 14th was the pivotal moment.

1953 Ben Hogan The American only played in one Open Championship – at Carnoustie in 1953. Arriving two weeks before the tournament started to make sure he was properly prepared, Hogan eclipsed the field on the final day, shooting a 68 to win by four.

1937 Henry Cotton The 72nd Open Championship was played in truly horrific conditions. Cotton shot one of the finest rounds ever seen around Carnoustie to win. On a day where most players in the field were struggling to break 80, Cotton shot 71 to win by two.

1931 Tommy Armour Scottish-born Tommy Armour shot 71 on the final day to win by one shot in Carnoustie’s first Open Championship. He finished on eight-over-par and took back £100 to America as reward for winning his third Major title.

married and a father, he is clearly among the favourites to contend this time round. He may even be my favourite, although trying to locate a winner at long range for an Open is the very far side of optimistic.

As ever, so much will depend on the weather, which side of the draw a player is on and where the tiny slivers of decent luck fall. If they fall your way then victory is a possibility, but one wayward bounce, one contrary putt, one unexpectedly harsh gust of wind can shred anyone's chances.

What is beyond doubt, however, is that the winner will not only be a bit lucky, but that he will have skill, guts and imagination as well as the ability to drive long and straight.

Which brings us on to Wee Rory. McIlroy has all the necessary attributes, but only if his head is in the right place and this will depend on his putting. The short stick is his Achilles heel, the easiest part of the game – in terms of technique – is for him the hardest.

Until the last couple of years he was a streaky putter, and when the biorhythms were in sync and all the right juices were flowing, he was a sight to see. He still can be, but not

unsure exactly where his talent is taking him? The fact is that when McIlroy is very good then he is, for many of us, the very best. The other fact is that as we saw so irritatingly at Augusta this year, he can be at his best at the start and nudging towards his worst by the end. What is certain is that he needs to start finding that Major mojo sooner rather than later. I may add that this is being written before the US Open and if he has won that then please ignore most of what I've just said.

The Tiger in the room

If he is a big sub-plot then, of course, the very biggest will be the presence of Tiger Woods. Can he? Yes, he can. Will he? It wouldn't surprise me, but then little would surprise me when it comes to Woods, who remains the most single-minded, mentally strong sportsman of my adult life.

I've just finished reading the latest Tiger book, and while some of the detail is even more shocking than what I already knew, I came away from it feeling sorry for a man who has led an extraordinary life. And, largely, a lonely one. When, some years ago, I voiced my suspicion that much of his upbringing amounted to a bizarre, uncomfortable form of abuse I was roundly abused myself. Forgive me if I claim I now feel vindicated. Yes, he was loved, but he was also used and encouraged to discount almost everything except himself and his destiny.

What happened eventually was perhaps as predictable as it was shocking, as he found

Many have suffered at the hands of Carnoustie's 18th



Can Tiger add to his three Claret Jugs?

often enough to persuade me that he is as formidable a presence at this Open as his talent should dictate. Of course he can win, but as his belief in his putter has wavered so the pressure on his iron play, and in particular his wedges, has increased, and when a golfer is desperate to knock it in close the opposite tends to occur.

Until play begins we will not know which Rory will turn up in Scotland. Will it be the confident, cocky player who has won in the past, or will it be just another supremely talented man

himself as the man who had everything but who felt scarily alone and who seemed to need constant reassurance that he was more than just a bit special.

This doesn't excuse his more outrageous behaviour, but it does begin to explain it. Few have fallen further or swifter than Tiger, and when one then

factors in the physical toll on a body that has been driven towards extremes for practically his whole life, there is much to wearily shake one's head at.

Now, however, he has been given something of a second chance. If he can hold on to some kind of normality,

“How can we ignore a player who single-handedly revolutionised the appeal of the game?”

and if his reconstituted body continues to behave itself, then there is no reason why the next few years should not offer a big chance of redemption.

There are those who complain that Woods is given too much coverage when he plays, but they are wrong. How can we ignore a player who

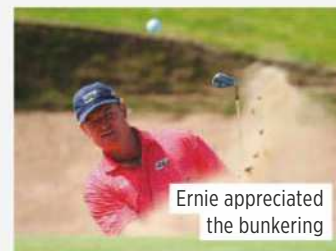


What the players think...

Tiger Woods "The golf course is hard, but it's fair. I think all the players can attest to that who played in '99. I think it's a fantastic test"

Padraig Harrington "There isn't a player who didn't find this course a test and enjoyed that test. Credit to Carnoustie, it's one of the best in the world"

Ernie Els "It's got length. It's got great bunkering. You've really got to have your wits with you to play this golf course. It's probably the best-bunkered course that you'll ever find anywhere in the world"



Colin Montgomerie "One of the toughest and best links courses that we have in the world"

Sergio Garcia "I've never seen a links course where the fairways are so pure and the greens are so good" [ESPN]

Tom Watson in 1999 "It's unfair" [The Independent]

Nick Price in 1999 "If I were a spectator I'd ask for my money back" [The Independent]

single-handedly revolutionised the appeal of the game and who still reaches an audience that perhaps no other sportsman in the world can plug into? The answer is that we can't and we shouldn't. He was brought up to believe that he was the chosen one and, bizarre and unsettling though this thought is for the rest of us, he has pretty much proven it to be the case.

Where's your money?

Victory at Carnoustie – where he finished T7 in 1999 and T12 11 years ago – would offer him not only another big win but confirmation that the only life he knows, perhaps the only life he wants, is still available. What a win it would be, sealing perhaps the greatest comeback since the boy David loaded up the catapult one more time. It may not be the

smartest bet, but it is where my own little pot of gold lies. If only because it would be by far the best story.

You, however, may prefer Tommy Fleetwood, who owns the course record with a 63 he recorded during the Dunhill thingy last October. The hairy one or the special one. As always, you pays your money and takes your chance. Anyone for Jordan Spieth? He's only the defending champion.

Talking about champions... it was at Carnoustie in 2007 that Seve Ballesteros finally gave in to his back problems and announced his retirement. It was a sad day, but it had its moments of fun, too, when he pulled my hat down over my eyes and laughingly chastised me for looking glum. Less than four years later he was dead. As Sergio said, in life you never know what's going to happen next.



LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Interview: **Fergus Bisset** | Photography: **Kevin Murray, Getty Images**

Colin Sinclair has been head pro at Carnoustie since 1999 and has played there since his amateur days.

Who better to explain the challenges the course poses?

W

What is it about Carnoustie that makes it so challenging?

In my opinion, it comes down to the bunkering. I

don't think there's a better-bunkered course – not in terms of the number of hazards but in terms of where they are positioned. Fairways tend to camber towards the traps and you have to hit to your spots. If you don't do that then you're going to struggle. If you want to take the aggressive line to get past the bunkers, you have to be very accurate. The way the bunkers are set presents a mental challenge and you have to decide on a clear strategy to avoid them.

Does it favour the better ball-strikers then?

Without a doubt. If you look back at the past seven Opens here, it has always been quality ball-strikers who have won, and this year will be the same. The cream rises to the top.

But it's also a course that favours good and clear thinkers. As I say, you must have a clear strategy. A player might decide to take the bunkers out of play from the tee by laying up, but this will leave long shots into the greens. A more aggressive approach could result in more chances – shorter irons into the greens, enabling the player to attack the pins. But that strategy requires great accuracy from the tee. Drive it long and straight and you will have an advantage on the field.

How much will the course change if we get firm conditions?

They will still have to hit their spots. It would clearly play shorter, but the fairways would be narrower, so players would start to run through into the rough. If we happen to get a warm May and June, then the rough will pop up. Not akin to '99, but there will certainly be a bit of punishment if you miss.

Why is the closing stretch one of the toughest in golf?

There's no respite over the closing four. You have to hit quality shots all the way if you're to finish with pars. Even

one-over on the last four is a good achievement. You're unlikely to be able to catch up on these holes. It's very unlikely that someone will shoot two- or three-under over the final four.

What other holes will be crucial?

The wind direction is the key thing. The prevailing wind is westerly, but in 2007 we had a north-easterly. In 1999 it was south-westerly. The 6th is a very challenging hole into the wind. The 9th and 10th are difficult, too. The 5th is a testing hole when the pin is up at the very back of the green. The 12th is played as a par 5 for the members here, but it's played as a par 4 in The Open.

We always break the course down into thirds. The first third of the course

“There's no respite over the closing four. You have to hit quality shots all the way”

provides a chance to build your score, the second third you have to consolidate it and the final third, hang on for dear life.

What are your favourite holes?

The 2nd and the 15th. The 2nd because it plays through the dunes. It asks for total control of the golf ball – you have to draw your tee shot then fade your second. On the 15th, you're trying to draw your tee shot into a fairway that cambers to the right and then it's a tough approach to a well-bunkered green. For me, those two holes epitomise Carnoustie. You just have to hit the perfect shots.

