

DRIVERS FOR SALE OR RENT

You Can't Buy Distance

John Daly and Freddy Couples are contributing to growing sales figures for bigger and longer drivers. These two professionals and an ever-increasing number of other PGA members are blistering the ball farther and farther. Most of them attribute their added length to some kind of new driver.

The variance in the field of available materials used to propel the golf ball for long distances is swelling almost by the day. Some of the warclubs feature large to jumbo driver heads made with new light materials. Others are designed with a variety of slots and humps in the driver heads.

Most of the new heads for drivers are some form of cavity club that also proclaim special secret formulas for the substance used to fill the interior space in the clubhead. Others reserve their special concoctions for insert materials. Their specialty is to hold the ball on the clubface longer in order to increase the compression of the ball and produce more spin to stabilize its flight. If you believe that, I would like to sell you a place on the Democratic ticket this fall.

Club Shafts Are More Diverse

Next comes the most frustrating and confusing aspect of modern club designs. The shafts used in golf clubs today must number somewhere around a hundred. You can get lightweight shafts, counter torque shafts, shafts with a dozen different flexes, and shafts of all colors and descriptions. Somewhere there is a firm which makes money just thinking up the names for golf shafts. There is the Boomer, the Bomber, the Big Bertha, the Big Gun, the 747, the Super Stuck, the Fire Stick, the "J," the "Js" and the Cryptonite. Those are some of the less creative names.

I think someone should write down the names some of us call those same clubs when they do not behave as we expect they should. Then we should send those endorsements to the company which made them. I will have to admit that I will try anything that someone offers as the ultimate weapon to put the ball in play. I will also admit that I still play a wooden headed driver with a low torque graphite shaft. I just cannot become accustomed to the sound of metal on ball, and I don't care how much farther the ball goes. In my case it would simply mean that the ball ends up farther in the woods or deeper in water.

Yesterday one of my fellow golf coaches asked me whether I would prefer a low torque shaft or one with a low "flex point." I don't know why he felt he had to choose between those two shaft characteristics. I am confident he can find both in a single shaft. What I really wanted to tell him, but did not, was to spend his \$150 on a few golf lessons and someone just might talk him into changing his grip. That alone would produce better and faster results for him than any shaft on the market.

No Instant Cures For Poor Mechanics

I remain convinced that there are more errors to be corrected by better swing mechanics than could ever be accomplished with some revolutionary new piece of equipment. I do believe that there are clubheads and shafts on the market which will produce almost any variation in ball trajectory which one desires. There are even some that will increase distance and accuracy if you have a fundamentally sound swing.

Once owned a driver which allowed you to adjust the weight along the heel to toe axis by adding or removing small washers from two holes bored in the sole plate of the wood. It was made out of compressed bamboo by some elephant herder in Southeast Asia who had firsthand experience with the strength of bamboo.

I learned somewhere that bamboo was a symbol of ultimate strength to many Asians. Bamboo bends to the ground during the most violent monsoon wind and rain. It remains bent for a few days, but because it's root system is so deep, will always right itself and continue to prosper.

I liked the ability to adjust the weights in the clubhead and settled on a touch more weight in the toe of the club. It gave me a feeling of having the toe of the driver square up just at the moment of impact, producing noticeably better results. Unfortunately, after about three months the compressed bamboo head split right down the heel and toe axis. I took it to the only two people I knew at the time who repaired clubs and got the same look from both of them.

Scowls To Rival Coach 'K'

Their expressions answered the question before it had been asked and, as a side effect, they both seemed to squinch up their noses as if they smelled something unpleasant. You know the look, one like the Duke basketball coach has when he is disagreeing with a referee.

The pleasant surprise was that when I went back to my old driver, the same swing thought of squaring the clubface at impact continued to produce the same good results that I had found with the bamboo driver. So you see there is room for experimentation with your equipment so long as you settle on a given set of specifications and then get back to grooving your swing.

You may think as you please. It has been my experience that the "BAM" doesn't last very long and the "BOO" may last for a lifetime.

Golf Tournament Moved To Tuesday

This week's Waccamaw 2-A Conference high school golf tournament was switched from Monday to Tuesday because of the Easter holiday.

