

**Withington Golf Club**

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**From:** Steve Marr [stevemarrgolf@btinternet.com]**Sent:** 17 May 2011 12:16**To:** Withington Member**Subject:** May 2011 Pro Shop Enews

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Know anyone who might just t

## May 2011 Pro Shop Enews

Steve Marr, PGA Professional, Withington Club Name



**Dear Withington Member**

### Welcome

Wow, what a way to start the Major season! Last month saw one of the most exciting Masters tournaments for many years as the lead changed hands back and forth until finally Charl Schwartzel claimed the Green Jacket with birdies on the final four holes at Augusta.

Let's hope it is a sign of things to come and we see more highly entertaining Sundays throughout the season.

The big tournaments are coming thick and fast now and this month we take a look at the unofficial 'fifth Major', The Players' Championship at the world famous TPC Sawgrass.

There is also a look at the latest drivers we have in the shop as well as some handy tips on how to make the most of them and hit longer and straighter drives.

You can also learn how to get the ball to stop on small greens, just like the Pros will be doing on the iconic 17th hole at TPC Sawgrass.

If there is anything you would like to discuss about your game, whether it is about your swing, putting, your equipment or a query on the rules, feel free to drop into the Pro shop at any time for a chat.

**Enjoy the news!**

### Featured

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## General News from Withington Golf Club

In the first round of the Dunham Forest Trophy we have been drawn away to play against Rossendale GC. We played against Rossendale on Finals Day two years ago so hopefully we will get our revenge by beating them on their home course. The tie will be played on Sunday 29th May.

Steve Marr has successfully qualified for the Glenmuir Club Professional event to be held at The Belfry in June. I'm sure you would like to wish him all the best of luck.

Steve Marr completed the Great Manchester 10K Run last Sunday. He beat his personal best time which he had set last year. Many thanks to everyone who sponsored him, a total of £265 was raised for the Alzheimer's Society.

We are two weeks into a ten week programme of Junior Coaching. The sessions are taking place on a Saturday morning from 9:30am - 10:30am. This is completely free and is open to any junior aged eight upwards, whether they are a member of the club or not. Both boys and girls are welcome, and any ability is catered for, even those who have never played golf before. For more information please contact the Junior Organiser Paul Higgins.



## The Players Championship Review

The Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass, home to one of the most iconic holes in golf, hosts the world's top players this month when it stages the unofficial 'fifth Major', The Players Championship, May 12-15.

The par-3 17th (pictured above) at TPC Sawgrass is recognised the world over, known to golf fans as 'the Island Green'. Players are forced to carry their tee shots 132 yards to the undulating 78-foot long green, with a tiny bunker at the front ready to snag anything short.

There have been some fantastic scenes at the 17th over the years, most memorably in 1998 when American Steve Lowery saw his ball plucked from the green by an intrigued seagull, which proceeded to fly off with it in its bill, before dropping it into the water.

This hole is in the middle of what many regard as the finest finishing stretch in all of golf, with the daunting 17th sandwiched between the 523-yard par-5 16th and the difficult par-4 18th, which holds the distinction of having more double bogeys or worse scored on it than any other hole on the USPGA Tour since 1983.

Whoever can hold their nerve over these final three holes will be destined for the Championship – as many have observed at TPC Sawgrass, 'it's not how you start, it's how you finish.'

[Look back at 2010 - Tim Clark wins!](#)



## Drivers

During The Masters world-renowned golf coach Butch Harman observed: "If you can't drive the ball you will always struggle to score."

So how can you get more out of your driver? How can you ensure you hit long and straight drives every time you pull the big stick out from your bag?

Below we take a look at the latest drivers available from golf's leading manufacturers now on

sale in the Pro shop.

But don't just pick one off the shelf and put it in your bag. The way to get the best out of your driver is to have it custom-fitted to suit your swing and style of play.

After all, you wouldn't pick a suit or shirt off the rack and buy it without first checking it is the right size and fit would you?

Having your clubs fitted specifically for your own swing can have a massive impact on your game.

If your clubs aren't fitted to your personal specifications, you could well be sacrificing critical elements of your swing to make up for it.

For an example of how big a part custom-fit clubs can play in your game, just take a look back at Phil Mickelson's win in the 2006 Masters. He had two different drivers in his bag, one that produced a draw and the other produced a fade – he didn't change his swing at all.

We have a full range of custom fitting options for you to try in the Pro shop that will ensure your clubs fully match your swing, and will have you booming long drives straight down the fairway.

Call in at any time to discuss which custom-fit option is best for you.

[Click here to watch Lee Westwood's top tips for custom fitting](#)



## Mizuno JPX800 Driver

Mizuno's new JPX800 HOT METAL with Ultimate Dynamic Stability increases average driving distance by specifically targeting an improvement in ball speeds from shots struck above and below the sweet spot.