How different will the course set-up be to the Dunhill Links?

Well, the Dunhill is in October so there's little rough, and because we have amateurs playing, the pin positions are more gentle. Also, the weather – we've been pretty fortunate in recent Dunhills that the weather has been kind, with very little wind. Last year, Tommy Fleetwood shot a course record of 63 on an overcast day with little to no wind. I expect there to be more of a breeze in July.

How important will prior knowledge be at Carnoustie?

Obviously the more you play, the better your understanding of what is required and, again, where the correct (and incorrect) spots are. Local knowledge can only assist. Having said that, the top pros are now so good that they can adapt to almost any playing conditions.

COLIN'S CARNOUSTIE CONTENDERS

Colin selects three players he feels might be in the mix come Sunday afternoon of Open week:

Dustin Johnson: I think his game is suited to this layout. He's played in a couple of Dunhill Links here, so he knows the course. He can work the ball both ways, but he's comfortable with left to right and Carnoustie definitely favours the left-to-right shot. Dustin will have a good opportunity.

Justin Rose: He is such a skilled strategist and this is key to good scoring. He is an extremely patient player, but he also has power and great ball-striking ability. He was 12th in The Open here in 2007 and then second in the Dunhill Links the same year.



Could it be Rose's year?

Tommy Fleetwood: The last two winners at Carnoustie, Paul and Pádraig, both knew the course very well. Anybody who plays on the European Tour, who has played the Dunhill on a few occasions, will be at an advantage. Tommy has the course record here after last season's 63.

AND THE WINNER IS...

Photography: **Getty Images**

From bookmakers' favourites to under-the-radar players, Nick Bonfield picks out eight golfers who could make a significant impression at Carnoustie



BRANDEN GRACE

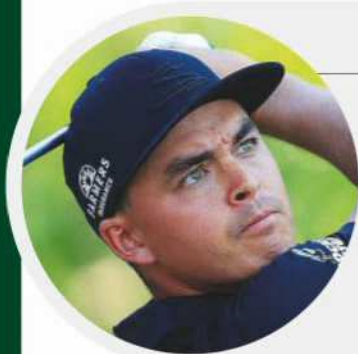


Of all the players on this list, I'd pick Branden Grace as my must-back, given his playing characteristics, links aptitude, pedigree and likely price with the bookmakers. Grace has one of the lowest ball flights on tour, which is clearly an asset on a links golf course. To go with that, he's also having a fine

season on the greens. The South African is a past winner of the Dunhill Links (he also lost to Phil Mickelson in a play-off at the 2013 Scottish Open) and he shot the lowest-ever score in a Major last year at Birkdale en route to a tie for 6th.

Best Open finish: T6 (2017)

Last year: T6



RICKIE FOWLER



Many people feel it's a matter of time before Rickie Fowler gets over the line in a Major Championship, and while too many variables come into play in golf to make any assurances, I do think he'll win at least one before the end of his career. In my mind, the American has been ready to win one of golf's big four since

finishing inside the top five in every Major in 2014. His record since Royal Liverpool isn't overly inspiring, but anyone who watched him battle the elements at Royal St George's in 2011 knows he has the tools to win.

Best Open finish: T2 (2014)

Last year: T22



TYRRELL HATTON



Tyrrell Hatton has established himself as somewhat of a links specialist over the last few years, which is hardly surprising given the strength of his all-round game. The Englishman won the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship in both 2016 and 2017, finished 5th at Royal Troon in 2016 and narrowly missed out on a play-off

berth at the 2015 Irish Open at Royal County Down, in horrific weather conditions. He's already a Rolex Series winner and he came so close at the WGC-Mexico Championship, indicating he's ready to win on the biggest stage.

Best Open finish: T5 (2016)

Last year: MC

MARC LEISHMAN



Marc Leishman has been known as an underrated player for the last couple of years, but he's on the verge of becoming world-class – and could even be there depending on how you define the notoriously nebulous term. The Australian won two top-tier PGA Tour events in 2017 – the Arnold Palmer

Invitational and the BMW Championship – and shot a final-round 65 en route to a top-six finish at Birkdale. That, however, was his third-best return at The Open, following a tie for 5th in 2014 and a play-off loss at St Andrews in 2015.

Best Open finish: T2 (2015)

Last year: T6



JASON DAY



Jason Day has enjoyed a significant upturn in fortunes this season after a relatively fallow 18 months or so. He won the Farmers Insurance Open in January and followed that up with his 12th PGA Tour title in May's Wells Fargo Championship. The Australian is having a historically great putting season on the

PGA Tour – astonishingly, he's holed more than 90 per cent of his putts from inside ten feet. Day came close at the Home of Golf in 2015 and he's a born battler who you have to fancy around the toughest course on the Open rota.

Best Open finish: T4 (2015)

Last year: T27



SERGIO GARCIA



Sergio Garcia is one of the best ball-strikers in the world, and Carnoustie is the ultimate test of the long game. Before his Masters triumph, many viewed The Open as Garcia's best chance of getting over the line in a Major – with ample justification. The Spaniard has recorded ten top-ten Open finishes, including

second places in 2014 and 2007 (at Carnoustie), when only a final-hole collapse deprived him of the Claret Jug. He no longer has the Major monkey on his back and he's tough to overlook with so many factors working in his favour.

Best Open finish: 2 (2007, 2014)

Last year: T37



JORDAN SPIETH



Jordan Spieth should feature on any list of Open Championship contenders irrespective of form, given his love of the big occasion, his ability to get the ball in the hole and the quality of his game. Carnoustie is a course that demands pragmatism and good strategy – something him and his caddie, Michael

Greller, have in abundance. He's also one of the finest putters in the game and deadly from mid-range, which will be particularly useful on Carnoustie's relatively flat greens. A title defence would surprise no one.

Best Open finish: Winner (2017)

Last year: Winner



MATTHEW SOUTHGATE



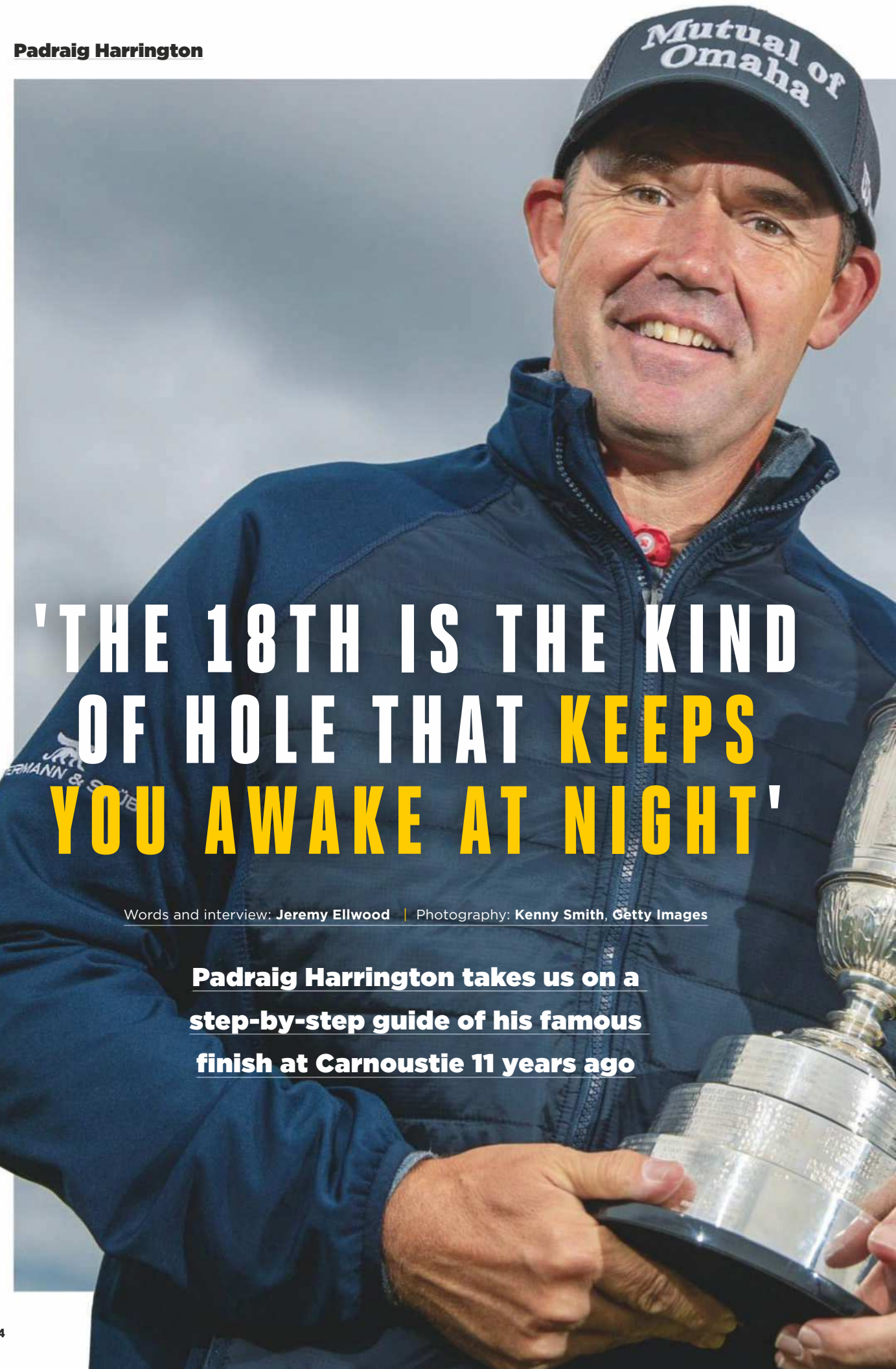
Matthew Southgate is clearly not one of the favourites – in fact, some of you may not even have heard of him – but he's someone to consider if you're looking for an each-way bet. Southgate was diagnosed with testicular cancer in July 2015, but he battled back to regain a European Tour card and finished 12th at