The tournament was to have been played at Land O' Lakes Golf Club near Whiteville, with West Columbus serving as host.

South Brunswick entered the

event leading the season-long conference standings. The Cougars had a 38-stroke lead over second-place West Brunswick and a 73-shot lead over third-place Whiteville.

West Brunswick hosts the conference championship tournament Monday, April 27, at The Gauntlet at St. James Plantation near Southport.

WILLGOLF

BY WILL COCKRELL

Reid Leads Top Flight In Sea Trail Tourney

Pat Reid racked up 58 points to lead the top flight in the Sea Trail Ladies Golf Association tournament last Wednesday.

Runners-up Janet Rick with 57 points and Betty Halloran, Lynn Nichols, Janet Llewellyn and Robin Walters with 54.

Marge Stokes led the way in the second flight with 63 points. Betty Street and Nancy Williams tied with 59, and Betty Geesey had 55.

Third flight winners were Pam Allen with 46 points, Jerri Moore with 45, and Marie Blanda with 44.

Birdies were carded by Reid at the first hole, Rick at the seventh, Joan Llewellyn at the 12th, Nin Consalvi at the 16th and Halloran at the seventh and 12th.

Brierwood Men

Two teams tied for first place in the Brierwood Men's Golf Association two best ball tournament last Thursday.

Dave Harper, Jerry Lula, John Martucci and Paul Keeley fired a 24-under-par round of 120 to tie the foursome of Jim Bryant, Don Redding, Burley Athan and Al Hierman.

On Wednesday, the team of Jim Roach, Ann Causer and Nearle Einstein shot a 33 to win the nine-hole mixed scramble at Brierwood.

Finishing one shot back in second place was the foursome of Al Hierman, Jim Bryant, Marilyn Athan and Marje Roach.

On April 13, Jim Vermeersch won the points tournament with seven points. Dave Harper and Jim Kelleher tied for second with five points each.

Tied for third with three points apiece were Jim Pulliam, Don Redding and Bob Warchheim.

Carolina Shores Ladies

Ginny Dorshimer shot net 38 to lead the first flight in the Carolina Shores Ladies Golf Association tournament last week at Cypress Bay.

Golfers counted scores on holes starting with the letters "T" and "F" and used half of their handicaps. Pat Reardon finished second in the top flight with net 43.

Second flight winners were Joan O'Neill with 28.5 and Marilyn Seary and Edith Grice with rounds of 30.

Ruth Rice won the third flight with a score of 28.5. Second place went to Pat Soule with net 31.

In the fourth flight, Helen Tyson took first on a match of cards over Cynthia Omundsen after both women shot 31.5.

Dorshimer had low putts with 28 and chipped in for birdie at the 12th hole. Gerry Burdick chipped in for birdie at the fourth, and Doertha Needham chipped in for birdie at the eighth.

Other birdies were carded by Ann Hierman and the fifth hole and Doreen Spearin at the sixth. Chip-ins were recorded by Seary at the second hole, Ducky Rice at the 10th and Dot Meader at the 17th.

Sea Trail Men

Dick Zinser fired a net 62 to take first place in the Sea Trail Men's Golf Association tournament last Tuesday.

Second place went to Winston Stephens with net 64 on the Maples



course. Other top finishers were George Gallop with 66, Howard Van Dusen with 67 and Ray Washam with 68.

Stephens was closest to the pin at the second hole and John Pointer was closest at the 11th.

On April 7, the team of Buzz Chadwick, Stan Risch and Dick Zinser won a best ball event with a score of 61 on the Byrd course.

The Sea Trail men's group held a points tournament March 31 on the Jones course. Dave Llewellyn won the event with 53 points.

Runners-up were Ron Schadle with 50, Ray Washam with 47, Dick Matheny with 45 and Gene Bilz with 43.

Closest to the pin winners were Matheny at the second hole, Wayne Ruff at the fifth, John Pointer at the 13th and John Walker at the 17th.

Brick Landing

Alice Grossman birdied the third hole and finished first in the top flight of the Brick Landing Ladies Golf Association tournament last week.

