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## June 2011 Pro Shop Enews

Steve Marr, PGA Professional, Withington Golf Club



**Dear Withington Member**

### A Tribute to Seve the Legend

It was a sad month for golf in May with the passing of Seve Ballesteros, a man who did so much for the sport and helped to put European golf on the map after years of American dominance.

In this month's newsletter we take a look back at the life of Seve including a number of videos, which give you the chance to relive some of the Spaniard's best and most outrageous moments on the golf course.

Arguably the most versatile club in the bag, the hybrid, is the main focus of our product review this month – check below for the latest hybrids we have available in the Pro Shop.

In the Scoring Zone we look at some situations where the hybrid can be used to get you out of trouble and how it can be a useful tool around the green.

Finally we take a look ahead to the second Major of the season – the US Open that is taking place at Congressional Country Club later this month.

If there is anything you would like to discuss about your game, whether it's about equipment, lessons or even a rules query, please do not hesitate to come into the Pro Shop and speak to a member of the team.

**Enjoy the news!**

### Featured Articles

- [The Hybrid](#)
- [Mizuno JPX Hybrid](#)
- [PING G15 Hybrid](#)
- [Titleist 910H Hybrid](#)



## General News from Withington Golf Club

### CLUB NEWS

Professional's Day is fast approaching, so put Sunday 24th July in your diary. Booking for the day will go live on Friday 17th June. Format for the day will be Individual Stableford and is open to Gents, Ladies and Juniors.

The low handicap team competed at Rossendale GC in the first round of the Dunham Forest Trophy. Unfortunately the team lost the match against a strong Rossendale GC side. The team bounced back strongly though, and this was proven by the Mersey League first team who won 6-0 against Sale this week.

### COURSE NEWS

The course has been receiving good reviews from both the majority of members and also from visitors and societies. Credit should go to Gary and his team of greenkeepers.

## Severiano Ballesteros The Legend

Severiano Ballesteros Sota, the farmer's son who enraptured the world of golf from the moment he burst onto the scene at Royal Birkdale in 1976, lost the one battle that even his remarkable courage could not overcome when he sadly passed away on May 7.

Seve will forever be remembered for the way he blended superb skill, spirit and sheer willpower in every tournament he contested.

People from all over the world, whether or not they liked golf, were drawn to the Spaniard by his passion and genius in pulling off imaginative golf shots when there seemed no hope, throwing caution and technique to the wind in order to maintain his challenge.

Seve was blessed with a wonderful imagination, which allowed him to see and execute shots many golfers simply would not even dream of attempting.

His first Major title came at Royal Lytham & St Annes in 1979 when he claimed the Open Championship. He was the only player to finish under par for the week, eventually winning by three shots from Ben Crenshaw.

He won the Open again in 1984 at St Andrews, before collecting a third Claret Jug – back at Royal Lytham & St Annes – in 1988. And, of course, he was the first European to win the Masters at Augusta when he claimed a Green Jacket in 1980 – he repeated the feat eight years later.

Seve created another record in 1979 when he, and compatriot Antonio Garrido, became the first continental Europeans to tee up in the Ryder Cup, launching a revolution that changed the way the matches were contested.

He went on to win 20 points from 37 Ryder Cup matches, forming a formidable partnership with close friend Jose Maria Olazabal – the duo have a record of 11 wins and two halves from 15 matches.

The Spaniard was instrumental in the growth of the European Tour, and with his swashbuckling play he captured the hearts and imaginations of golf fans the world over, putting European golf firmly on the map.



## The Hybrid

The hybrid has become the must-have club in the golf bag due to its high forgiveness level and, more importantly, its versatility.

Whether you find your ball nestled deep in the rough, sitting atop a bare lie or even in the bunker, you can rely on the hybrid to give you a solid connection whatever the situation may be.

The club is specifically designed to combine a large, stable head and a lower leading edge to help players get their shot airborne cleanly from most lies.

If you find yourself in trouble in the trees the low loft of the hybrid makes it the ideal weapon of choice for the punch shot – keeping the ball low and out of the branches.

It can even be used around the green, particularly from tight or bare lies, as the club will not dig into the ground causing those embarrassing 'duffed' shots.

Below we take a look at the latest hybrids available in the Pro Shop. Drop in at any time to find out more about how they can benefit your game.



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## Mizuno JPX Hybrid

The larger JPX800 hybrids harness their Hot Metal energy within an extremely consistent 'Ultimate Dynamic Stability' design.

Consistently high ball speeds and near maximum R&A conforming distance are delivered from a wide area of the 1770 stainless maraging steel clubface thanks to increased stability on both its vertical and horizontal axes.

An increased overall size and clubface have the feel of a lofted fairway wood, with a shorter shaft in the more lofted models adding the control needed for long approaches.

Mizuno's lightweight Exsar HS5 graphite shaft is fitted as standard with a range of custom options available.