Royal Troon in 2016. Last year, he played some fine golf en route to a tie for 6th – arguably the most heart-warming storyline of the tournament. He's struggled with injuries of late, but if he's healthy, he's someone to keep an eye on.

Best Open finish: T6 (2017)

Last year: T6





'THE 18TH IS THE KIND
OF HOLE THAT **KEEPS**
YOU AWAKE AT NIGHT'

Words and interview: **Jeremy Ellwood** | Photography: **Kenny Smith, Getty Images**

**Padraig Harrington takes us on a
step-by-step guide of his famous
finish at Carnoustie 11 years ago**



C

arnoustie doesn't do finishes in half measures. Just one Carnoustie Open after the most infamous meltdown of all, the Angus links was at it again in 2007, with Padraig Harrington reprising the Jean Van de Velde role as the fearsome 18th hole looked set to claim another victim.

Except this time Harrington, who had played sublimely until reaching that elevated tee gazing out over 499 treacherous yards and the devious Barry Burn, didn't end up a victim. The Irishman's fearless fizzing pitch to six feet to save double-bogey after twice visiting the burn would prove just enough to make a play-off with Sergio Garcia, whose own eight-footer to win lipped out agonisingly.

Earlier this year, long-term sponsors Wilson Staff invited Harrington to recreate that famous 72nd-hole pitch

and take on the play-off holes once more. I tagged along to see how my own game might hold up against Open Championship golf's most challenging finish off the tips. Moderately well, it would transpire – I even took the lead after Harrington bogeyed the 1st!

In 2007, the Irishman opened the play-off with a birdie to take a two-shot lead, before playing the final play-off hole as a three-shotter. This year it was a complete reversal – two shots worse at the 1st, but two shots better on the last as he produced a majestic drive and 4-iron to 20 feet before rolling in the putt. "I could have saved everybody a lot of stress if I'd done that 11 years ago," he beamed. And the pitch? He had three attempts and couldn't get it anywhere near as close!

Here, we relive the closing stages of 2007 with the man who stared disaster in the face but came out smiling... ➤

Padraig Harrington



The pitch on 18 that helped set up a crucial double-bogey

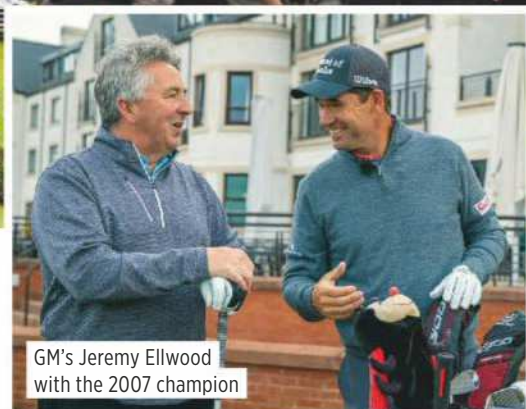
You looked disappointed when you hit a great hybrid into the difficult 16th in 2007 and didn't convert...

I lost to Stephen Dundas in the last 16 of the Amateur Championship in 1992 – I think I three-putted from the back of 16 after hitting a glorious shot in, so when I hit it in there in The Open I was thinking I was getting recompense! We all know the finish here is as tough as it gets, so when you hit a good shot, you really want to capitalise. The bonus of making a two on 16 is incredible. We all know that the difference between a one- and a two-shot lead down the last couple of holes is significant.

could hit a bad shot. But on the 18th, I'd played unbelievably all day and was the most confident player in the world. I teed it up and was just going to bust it down the middle, no problem. I was exceptionally confident and at the last moment then got nervous, so mid-swing I thought, "Don't hit it left!" and I succeeded – I hit it miles right!

Did you see what happened to your ball on the bridge?

You couldn't see it from the tee. I always struggle on tee shots when I'm



GM's Jeremy Ellwood with the 2007 champion

"Once I holed the putt, the realisation that I'd lost The Open Championship hit me"

What happened technically on 18 to hit it so far right?

I've spent years trying to figure out the technical solution as it was certainly a shot that hurt me a lot. I'd been driving the ball well and was confident, but it's an incredibly difficult tee shot on 18.

Was it pure nerves?

Kind of the opposite. When I'm nervous and worried about hitting it here or there, I get over the ball and my focus then narrows because I've taken everything into account and accepted I

confident. A lot of players struggle when laying it up on par 5s for similar reasons. I was so nervous standing on the 1st tee in the play-off because I didn't know what shot was coming out. I didn't hit any balls on the range and had just hit two bad shots on the 18th, so I was standing there thinking, "Am I going to block this? Am I going to hook it?" I managed to hit a completely neutral shot because I had so much fear. It works the opposite way with me. But the 18th is the kind of hole that keeps you awake at night!

You then knew your third shot was wrong as soon as you hit it...

It was incredibly difficult – 238 yards across and into the wind, OOB long, water short, you can't miss it right. I also made a technical error. I dropped it five or ten yards behind the burn in the first cut and it was into the grain. Maybe I should have gone back another 20 yards and got a fairway lie. I hit a 4-iron a little heavy, the club snagged and turned over. I was in trouble and certainly didn't hit a good shot, but I had regrouped for the pitch and the putt. But once I holed it, the realisation I'd lost The Open hit me.

You thought you'd blown it?

Of course I did! I was one shot ahead and playing great. I was six-under for the day on the last tee and I'd missed a lot of putts. For the first 13 holes I'd hit it close, and of course I'd holed a couple of putts, but I could have been four or five shots better. I was playing the best golf I could, so I felt like I'd messed it up and lost it. My son ran on to the green – he looked at me as a kid would and didn't really know what was going on. I was still a champion in his eyes and that definitely helped settle

me – the world was still going to go on. I had 20 minutes in the recorder's hut, and I did a really good thing – I watched Sergio play the last and he had that eight-foot putt to win. But I never looked at Sergio and said, "I need him to miss, I want him to miss, I wish him to miss." I just thought: "I'm going to win this tournament." So when he missed, I didn't get either a high or low out of it. Obviously, if I looked at it logically, he had to miss, but in my head I was just going to win the tournament. Everyone says to me that when I came out to the 1st tee again, I was in the zone.

You'd played the final chip on 18 very aggressively rather than just running it in...

I knew what I was doing. You could hear the crowd screaming, thinking it was going over the green, but in my head it was like I was showing off. I was thinking, "Just watch this spin!" I really fired it in low, and it did – it gripped. If anything, it was unlucky to go that six feet by. I hit the chip like I was showing off, but the putt was more of a grind. It was more sheer willpower. It was an odd putt because if you hit it left lip it stays left lip and if you hit it straight it misses right, so you only have half a hole to aim at.

Do you like Carnoustie as a course?

I think it's somewhat love-hate. Do I love Carnoustie? I like it, but I don't know if you could love Carnoustie. I think everybody respects it. I think we love St Andrews but Carnoustie is too tough, too difficult – there are too many sleepless nights thinking about the 18th!



With son Patrick after finishing the 72nd hole

What qualities do you think it takes to win at Carnoustie?

I think you're forced to take shots on, like the shot on 18 – it's a tough drive, but you've got to hit driver because the second shot is too difficult if you lay back. On 17, if you don't push it down into the bottleneck somewhat, you're leaving yourself too far back. There are a lot of holes where you're having to take bunkers on – hit it into them and it's literally a penalty. In order to win here you have to be brave – you can't avoid the challenges this course poses.

How much credit do you give to caddie Ronan Flood for getting you through the traumas of 18?

