

## ***Matching clubs to your game...***

### ***Selecting the Proper Irons***

The golf clubs or irons are traditionally known as the unrecognized heroes in a golfer's bag. They are the scoring clubs and the most used clubs in the golf arsenal.

They come in sets of up to 13 clubs with all different loft angles for different distances and shots.

There are two main types of irons that are available to the players today, with a third type starting to also be introduced more and more...

One important thing to remember no matter what style you choose is that all three different types should be custom fitted to your golf swing for optimum results.

#### **Forged Irons**

Forged clubs are often made of softer carbon steel with an exterior chrome plating. Advanced and more experienced players often prefer these type of clubs for greater feel and control of the ball. The process involves a heavy air powered hammer that shapes a piece of steel into the rough head. The process is then repeated (usually with a smaller hammer), and then the head is ground, polished, markings engraved etc. It is more expensive than casting due to the equipment needed. Forged iron heads come in the shape of blades (or "musclebacks"), and usually the smaller cavity back designs ("players cavity").

#### **Cast Irons**

Such golf clubs are usually cast from a mould, and usually of harder metals than forged clubs (more often than not of stainless steel). A master head is made, a mould is made from that and then the molten steel is poured into the mould. After removal of the ceramic mould, the heads are then ground, shaped, badged or engraved. These by far, make up a great majority of the iron heads made today due to the lower price and ease of production

## **Hybrids**

These newer style heads are becoming more common these days, as sets are increasingly combining hybrids with the lower numbered irons. They are made more like a fairway wood head in that a face is welded onto a hollow shaped head. By replacing the traditionally harder to hit longer irons these sets can offer golfers new choices to help improve their games.

## ***Selecting the Proper Shafts***

When it comes to selecting shafts for your golf clubs there are three main things to keep in mind, the type of shaft, the weight of the shaft and the flexibility....

### **Steel vs Graphite**

Steel shafts are usually preferred by better players for a few reasons. Steel shafts tend to be heavier than graphite shafts and this can affect the speed the player swings the golf club. The better players are usually able to produce enough swing speed to not have to worry about the weight of the club. The steel shafts will also produce more feedback to the golfers hands when the ball is struck at impact allowing them to "feel" how the shot was hit and to help them make any corrections should there be a need.

Graphite shafts are usually lighter than steel shafts and thus allow slower swinging players to increase their swing speed. This is a big advantage for beginners, ladies, and senior players, helping them to hit the ball further with their drivers. Graphite also is more forgiving with regard to vibrations to the players hands when a poor shot is struck. You don't feel as much of a sting from a slightly mishit shot.

### **Shaft Flex**

**Extra Stiff-** is for the highest swing speed players (pro's)

**Stiff-** is for high swing speed players

**Regular-** is for average swing speed golfers

**Senior-** is for senior golfers & ladies with higher swing speeds

**Ladies Flex-** as the name suggests, for ladies

When it comes down to picking a set of irons the bottom line is that they must appeal to you in terms of their looks and the type best suited to your game.

### ***5 Most Important Things to Consider When Choosing New Golf Clubs***

Every serious golfer knows that having proper equipment is essential. Choosing new golf clubs has become some what of a daunting task because of the enormous market out there. We have come up with 5 simple things to consider when picking your golf clubs.

- 1.** First of all you have to be honest with yourself in deciding what skill level you're at. Are you a beginner just starting out, an intermediate weekend golfer, or an expert golfer who plays all the time? This is critical because there are different types of equipment designed to help every level of player. Playing with expert equipment if you are just starting out will only hurt your game.
- 2.** Stay within your spending limits. You have to know what type of budget you are working with. Golf can become very expensive if you don't stay within your means. There is equipment and accessories designed for every budget, you just have to know where to look.
- 3.** Figure out your strengths and weaknesses. Do you know hook or slice the ball? Are you a long or short hitter? Do you sink many puts when you have to, etc.? You must know these qualities of your game. When you go to your local clubfitter/clubmaker it will be easy for them to get you fitted correctly if you know this information.

4. How often do you play? Are you a weekend golfer or an addict who plays all the time? This will determine what golf clubs and accessories you should purchase. Don't go out and spend a fortune on complex equipment and other things if you only play the game on the weekend with your friends. On the other hand if you travel all over competing and playing, you are going to need the quality equipment that allows that.
  
5. Finally make sure you do your own research. Read golf magazines, articles, newspapers, and anything else you can get your hands on. Go to demo days at your local club or driving range and any local golf shows. Check online at manufacturer's websites and other informative golf club websites. You can find anything online. Doing research is the key to getting what you want.

If you use these 5 simple tips to choosing new golf clubs it will be simple for you to get fitted with exactly what you need. So go out and get those brand new clubs you have been thinking about for while.