Data from Mizuno's Tour testing and National Fitting Centres showed that most distance loss occurs when golfers mishit from high or low on the clubface. In response, Mizuno's design team increased the JPX800's vertical Moment of Inertia (resistance to twisting), alongside the standard extension from heel to toe.

In sync with Mizuno's 'Balanced Performance' philosophy, the JPX800 sits with a square clubface at address – relying on a complex internal weighting system for its straight, high flight. By analysing thousands of fittings at its National Fitting Centres, Mizuno found that the square set-up best neutralised the amateur's most destructive shot – the pull straight left.

For more information on the Mizuno JPX800 driver please [click here](#)



## PING K15 Driver

With the K15 you'll drive the ball straighter, assisted by a PING innovation called Straight Flight Technology (SF Tec). This visible technology places approximately 10% of head mass in the heel, which helps square the face for consistently straight tee shots.

You'll also see big distance gains with the K15. Combining a large-profile 460cc head and a clubface that is longer heel to toe, the MOI is sizeable for consistent performance across the hitting surface. This design positions the centre of gravity low and back to generate high launch and low spin.

For more information on the PING K15 driver please [click here](#)



## Titleist 910 D3 Driver

A high performance, 445cc, classic pear-shaped driver that produces mid launch with medium/low spin. Available mid-November 2010.

Titleist® 910 Drivers deliver total performance with improvements in flight, fit, looks, feel and sound. The 445cc Titleist 910D3 driver delivers longer distance through a technologically advanced head design with a responsive, fast face insert. The patented, innovative, SureFit™ Tour, dual-angle hosel provides precise, independent loft and lie adjustments to fine tune ball flight for more accuracy and control. High performance weighting increases stability and creates a low and deep CG for medium launch with mid/low spin.

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



## Creating Backspin

As we approach summer stopping the ball on firm, fast greens becomes increasingly tricky and there are a number of factors to consider.

**The type of ball:** A low-spinning ball will fly straighter due to less sidespin, but it will also have less backspin and not stop as quickly. A high-spinning ball will stop well but may curve offline a bit more. What is the priority for your game?

**The lie:** When playing from the rough it is tough to impart backspin because grass gets between the ball and the clubface, effectively filling the grooves leaving little grip on the ball. Playing from the fairway creates more spin and control.

**The wind direction:** Playing downwind the ball will be blown forward and its angle of descent will be shallower, therefore, it will not stop as quickly. Conversely hitting against the wind will land the ball very softly.

Consider these points when choosing your shot and you will hit more greens.



## Hit Better Drives

Hitting a great drive is one of the best features of playing golf. The following tips will help.

**Always pick a target:** Be very specific. Choosing a point on the horizon, or anything that your brain clearly knows is impossible to reach, this will enable you to commit to the drive fully and gain better yardage.

**Measure your carry distance:** If you know your overall carry distance with a good drive plus a distance that will allow for any roll on the ball, careful use of your course guide or Golf GPS System, will help you immediately eliminate any hazards facing you from the tee.

This allows you to swing more freely and with confidence, as you know the likely finishing position for your ball. If there are severe hazards at your optimum driving distance, use a fairway wood or rescue club to minimise the danger.

**Don't worry about others, play your own game:** If you are playing with other golfers you should always remember that you are playing against the golf course and not against your playing partners, unless it is match play.



It is all too easy to get sucked into trying to keep up with others who may hit the ball further than you off the tee. Try and avoid this and play your own game. Hit the fairway consistently and you will come out on top.

Make the driver your favourite club you will have a lot of fun.



### British Airways Pairs Championship in Association with Sandals

Do you and your golfing friend think you are the best two ball pairing at the club? What about the county? How about event the best in the country?

Now you have your chance to prove it by entering the British Airways Pairs Championship in Association with Sandals, which will see the best five pairings from around the country whisked off to the five-star Sandals Emerald Bay, Great Exuma in the Bahamas for the grand final.

There are five regional qualifying events around the UK with the winning pair from each competition going through to the grand final in the Caribbean.

Qualifying events will be held at Fairmont St Andrews, Scotland; Trevoze Golf & Country Club, Cornwall; London Golf Club, Kent; Mere Golf & Country Club, Cheshire; Bearwood Lakes, Berkshire.

The cost of entry is £480 per pair, for this you will receive the opportunity to play one of the UK's most exclusive golf courses as well as the chance to win fantastic prizes, including a place in the final at Sandals Emerald Bay.

Each competitor will also receive a welcome bag containing more than £100 worth of products courtesy of Srixon Cleveland Golf as well as breakfast on arrival and a two-course dinner and prize giving.

Prizes up for grabs include Tag Heuer products, Nikon Laser 350G Rangefinders, Cleveland Golf Wedges and Srixon Golf Balls.

For more information please visit [www.pairschampionship.com](http://www.pairschampionship.com)



**Pro Shop details**

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