Ronan won me The Open in 2007. When I hit my third shot into the water again on 18, I wanted to throw in the towel, but he stuck to his guns and went through the cliches. He just kept at me. I told this story for months afterwards when he wasn't there, and eventually he attended one function. I said, "It was brilliant – my caddie didn't believe I'd lost The Open." He said, "No, no, I thought you'd lost the ****ing Open – I just did my job," which he did.



Back at Carnoustie 11 years later

THE CADDIE'S TAKE

Long-time bagman **Ronan Flood** gives his perspective on 2007's memorable 72nd hole...

What were you saying to Padraig as he was seemingly in meltdown?

I just reminded him it wasn't over, that we'd go down and see what we faced as we didn't know exactly where the ball was. Originally, he thought he'd hit it out of bounds left, but as we were walking down we got word from the referee that it was in the burn. From there, it was just a matter of telling him to take his time, get back into it – all those cliches.

What were you thinking inside?

What's it going to be like when we finish? What's it going to be like tomorrow? We had talked about Jean Van de Velde in practice and what we would do if we were two



shots ahead, one shot ahead and so on. We'd said if we were level, one behind or one ahead we'd hit driver – that's why he hit driver as we were one ahead. But if you were two ahead you'd lay up. Even when he hit it into the water off the tee, I still wasn't stressed. After he hit it in the water again, then yes, the stress levels went up!

If he'd have lost it, what would that have done to him mentally?

There's no doubt I was wondering that. It might have taken him a little longer than other times to bounce back, but he's always been resilient. Knowing him, he would have taken only the positives – that he had stood on the 18th tee with a great chance to win. I think he would have come away knowing and feeling he was going to win Majors.

TAKING ON THE BEAST

Words: **Fergus Bisset** | Photography: **Kevin Murray**

What is it that makes Carnoustie such a compelling test of golf, and what do amateurs have to do to play well around the famous Angus links?

The par-4 3rd,
Jockie's Burn

S

ome golfing venues have the power to raise my emotions no matter how many times I play them. The history of the Old Course at St Andrews makes the hairs on the back of my neck stand on end; the setting of Royal Dornoch and Turnberry can bring a tear to this old golfing cynic's eye. And then there's Carnoustie. The prospect of playing it excites me more than any other venue. The reason for this is that, in my opinion, Carnoustie provides the most perfect golfing examination of any course, anywhere. The opportunity to pass that test sets my pulse racing.

Living just an hour up the road, I've been fortunate to play at Carnoustie on quite a few occasions. Each time, I

head over the hills into Angus with hope and expectation at the prospect of taming the beast. Each time I head back over the hills pondering how I was beaten and what knowledge I will take into my next battle there.

Like every links around this country, one of the most important moments of a day's golf at Carnoustie is when you stop the car's engine and tentatively push the door to assess the strength of the wind that's either helping or hindering you to swing it fully open. You then step outside and judge whether a woolly hat will be required. It's not always like that, but I've played Carnoustie enough to realise the balmy days are few and far between.



Fergus always relishes taking on Carnoustie

Then it's a short stroll around to the fabulous new Links House facility and the 1st tee. Despite the fact I'm fully aware of the awaiting test, I don't actually find the opening tee at Carnoustie intimidating. The atmosphere is pretty relaxed, but I think the main thing that calms me is the fact the tee shot is really quite difficult. That might sound incongruous but, for me, it takes the pressure off. At St Andrews, where theoretically there should be no trouble, there's very little to focus on, save the possibility of embarrassing disaster. At Carnoustie, your first shot demands a good, straight ball and, if you do hit a bad one, you certainly won't be alone – most amateurs will find some sort of trouble, whether burn, bunker, gorse or OB... ask Tiger Woods of the latter, he found it in round one in 2007. ▶



Amateur Playing Carnoustie

From the very first tee shot, Carnoustie sets out its stall. You have to play to the correct positions and, if you don't, you will find things very difficult indeed. In the prevailing south-westerly wind, the 1st will be played (roughly) into the draft, making it a tough two-shotter. But the wind is variable and, by the time you've completed 18 holes, you will have hit shots with the gusts coming at you from all sides. Carnoustie is not an out-and-back links and subtle changes in direction from hole to hole mean you can never relax into a routine.

Obviously, into the wind is always tough, but downwind can be equally challenging. With a strong breeze behind, trying to keep the ball on the green of the 10th, 'South America', or the testing 15th is nigh on impossible. In cross winds, a subtle change in the gusts can knock a ball from the sky or carry it towards trouble.

A consistent challenge

Something all golfers note of Carnoustie is the lack of respite. If you examine each hole individually, a fitting summary would be: "Bogey is certainly no disaster here." It's true, but the problem with that is, for those playing off a lower handicap, 18 bogeys is not going to get it done. Every par feels like a hard-won battle and the occasional rare birdie should be celebrated like a hole-in-one. It's important to retain complete concentration throughout.

Each element of the game is examined by the Championship course at Carnoustie, but driving is fundamental to good scoring for all. For pros and amateurs, the principal objective on every drive must be to avoid the magnetic and punishing bunkers. This means a strategic approach rather than outright power, even for the handicap golfer. Have a look at the yardages to the bunkers and try to work out what distance you need to play to have the best chance of avoiding them. If this means hitting a 3-wood or a hybrid

then don't be proud. Better to be hitting the second shot from 200 yards than hacking out of sand and playing the third from 175.

Pristine conditions

The turf at Carnoustie is the finest links surface I've ever played off. This is a joy if you're striking it cleanly, not so much if your timing is a little off. You must try and clip the ball off the



"The principal objective on every drive must be to avoid the magnetic and punishing bunkers"

surface. If you're struggling with that, focus on catching ball first, then turf – better a little thin than a little fat.

Around the greens, the firm, tight turf means you will require a deft touch (something I famously don't possess), but I find it easier to negotiate the short shots at Carnoustie than at many softer inland tracks. The advice I would give fellow amateurs on playing short shots over these surfaces is: keep it as low as you can. If it's feasible to putt it, putt it. If you can roll it up with a 7-iron, then that's the shot. Only resort to altitude when the other options are out.

Trying to land a ball on these firm surfaces and judge the reaction is very tough indeed.

You'll hear the pros talk about the putting surfaces at Carnoustie and say they are neither overly fast nor overly sloping. Don't be fooled. The average amateur will find them quick and undulating enough. Pay them due respect and consider the wind too.

Carnoustie delivers the complete golfing test, one that all true lovers of the game will relish. It's very hard, but never have I walked off that incredible 18th hole thinking I've been treated unfairly. The course clearly sets out what it wants you to do from start to finish. None of it is unreasonable, it's just incredibly challenging to keep on answering the very difficult questions all the way round without slipping up at least a couple of times. It's a beast but it's also an absolute beauty.



Avoiding bunkers is key to scoring well



A deft touch is crucial around the greens

FOUR KEY HOLES FOR AMATEURS

3RD – JOCKIE'S BURN

Par 4, 345 yards

This may be the shortest par 4 on the course, but it's certainly not easy. From the tee there are options – play left of the central bunkers at 210 yards and leave a longer shot in, or play right of them and try to get closer to the green. The burn is a threat either way and anything too cute on approach will end up wet. The green is one of the more sloping on the course and can be difficult to hold when downwind.



6TH – HOGAN'S ALLEY

Par 5, 520 yards

It's just such a daunting tee shot. Generally played into the wind, the space between the OB left and bunkers right looks unfeasibly narrow. But you must either go for it or bail out right. For the majority who take the latter option, the second shot is no picnic. The lay up will be played back towards OB, with a burn plus gorse-lined mounding right. The green is well bunkered and sloping. This one must be played strategically.



14TH – SPECTACLES

Par 5, 476 yards

The temptation for the average amateur is to have a pop at this one in two. But there are two problems – the Spectacles bunkers. These gaping hazards protect the hole just 50 yards short of the double green (shared with the 4th). Unless you have spanked a great drive away and avoided the bunkers to the left, the prudent shot is to lay up short of the Spectacles and fire a wedge over them to the slope feeding down to the green.



18TH – HOME

Par 4, 433 yards

We've seen how devastating this hole can be in recent Open Championships. It must be treated with respect by all golfers, irrespective of ability. The amateur should be very ready to play it as a three-shotter. There's no point in going for the green in two from a difficult spot. Far better to lay up to a short wedge distance, fire on and try to make the putt for par. Going for glory brings the burn, out of bounds and the greenside bunkers into the picture.



Note: yardages off white tees

Colin Montgomerie

A DRAM WITH MONTY

Words: **Fergus Bisset** Photography: **Chris James, Getty Images**

We travel to Loch Lomond to spend a day in the company of Scottish golfing legend Colin Montgomerie, who talks The Open, Carnoustie, Tiger, the Ryder Cup and more...