Terry Ehlers was the second flight winner. Runners-up were Pauli Waddle in the first flight and Pat Taylor in the second.

Pat Sneyers had a chip-in at the fourth hole and Sue Nelson chipped in at the ninth.

C.S. Travel League

Bud McCaffrey, Al Leisey, Pete Terzo and Al Drager combined for a 116 to win the Carolina Shores Men's Travel League event April 10 at Colonial Charters.

Each team counted the one best net on par fives, two low balls on par fours and three balls on par threes.

Finishing two shots back in second place was the foursome of Jack Brady, John Miller, Stu Thorn and Bob Hayward.

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The team of George O'Connell, Dick Merrick, Terry Radcliffe and Al Storm placed third with a 120.

Finishing fourth at 122 was the team of Bob Johnson, Claude Tyson, Jack Baumeister and Henry Michel.

Paul Neal, Bob Roland, Tom Ballenger and Bill Allen teamed up to shoot 123, which was good enough for fifth place.

Brierwood Ladies

Marie Brown shot 41.5 to lead the first flight in the Brierwood Ladies Golf Association tournament last week.

Golfers used half of their handicaps and counted strokes from tee to green only. Putts were not counted toward the score.

Runners-up in the top flight included Ann Hierman with 43.5, Rosa Stadick and Marge Roach with 46 and Doris Dunfee and Ann Causer with 50.

Top scorers in the second flight were True Schmalzer with 46.5, Elsie Rickbeil and Bobbye Cordisco with 47, Peg Sawyer with 48 and Sarah Lula with 48.5.

Janice Owens led the way in the third flight with net 53. Other top finishers included Marion Corbin with 53.5, Elizabeth Carter with 54 and Sammie Nunn with 55.5.

Fourth flight winners were Pat Strauss with 53.5, Louise Blizzard with 56, Dot Frey with 56.5 and Edith Wilckens with 61.

Besides leading the top flight, Mrs. Brown birdied the fourth hole and chipped in for birdie at the eighth.

Causer also chipped in for birdie at the 17th, and Toni Kobos had a chip-in at the fourth. Other birdies were carded by Lois Beato and Mary Schaeck at the sixth and Maureen Farley at the ninth.

Nifty Niners

Members of the Carolina Shores Nifty Niners played at Brierwood and Ocean Isle Beach golf clubs last week. Golfers reduced their two worst holes to par and used half of their handicaps.

Top finishers at Ocean Isle were Kathy Morfit with net 34, Gladys Doyle with 35 and Marilyn Anderson with 40. Morfit chipped in at the 11th hole.

At Brierwood, Helen Spinner led the field with a net 38. She was followed by Jay Arlotta with a 39 and Nancy Bradbury with 41.

Carolina Shores Men

Bill Marsh, Bruce Kibblehouse, Joe Giamalva and Jack McAleer shot 126 to win the Carolina Shores Men's Golf Association two best ball event last week at River Hills.

Finishing two shots back in second place was the team of Ed Garvey, Pat O'Neill, Art Seary and Mike Abbene.

On a match of cards, they beat out the foursome of Al Ballenger, John Ward, Jim Gilroy and Murray Palmer.

Fourth place went to the team of Bob Flack, Gib Ball, Bob Lupean and Joe Baran with a score of 129.

Winners of the closest-to-the-pin contest were Jim Gray at the third hole, Boomer Needham at the sixth, Winnie Fitzgerald at the 12th and Les Meader at the 15th.

Captain's Choice To Help Hospice

Golfers can help terminally-ill patients and their families by competing in the Natural Light Golf Tournament next month at Olde Point Country Club in Hampstead.

Lower Cape Fear Hospice, which serves Brunswick, Bladen, Columbus, New Hanover, Onslow and Pender counties, will get proceeds from the second annual event Saturday, May 16, at 8 a.m.

The entry fee for the four-person captain's choice tournament is \$240 per team. The fee covers breakfast before play, drinks on the course, prizes, trophies for the top three places and a pig pickin' following play.

For more information, call Ron Gumm at 919-763-6216. The tournament is being sponsored by several Cape Fear area businesses.

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