For more information on the Mizuno JPX hybrid please [click here](#)



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## PING G15 Hybrid

A large internal toe pad expands the perimeter weighting of the G15 hybrid to make it PING's most forgiving and longest hybrid ever. Its unique shape features an iron-style face and hosel design which positions the centre of gravity closer to the face to increase launch angle and reduce spin.

For more information on the PING G15 hybrid please [click here](#)



## Titleist 910H Hybrid

A versatile, progressive family of hybrids designed to perform in a wide range of turf conditions. The Titleist 910 hybrids deliver total performance and versatility with improvements in flight, fit, looks, feel and sound.

With a completely redesigned head, the 910H generates higher launch with less spin for greater control and consistency, while the new SureFit Tour, dual-angle hosel technology provides the ability to make precise, independent loft and lie adjustments for a better flight with more control.

For more information on the Titleist 910H hybrid please [click here](#)



## Shortgame Academy in Association with Titleist

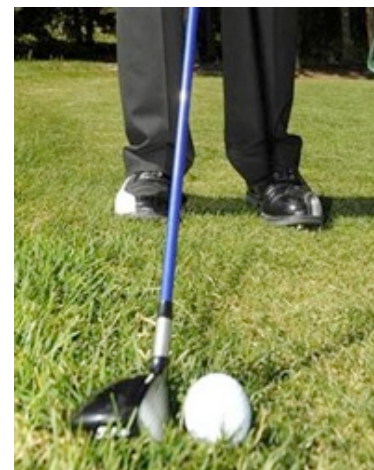
### Hybrid Chipping

Seve Ballesteros was a short-game genius, he had a fantastic and creative imagination and played a tremendous variety of shots around the green.

A new shot that Seve would no doubt have embraced is becoming increasingly popular: the hybrid chip.

It works well because the broad base of a hybrid acts like a ski and doesn't allow the club to dig into the ground, therefore assisting contact, especially from tight or bare lies. It is also easy to learn.

Hold very low down the handle and adopt a chipping stance. Use a smooth stroke that brushes the grass as you strike the ball. Aim for an even length backswing and follow through. The ball will come off the face hotter than a putter so practice to establish feel for distance. With little backspin the ball will roll freely across the green – especially useful when playing to a back pin position.



### Going Low - The Punch Shot

If you find yourself in trouble on the course it's important to get out with your next shot. On occasions this means a simple chip out sideways but often there is a tempting route to the flag – if you can play a low punch shot.

Here is how it works.

Choose a low-lofted club and grip down the handle. Position the ball a little back of centre and place extra weight on the front foot. Make a short backswing (arms around chest high) and deliver the club into impact with the hands well in front of the ball and body weight very much on the front foot. The follow through should finish around hip height with the arms extended towards the target. The tempo of the swing is fairly brisk.

**Warning:** When delivering the hands in front of the ball at impact some players leave the face open and hit high to the right. Learn to square the face on the range before taking this shot on course.



**Course management tip:** Don't follow a bad shot with a bad decision. It can be tempting to take on a 'miracle shot' to make up for a poor drive only to end up in deeper trouble.

However, with a little practice of the low punch shot you will have a lot of fun escaping from trouble.



## Build Up to the US Open

Graeme McDowell defends his US Open title later this month when the world's best golfers tee up at Congressional Country Club, Washington, from June 16-19.

The Northern Irishman showed nerves of steel at Pebble Beach last year to claim his first Major title, but it will be a different test around the long and tree-lined course in the suburbs of the US capital.

McDowell's win ended a 40-year European drought at the US Open when he became the first winner from this continent since Tony Jacklin in 1970.

With six Europeans in the World's Top 10 there is a good chance that the run of Major winners from this side of the Atlantic will continue.

Lee Westwood, Luke Donald, Martin Kaymer, Rory McIlroy and Paul Casey all join McDowell in the Top 10 and will be among the favourites to succeed at Congressional. Of course, the usual bookies' favourite, Tiger Woods, is aiming to return to competitive golf after an injury lay-off and will no doubt be in the running for his 15th Major title.

The layout of Congressional's Blue Course will be the second longest in the championship's history. If all the back tees are used, it will be some 350 yards longer than when Ernie Els won in 1997, and more than 500 yards longer than when Ken Venturi overcame the stifling heat for his legendary 1964 victory.

[Congressional](#) opened in 1924 and has been a favourite of many of the sport's biggest names and some of the nation's most famed politicians, but, like many historic courses, it has needed tinkering with to keep up with the times.

When the US Open was last at Congressional the course had a par-3 finish, a rarity for a Major tournament. But that hole has now been rebuilt as the 10th, while the 18th is now a breathtaking 523-yard par-4 that slopes down towards water.

All 18 greens have also been rebuilt since Els's victory in 1997, while eight new tee boxes were designed to make the course longer – look out for the par-5 ninth hole, which can play up to 636 yards.





### Pro Shop details

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