Colin Montgomerie



Those who've had to listen to me extol its virtues will confirm I'm quite an advocate of my native Scotland. I love

the countryside above all – the clean air, the peace and the space, the mountains, lochs, rivers and forests. But, as a keen golfer with a special aptitude for playing the 19th hole, Scotland possesses so much more for me than just the stunning scenery. Not only are we blessed with many of the finest golf courses in the world, but we can also boast a national drink of tremendous complexity and international renown. No, not the stuff made from girders... I'm talking, of course, about whisky. The water of life and golf are, perhaps, Scotland's greatest and most cherished exports – they are certainly my two favourites.

It was, then, with much excitement that I accepted an invitation to visit

“Carnoustie is the toughest links. And by some way”

Loch Lomond Whiskies in Alexandria at the southern end of the loch, to tour the distillery and take a boat trip with Colin Montgomerie, who has recently agreed a partnership to promote the brand's range of award-winning single malts across the globe.

I've met Monty a few times and I always relish the chance to chat with him and hear his candid and knowledgeable thoughts on the game. I wanted to talk to him on this occasion about The Open at Carnoustie – the course, the challenges and the likely contenders. I also hoped we might look a little into the future to another event close to Monty's heart – the Ryder Cup.

Monty has played in 22 Opens and finished as runner-up to Tiger Woods at St Andrews in 2005. He first played in the event in 1990, partnering Lee Trevino in the first round.

“That's a great memory for me,” he says with a smile... “although I never got a word in edgeways.”

On the banks of Loch Lomond

Colin Montgomerie

He last played in the Championship in 2016 when he qualified for Royal Troon – a course he grew up playing as his father was secretary there.

Monty has a great affinity with The Open and with Carnoustie. He was third in the Scottish Open of 1995 there, during which he set a course record of 64 in the first round. That record was only broken last year when Tommy Fleetwood scored 63 in the Dunhill Links. Montgomerie is clear-cut when he talks about the challenge the course poses.

“Carnoustie is not one of the toughest links. Carnoustie is *the* toughest links. And by some way. We all feel it’s the toughest of any of the Open rota courses by two shots,” he says. “There’s not a bad hole. Normally in a round, of the 18 holes, you can occasionally take a breath and feel, ‘okay, I’ve reached this hole and I can relax, it’s an easy one...’ But not at Carnoustie. If you were to do that, it would bite you.”



Patrick Reed could figure at Carnoustie



Tom Watson celebrates his fifth Open win at Birkdale

And Monty is certain that at Carnoustie, more so than any Open venue, the tournament is not over until the final putt drops.

“It’s the best finish. Those last four holes, anything can happen, and it usually does. It happened in 1999 with Van de Velde and again in 2007 with Padraig and Sergio. I’m sure something dramatic will happen again.”

The usual suspects

Talking about possible contenders this year, Montgomerie feels the strength at the very top of the world ranking

makes it difficult to look past a top-20 player.

“There is so much strength at the top of the pile. The standard is very high and it’s difficult to break into that group,” he says.

“Look at Patrick Reed in The Masters. For many it was something of a surprise, but he is a top-20 player. Unless the weather puts a spanner in the works, I would expect a top-20 player to come out on top.”

In the build-up to an Open there are always suggestions that experience counts and those on the European Tour should have an edge, playing more on the links and in differing conditions. Monty isn’t so sure.

“We often hear it said: ‘It’s not an American course’ as The Open approaches. But Tom Watson turned up and won five of them!” he says. “And Hogan played once in 1953 and won... Spieth last year too. I think the American players use the practice rounds to work out the course-management strategy the same as any other tournament and I don’t think there are any big secrets.”

Although Monty thinks that the big American stars will have a good chance in July, he isn’t so sure that Tiger Woods has the total control of his game he needs to secure a fourth Claret Jug at Carnoustie.

“I don’t think Tiger drives the ball straight enough yet to get round Carnoustie,” says Monty. “Put him in the middle of the fairway and, yes,

Monty and Fergus enjoy a relaxing tippie





At Carnoustie for The Open in 2007

fantastic. I'd love to see him drive better and straighter and if he did he'd have a good opportunity."

His closest call

Montgomerie had to battle the dominance of Woods for a large part of his career, but he says he always relished that experience. Monty's closest call in The Open came at St Andrews in 2005 when, had it not been for Tiger, he would have won.

"To see elite sport close up is a remarkable thing," he says. "And to play with Tiger in 2005, to watch him in action at the top of his game, was really amazing."

But the competitive spirit in Monty is always there and his little footnote to this memory has both of us chuckling: "I actually holed a 30-footer on the last to beat him on the Saturday by 70 to 71... Thought I'd throw that in." Classic.

Monty says he has seen some signs of the old Tiger since he returned to the competitive game earlier this year.

"Most of us hate the eight-foot putt – the one we should make, are expecting to make but dread missing. Tiger loved those putts, he relished them, and I've seen that look of enjoyment from him again this year. I can see him winning a tournament again. I don't know about a Major. Perhaps..."

Since playing his first Open Championship 28 years ago, Monty feels the tournament has made huge strides to progress and is now golf's premier event.

"There's worldwide qualifying now starting in January, the branding of the event is so much better as 'The Open', the merchandising is continuously progressing and prize money has increased. It's now truly a world event, played by world winners," he says.

Monty may not be playing The Open this year, but he is looking forward to The Senior Open over The Old Course at St Andrews.

"Ah yes, the most important tournament of the year!" he says with a mischievous grin. "And it's the first time we've been able to go to St Andrews. It's going to be a great celebration of golf and everybody from the US is

talking about coming over. It will be the strongest senior field ever assembled in Britain for that Major, so it's set to be a tremendous spectacle."

As our cruise on Loch Lomond comes to a close, and my dram is almost drained, conversation turns back to Carnoustie and I ask Monty who he feels might have what it takes to prevail in Open week this July... I want a name.

"I think someone with the right mindset, an all-round game and a good strategic approach," he says. "I think defending champion Jordan Spieth is as good a bet as any."

"To play with Tiger in 2005, at the top of his game, was amazing"



Will Spieth be joined by Tiger in Paris?

MONTY ON THE RYDER CUP

How do you think Thomas Bjorn will set up the course?

I think he will have the course set up fairly. He will allow the best team to win. That's the way it should be. Tricking up courses for certain players isn't right. I think he will look at the French Open over the years and the four pin positions used and take the best three of them. The best golf should prevail.

Which side is looking stronger?

I was favouring America. But with Jon Rahm, Tommy Fleetwood, Tyrrell Hatton and Paul Casey, those are four guys representing strength for Europe that we didn't have the opportunity to select last time. If you put those four with the top eight from last time, you have a very good team. Then if you consider Poulter coming back into form too, that passion is great in the team room, perhaps it's just slightly starting to favour Europe...

Will Patrick Reed be the man Europe has to take down?

Yes, possibly, he and his partner Spieth if they play together again. Beating them early on could be worth more than a point in terms of gaining the psychological edge.

Imagine you're Jim Furyk and you have a pick – Tiger or someone like Kevin Kisner or Daniel Berger who have won a tournament...

Away from home with an away support... you'd go for Tiger every day of the week. Fancy going to bed knowing who you're playing the next morning – Kisner and Berger are great players but... Tiger Woods... I've gone to bed knowing I'm playing Tiger Woods and I'll tell you what, I haven't slept well. So you would end on that. You've got to pick him!



GOLFING PIONEERS

Words: **Fergus Bisset** Photography: **Kevin Murray**

They won three US Opens, established the PGA of America and taught Bobby Jones how to play. The story of the Smith family and other Carnoustie golfers is incredible...



hen the PGA of America was founded in 1916, 15 of the 35 charter members hailed from a small town on

the east coast of Scotland just north of Dundee. The story of Carnoustie's pioneering golfers is one of the most remarkable in the history of the game. During the early part of the 20th century, some 200 Carnoustie golfers left Scotland and headed all over the world, particularly to the USA and Australia. The renowned American golf writer Herbert Warren Wind wrote that, "St Andrews may be the Home of Golf, but Carnoustie is the home of American and Australian professional golf."

The tale of Carnoustie's contribution to golf went largely untold for many years, but the Carnoustie Golf Club is striving to rectify that. They have created a wonderful series of displays in the clubhouse explaining the story of the Smith family (pictured opposite) and other notable members and showcasing many of the trophies and medals they won, including a replica of the US Open trophy. Alongside this, the club has worked to establish links with clubs in the USA that former Carnoustie men were associated with.

The story of the Carnoustie émigrés begins with Robert Simpson of St Andrews who, aged 20, was appointed as 'Keeper of the Green' at Carnoustie by the Dalhousie Club in 1883.

Simpson maintained the links and was responsible for the creation of a nine-hole 'short course' and a second 18-hole course, which opened in 1895. He also established a club-making business which exists to this day and is covered on the following page.



The Smiths' influence can be seen throughout the course and town

Through that business, Simpson and his brothers Archie and Jack (1884 Open Champion) began to employ apprentices. This offered the young men of Carnoustie an alternative to working in the forges and foundries. But opportunities locally were limited, so these ambitious men began to look further afield. A 'Teaching Tree' on the wall of the Carnoustie Golf Club traces the history of those in the following generations that benefited from the guidance of Robert, Archie and Jack.

Leading the way across the Atlantic from Carnoustie at the very end of the 19th century was the exceptional Smith family.

George Smith, having received a grounding in course design and club making from Robert Simpson, went first, followed by his brothers Alex, Willie, Jim and Macdonald, along with their father John. All would go on to have glittering careers in golf.

Willie won the US Open of 1899, Alex won that great event in 1906 and 1910 and Macdonald won 29 tournaments as a professional. Alex's brother-in-law, James Maiden, also travelled to the USA from Carnoustie, as did his brother Stewart.

Stewart took a job as pro at East Lake CC in Atlanta where one of his pupils was a promising young amateur called Bobby Jones. Maiden taught Jones the 'Carnoustie swing' as he had learned from Archie Simpson.

"The best luck I ever had was when Stewart Maiden came from Carnoustie to East Lake," Jones later said. The great amateur owed more to the Maiden family. In 1923, Jones paid a visit to Nassau CC where James was pro. Jones was struggling with his putting and James gave him the solution – a putter of his making called 'Calamity Jane'.

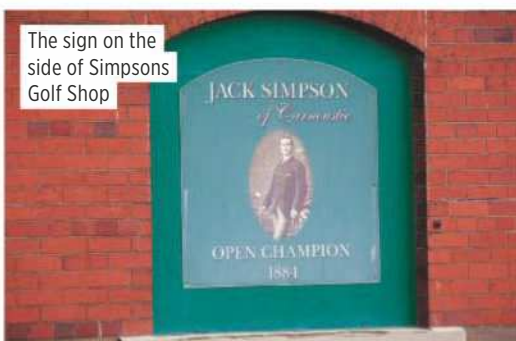
"It's an amazing story that one family, and their extended family, shaped golf in America and created this dynasty," says Carnoustie captain Bill Thompson. "Almost everywhere you look in US golf, there's a Carnoustie influence."

Both East Lake and Nassau Golf Club members have taken advantage of a new association established by the Carnoustie Golf Club and its sister

"One family, and their extended family, shaped golf in America"

club Diablo Country Club outside San Francisco, which employed John Smith to design a course and had Jim, Macdonald and George working as early professionals.

"We've created something called the Smith Society which is a partnership between Diablo and the Carnoustie Golf Club," says Thompson. "The collection of memorabilia is shared between us. In late October it goes to California and it's displayed until April and then it comes back home. We've invited the clubs we believe nurtured and played the greatest part in the Smith boys' lives to come and join. So, Nassau in New York and Fresh Meadow in Chicago, which was a big influence on Macdonald Smith's life. We have East Lake, Bel Air in Tampa, several courses in the Midwest. The



The sign on the side of Simpsons Golf Shop

Golfing Pioneers



Some of the memorabilia on display in the clubhouse

idea is to create about a dozen member courses and clubs who take a minimum of 25 overseas memberships of the Carnoustie Golf Club. It's a friendship thing and it gives these clubs a link to their past."

The Carnoustie Golf Club is, and always has been, a golf club for the town. It has produced many superb players over the years and it continues to nurture the town's golfing talent.

"The core is that this is a working man's golf club. It has been like that from the day it was opened 176 years ago to today," says Thompson. "Our membership fee is £110 for an older guy and £165 for a full member."

That true love of golf is evident in the clubhouse,

where the members are rightly proud of the club's history. Alongside the Smith medals and trophies, bequeathed to the club by Alex and Macdonald, there's so much more: the ball Tommy Armour used to win the 1931 Open, left to the club by his caddie who was a member; the honorary members board showing the name Arnold Palmer, a great friend of Carnoustie émigré George Low; the clubhouse sign-in book with Harry Vardon, James Braid and JH Taylor among the first signatories. And there's more yet to go on display.



The collection is shared between the two clubs

"We have Macdonald Smith's last set of tournament irons," says Thompson. "I have Bobby Jones' 'Calamity Jane' coming over. I'm also going over to the US to collect Macdonald Smith's \$3,500 cheque for winning the 1928 LA Open."

The club's legacy is tremendous, but what adds to it is the fact it's ongoing. The clubhouse is not a museum – it

remains a functioning sporting club that provides residents of the town a place to share their passion.

"The heart of this place is that

it's a members' club," says Thompson. "Primarily what we want to do is to provide people with the best competitive golfing landscape, and we're using all this history and heritage to create this unique clubhouse to give us a pathway, a route to an income that will allow us to keep going."

The Carnoustie Golf Club houses an amazing story and one that all those interested in the history of our game will enjoy finding more about. The clubhouse will be open to visitors during Open week. For more, visit: carnoustiegolfclub.co.uk

OTHER CLUBS IN CARNOUSTIE

Carnoustie Caledonia Golf Club

W: carnoustiecaledonia.co.uk

Founded in 1887, the Caledonia clubhouse can be found on Links Parade. In the early years of the 20th century, club member Alexander Cant was responsible for inventing a new handicapping system that was the basis for all handicapping systems that followed.

New Taymouth Golf Club

W: Facebook

The club dates back to 1906 and it is now based within the Caledonia Golf Club clubhouse. It has a full fixture list and a strong membership.

Dalhousie Golf Club

W: dalhousie.co.uk

The club celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. In 1926, captain James Wright persuaded the community that James Braid should be employed to help upgrade the Championship course. Wright then gave his own guidance on the last three holes prior to the 1931 Open, which set the test they pose today.

Carnoustie Mercantile Golf Club

W: carnoustie-mercantile.co.uk

Early meetings were held in tea rooms and halls around the town. It used Carnoustie Golf Club from 1933 to 1968, when it moved to its own clubhouse. At its peak it had 1,000 members, but numbers declined and the clubhouse was demolished.

Carnoustie Ladies Golf Club

W: carnoustieladiesgolfclub.co.uk

Founded in 1873, this is the oldest remaining all ladies golf club in the world. The club moved to its own clubhouse in 1895 and it remains little changed to this day.



Carnoustie Ladies Golf Club

SIMPSONS OF CARNOUSTIE – A GOLFING ICON

Words: **Fergus Bisset** Photography: **Kevin Murray**

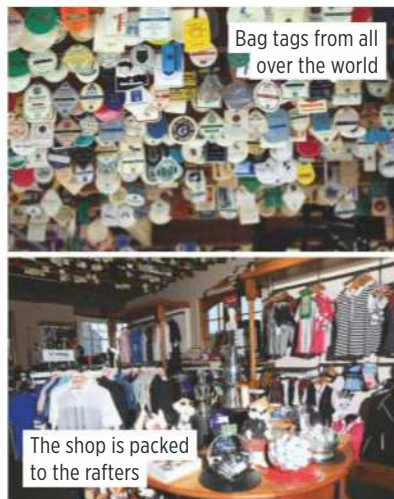
We talk to Dave Valentine, owner of the second oldest and most recognisable golf shop in the world...



With its iconic dome and painted veranda, Simpsons of Carnoustie is famous around the world.

It all started when Robert Simpson was employed by the Dalhousie Club when he was just 20 years old. He travelled from St Andrews to become a keeper of the green and a club maker. He established his club-making business in 1883 and this became Simpsons Golf Shop.

We've seen over previous pages what a significant contribution Simpson, his brothers and their proteges made to the world of golf. Dave Valentine, current owner of the shop, explains more: "Together with brother Archie, Robert laid out the wonderful course over the links at Royal Aberdeen," says Dave. "The



Simpsons perhaps don't receive the acknowledgement they deserve as course designers. Other layouts they had an involvement in were Murcar, Cruden Bay, Crieff and Edzell."

Today, the shop offers a wonderful array of equipment, apparel and

memorabilia. Especially popular are the hickory golf clubs, made exactly as they were 100 years ago by the St Andrews Golf Company. "The world's oldest golf equipment business supplying the second oldest," as Dave puts it.

Simpsons has many customers from the UK, some from the USA and a growing number in China. "I have experience working in China so it makes sense to build the brand there," he says. "I established a 'Simpsons Heritage Lounge' at Zhongshan International Golf Resort and my vision is to have five or six across China."

Another attraction is the collection of bag tags, gifted by visitors from all over the world, that hang from the rafters – Valentine estimates over 2,500.

No trip to Carnoustie would be complete without a visit to Simpsons, to soak up the incredible character the old building has to offer and to collect your very own piece of history.



The shop was established in 1883

Michael Wells

Michael is Carnoustie Golf Links' first chief executive. He joined the Carnoustie team last year from The R&A in St Andrews, where he was the director of championship staging for The Open.

How excited are you about your first Open as chief executive at Carnoustie?

It's my first Open at Carnoustie, although my career in golf really started here back in 1999 when I worked as a summer intern with The R&A, so it's kind of funny that we've gone full circle and now here I am in time for The Open. I'm hugely excited about it.

Your experience of working at The R&A must have been very useful in the build-up to the championship...

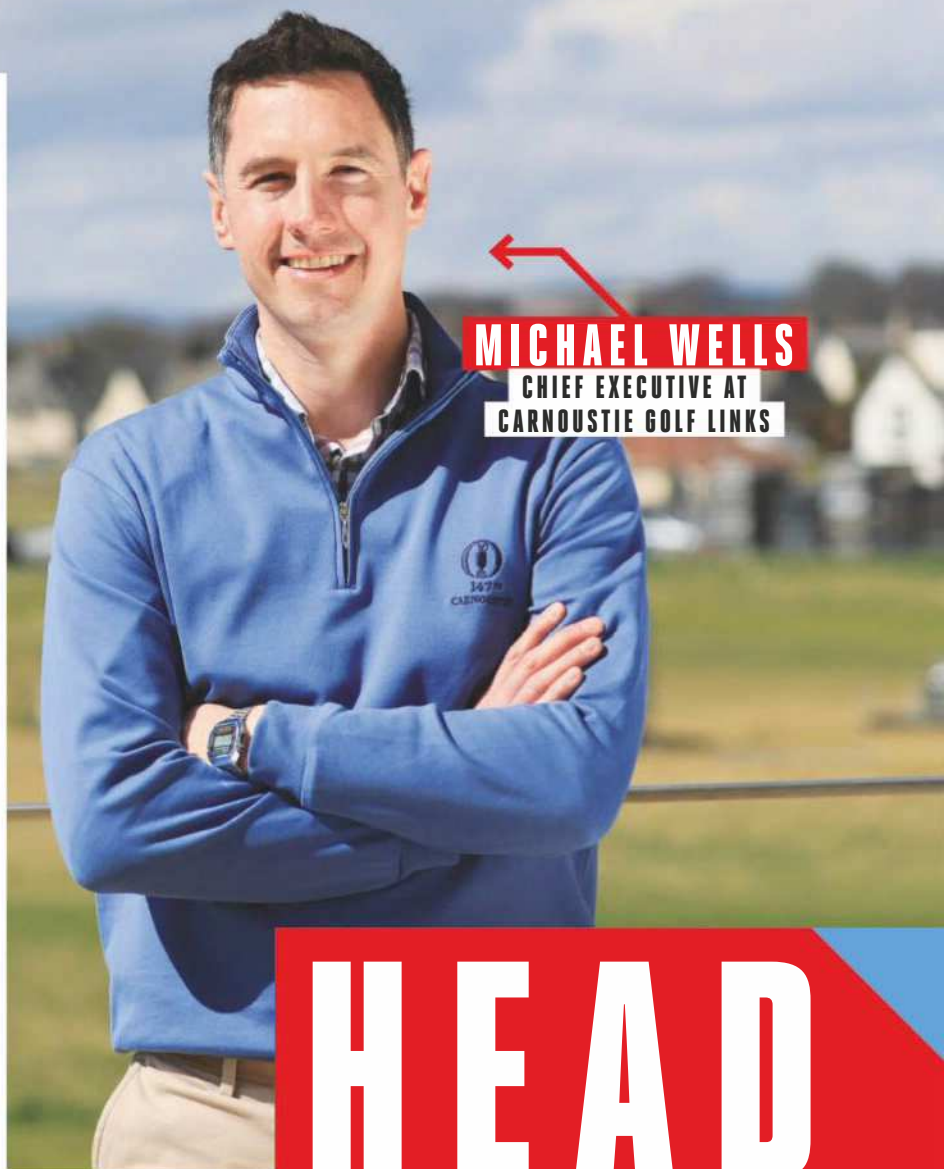
It's a bit like poacher turned gamekeeper for me in terms of the change of roles. I know what The R&A wants and requires from a host venue, so for me, it's about being as helpful as possible. It's tough staging the world's biggest golf championship. It's a complex beast and I think the benefit is that I can help to make it as simple and straightforward as possible.

Tell us about the new facility that has just opened here...

Yes, we've just opened this magnificent new golf centre – Links House, as we're calling it. It brings a different dynamic to Carnoustie. We've got the course – there's absolutely no argument in terms of the quality of the golf course, it's one of the world's finest links. But now we've got the means by which to complete that customer experience, so we're really excited. During The Open, Links House will be dedicated to the players. This will provide them something they've never really had at an Open venue before – a facility right next to the first tee.

And the facility is a benefit to the town of Carnoustie, too?

We're a public links – everything we do is about the community, and we work in collaboration with all of the golf clubs in the town and also with all



MICHAEL WELLS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE AT
CARNOUSTIE GOLF LINKS

HEAD

Golf Monthly met two of the key figures at Carnoustie to talk about The Open Championship and what it means for the golf courses and town

of the residents in the town. It's a major point for me to make sure the people have ownership of the links here and feel part of it and proud to live beside one of the world's greatest courses. We want to be the best, but we don't want to be elite or exclusive. We want to encourage kids into the game. We have seven simulators downstairs, a free golf course outside and lots of pros around who can get them involved. For us, it's very much about trying to make golf accessible.

Sandy Reid

Sandy has been course superintendent at Carnoustie since 2012. Prior to that, he worked under the legendary John Philp, who played a significant role in securing The Open's return to Carnoustie. Sandy was at Carnoustie for both the 1999 and 2007 Opens.

What have you learned from your experiences of the last two Opens? We've been planning for this Open



SANDY REID
COURSE SUPERINTENDENT AT
CARNOUSTIE GOLF LINKS

Interview: **Fergus Bisset** | Photography: **Kevin Murray**

HONCHOS

ever since the last one finished – The Open is always in the back of our minds. We're driven by performance at Carnoustie and our objective is to have the course performing at its peak for as much of the year as possible. We are proud of that, and it means not a huge amount extra needs to be done when it comes to The Open. There are a few specific things we've learned, though. For instance, in 2007 we had very wet weather and some standing water on the course and in bunkers. We have addressed those issues.

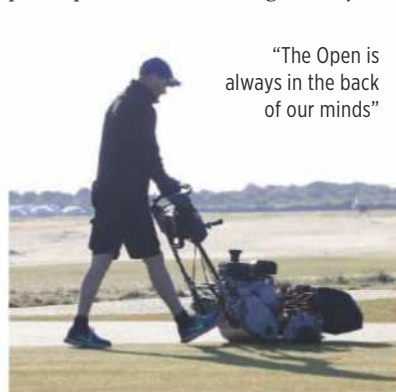
What sort of conditions will you hope for in the run-in?

I'd love for tournament week and the week before to be dry. Before that I'd like a mixed bag: standard, steady weather with a few showers every four

days or so. The course should perform well no matter what the conditions are.

Will the pros find it more testing if the ground is firmer?

I think the firmness makes the big difference to the second shot, so that puts a premium on finding fairways.



"The Open is always in the back of our minds"

Then, if you miss the green, little chips around the surface become trickier to judge and to control. We want it firm without it being rock hard.

Do you enjoy working with The R&A?

Yes, we have a good working relationship with The R&A – it really cares about the game of golf. One thing that's particularly good in terms of course set-up is how it looks at green speeds. It doesn't feel there's a need for super-fast greens, and that's a powerful message. To have the greens running at 10 or 10.5 produces good, attacking golf. If you look at Troon in 2016, Stenson and Mickelson were hitting putts with such authority because they could be aggressive. I think that helped the spectacle.

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE

TRAVEL HOW TO GET TO THE COURSE...



BY ROAD

Police Scotland is urging all motorists to use the designated traffic routes, which will be clearly signed by the AA. Visitors are advised to turn off their satellite navigation systems and follow the appropriate signage to the car parks.

PARK & RIDE

All public parking will be located at Park & Ride facilities, where you can catch dedicated buses to and from the course.

BY BUS

Stagecoach will be operating all local bus services to and from Carnoustie as normal during The Open, with additional buses available at peak times. Further information at stagecoachbus.com

BY RAIL

Carnoustie station is just a short walk from the venue. ScotRail is providing an enhanced service for The Open. Further details available at scotrail.co.uk

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE WHAT TO DO WHEN THE DAY'S GOLF IS DONE...

STAY

Carnoustie and the surrounding areas of Angus and Dundee have an extensive selection of properties which cater for all accommodation requirements. The official Open accommodation bureau, stayattheopen.com, manages these services for the Championship.

CAMPING

Youth Ticket holders are eligible to camp for free at The Open Camping Village. Juniors with valid U16's Kids Go Free tickets are also eligible to stay for free with an accompanying Adult Ticket holder. Adult Ticket holders can stay from £40 per night.

EAT

GORDON'S RESTAURANT WITH ROOMS

One of Scotland's best fine-dining establishments, Gordon's mixes style, quality and comfort.

T: 01241 830364

W: gordonsrestaurant.co.uk



DRINK

THE STATION HOTEL

Well known for its steak pie.

T: 01241 852 447

W: stationhotelcarnoustie.com

THE SHIP INN

Dates back to 1847. Located on the banks of the Tay.

T: 01382 779176

W: theshippinn-broughtyferry.co.uk

FISHERMAN'S TAVERN

The only Scottish pub to feature in every edition of the Camra Good Beer Guide.

T: 01382 775941

W: fishermanstavern-broughtyferry.co.uk

VIEWING HOW TO TAKE IN ALL THE ACTION AT HOME OR AT THE VENUE...

MEDIA

All four days of the 147th Open will be exclusively live on Sky Sports, with additional live coverage during the pre-tournament days at Carnoustie. The world's top players will once again head to the Sky Zone throughout the week to reflect on their performances and give tips and advice.

The BBC will be showing a two-hour prime-time highlights

programme. Check listings closer to the event. Live commentary available daily on BBC Radio 5 Live.

THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP APP

A complimentary Wi-Fi network at the venue, providing access to The Open app, will be available.

The interactive course guide will let you track players and provide live scoring, video highlights and news.



GRANDSTANDS

There will be thousands of public seats located around the course, including at the 18th green and at the Practice Ground, all free of charge to spectators.

LARGE SCREENS

Keep up to date with all the action through one of the many electronic leaderboards situated around the course, or relax and watch the day unfold on the large video screens located in the Spectator Village area.

TO... CARNOUSTIE

TICKET INFORMATION WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IF YOU'RE HEADING TO CARNOUSTIE...

HOW TO BOOK

Tickets can be purchased online at theopen.com or by calling 01334 460010. You can also buy at the gate.

A week-long season ticket, including free entry for juniors (16 and under), is available for £305. Gates open at 6am on Thursday 19 July and Friday 20 July, and 7am on all other days. Mobile phones will be permitted, provided users adhere to the strict policy in place. Cameras are allowed on practice days only.



DAILY TICKET PRICES

Under-16s admitted free with a responsible, ticket-holding adult.

	Adult	16-24
Sunday 15th	£15	£10
Monday 16th	£25	£15
Tuesday 17th	£25	£15
Wednesday 18th	£30	£20
Thursday 19th	£80	£40
Friday 20th	£80	£40
Saturday 21st	£90	£45
Sunday 22nd	£90	£45

AWAY FROM THE COURSE LOCAL ATTRACTIONS AND OTHER COURSES TO PLAY NEARBY...

VISIT

GLAMIS CASTLE

Setting for Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and beloved childhood home of the Queen Mother, Glamis Castle has witnessed over 600 years of history.

T: 01307 840393

W: glamis-castle.co.uk



Glamis Castle

DISCOVERY POINT

Discovery Point centres around Captain Scott of the Antarctic's Dundee-built ship RRS Discovery. It's a fascinating tale of one of the most heroic voyages of exploration ever undertaken.

T: 01382 309060

W: rrsdiscovery.com

ARBROATH ABBEY

Explore the origins of the Declaration of Arbroath. Scotland's nobles swore their independence from England in this letter to the Pope, sent from Arbroath Abbey in 1320.

T: 0131 668 8600

W: historicensevironment.scot

LOCAL COURSES

The area has plenty of golf to offer...

ARBROATH

T: 01241 870369

W: arbroathgolfcourse.co.uk

EDZELL

T: 01356 648462

W: edzellgolfclub.com

MONIFIETH

T: 01382 532767

W: monifiethgolf.co.uk

MONTROSE LINKS

T: 01674 672932

W: montroselinks.com

PANMURE

T: 01241 852460

W: panmuregolfclub.co.uk

SPECTATOR VILLAGE WHAT'S ON OFFER THIS YEAR...

FAMILY FUN

There are plenty of activities for kids of all ages in the Spectator Village, including The Open Swingzone, the Soft Play Area and the HSBC Grassroots Skillzone where children can put their golf skills to the test.

THE AUTOGRAPH ZONE

Bring your family for a chance to get up close with the world's best players. Watch the big screens around the course to see when golfers will be appearing.

FREE GOLF LESSONS

A team of expert PGA Pros provide free golf lessons to spectators all week at the popular Swingzone. Visit early and book a time to avoid disappointment.

HSBC GOLF ZONE

The hugely popular HSBC Golf Zone gives all fans the opportunity to test their golfing skills with a chance to win daily prizes.



LEFT LUGGAGE FACILITIES

There will be a complimentary left luggage facility, operated on a first come, first served basis.

BANKING SERVICE

As an official Patron of The Open, HSBC will provide a full-service banking branch within the Spectator Village, enabling fans to access cash, free of charge, from ATMs.

DON'T
MISS

GOLF MONTHLY @ THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Keep up to date with all the action from Carnoustie with Golf Monthly's digital channels. Follow, like and log on for news, views, exclusive content, competitions and more



 GOLF-MONTHLY.CO.UK

 [TWITTER.COM/GOLFMONTHLY](https://twitter.com/GOLFMONTHLY)

 [FACEBOOK.COM/GOLFMONTHLYMAGAZINE](https://facebook.com/GOLFMONTHLYMAGAZINE)

 [INSTAGRAM.COM/GOLFMONTHLY](https://instagram.com/GOLFMONTHLY)



TOUR-S™

Introducing FootJoy's most powerful and comfortable shoe ever, featuring Tour-validated PowerStrap™ and LaunchPod™ technologies.

#1 SHOE IN GOLF



**INTRODUCING OUR
MOST POWERFUL SHOE
YET. AND BY YET, WE
MEAN SINCE 1857.**



FJ FEEL
THE
JOY



"IT'S THE CONSISTENCY."
- JORDAN SPIETH

"THE SOFTER FEEL."
- RICKIE FOWLER

"IT'S THE DISTANCE."
- BROOKE HENDERSON

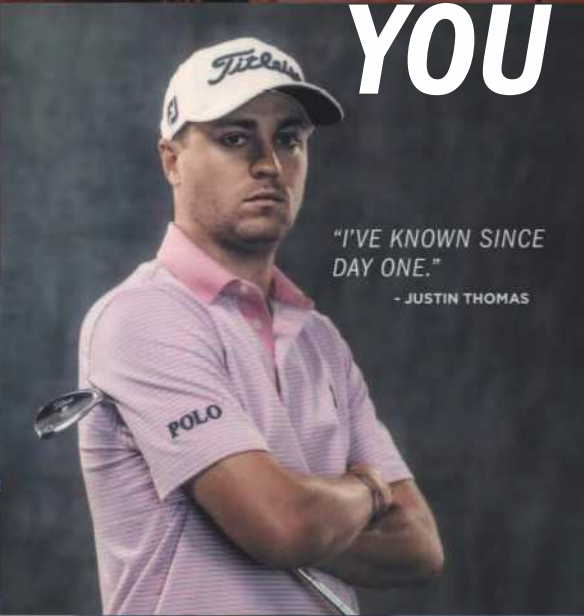


"IT'S EVERYTHING."
- IAN POULTER

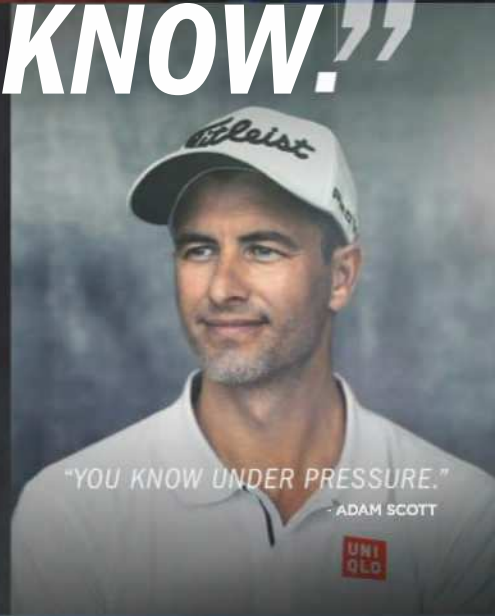
WHEN YOU PLAY ONE, YOU KNOW."



"IT'S THE CONTROL."
- SO YEON RYU



"I'VE KNOWN SINCE
DAY ONE."
- JUSTIN THOMAS



"YOU KNOW UNDER PRESSURE."
- ADAM SCOTT



"HOW IT FLIES THROUGH
THE WIND."
- WEBB SIMPSON
Burns & Wilcox



"YOU KNOW WHEN IT SAYS THIS."
- HENRIK STENSON



Titleist
#1 ball in golf.®

Learn more at titleist.co.uk