

September, 2012

Volume 1, Issue 3

INDIAN HILLS NEWSLETTER



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NEWS

So, first we must apologize for the quality of our August newsletter. Although this is still new to us, there is no excuse for sending out a rough draft instead of the finished copy. Please forgive us, we will try to be more professional in the future.

Summer is now winding down, and hopefully the hottest temperatures are behind us (no guarantee, certainly), but everything is still very dry. The silver lining is that dry, firm conditions mean extra distance on your drives! Most of our golf leagues have finished already, while a few continue into late September. This should in no way be construed as the end of the golf season; often the best weather and golf course conditions are found later in the year. We still have at least a couple of months of golf ahead (or more, if last winter was any indicator).



Our unlimited play fall special begins Monday, September 24. Seniors pay \$9.50, everyone else \$11.00; walkers can pay once and play all day. Riding carts are \$6.00 per player for the first round, \$4.00 per round thereafter. You can even play nine holes, leave for a while, and return later to play more. If you have the time to play a lot of golf, inquire about our pro-rated season passes: 70% off through September, 85% off starting October 1.

Golf club terminology can be very confusing. We still refer to woods, even though most modern clubheads are made of metal. Some are also made of lighter materials such as carbon fiber or polymers. The main feature that differentiates “woods” from irons is the weight distribution throughout the head. Clubmakers 100 years ago had already discovered that a larger head, with more weight towards the sole of the club and back farther behind the face, makes it easier to launch the ball high, with less backspin. The larger head of a “wood” (even back when they were really wood) also provides more forgiveness on off-center hits. The modern terms for these features are “center of gravity”, or CG, and moment of inertia, or MOI. Hybrids and 460cc drivers are the best modern examples of this time honored technology.



If your pitching wedge has a loft of 42°-44°, you may need two gap wedges.



HELPFUL TIPS

Do you hit your 7 iron farther than your pitching wedge? Do you know why? To provide different trajectories and distances, golf clubs have different lofts, lengths, and weights. The primary factors that allow the 7 iron to hit the ball farther than the pitching wedge are the length and the loft. The 7 iron is generally about 1"-1 1/2" longer than the pitching wedge and has about 10°-12° less loft. Longer lengths and lower lofts are intended to create more ball speed and distance. Standards vary, and over the last 25 years standard lengths have become longer and lofts have become stronger. Back in the 1950's, a 7 iron had a loft of 38°, a pitching wedge was 52°. Now, it is typical for a 7 iron to have about 33° and a pitching wedge about 45°. Basically, manufacturers believe golfers will buy new irons if it allows them to hit the ball farther (especially with the 5, 6, and 7 irons). But what has really changed? If a golfer has a 6 iron at 37 1/2" and 32° and hits it consistently 150 yards, does he gain anything by purchasing a new set with a 7 iron at 37 1/2" and 32° that also hits the ball 150 yards? The new pitching wedge is now like the old 9 iron. This means that the gap wedge (50°-52°) had to be "invented" to fill the gap that was once covered by the pitching wedge. If your pitching wedge has a really strong loft (42°-44°), you may need *two* gap wedges to handle shots outside the range of your sand wedge (sand wedges are still 55°-56°). It also means that the longest irons either have to have really low lofts (not the solution chosen by most manufacturers), or the lofts will be really close together. I recently measured the lofts on a new set of irons from a big name manufacturer, and found only 1° difference between the 3 iron, 4 iron and 5 iron, instead of the usual 4° spacing. The golfer who had just purchased these clubs was frustrated that the 3, 4, and 5 irons seemed to all hit the ball the same distance. I explained that in fact, with only 1° difference in loft, they should hit the ball about the same. Obviously, he remained frustrated. Adjusting the lofts was not an option, because this individual (like the vast majority of golfers), was hitting the ball too low with the 3 and 4 iron in the first place. Stronger lofts would have made them unplayable. Ideally, the set would have suited him better if the 3 and 4 irons had been replaced with hybrids or even fairway woods, which would have created higher launch and more distance potential. There is a lesson in this story. A set of golf clubs should be made up of clubs that are distinctly different than one another. Otherwise, you might be wasting your money.

Indian Hills is a 9 hole golf course that is one of Lansing area's hidden treasures. Wonderfully maintained, the golf course features lush fairways and consistently rolling greens. Mature trees frame the fairways and strategically placed bunkers and water hazards challenge your game. Indian Hills caters to golfers of all levels. The course is short enough for beginners to feel comfortable... while still providing a challenge for the expert player. The golf course is highlighted by abundant wildlife and numerous eye catching gardens.

At Indian Hills Custom Golf, we've been building custom golf clubs since 1979. Our professionally certified club makers Sam Anderson and J.C. Petersen can customize clubs for golfers of all abilities, from beginners to top players. Our full service pro shop offers a full range of club repairs, including re-gripping, extending or shortening clubs, reshafing, loft and lie adjustments and much more. Most repairs can be done promptly and expertly within 48 hours. Custom club fitting by appointment Monday-Saturday.



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J.C.'s COURSE NOTES

ON TAP

The fall is a busy season on the course. We use this time for projects and improvements. This year we plan to rebuild sand traps on holes 1,8 and 9. We will move them farther from the greens and reduce the sand faces. We have also begun to improve the drainage on the fairway of the 6th hole-a never ending project. Tree trimming is on the agenda to increase sunlight and open up the tee areas on several holes. We will be building a material storage system that will clean up our parking lot, create more parking spaces and help us reduce wasted material. In addition, we hope to overseed most of the tees and several fairway spots with a new form of creeping rye grass. It should be a fun fall.

LESS IS MORE

It's no secret that businesses have had to reduce costs and become more efficient to survive. One way we have cut our costs is by increasing the time interval between some often repeated jobs. The trick is making sure we don't detract from the golfing experience. We haven't reduced our maintenance of the greens; everyone wants great greens all the time. We mow the long stuff the same because we already get comments about our "jungle rough". But other tasks such as trap raking, fairway mowing and cup cutting are now done two or three times a week instead of three or four. This allows the crew to spend their time on other duties.

SILVER LINING

We've just finished one of the hottest, driest summers on record. It's been a tough time for the turf, but there has been one upside. The lack of moisture kept mosquitoes at a minimum all season. In fact, we never applied insecticides for mosquitoes this year and that might be a first.



FOUR GOLFERS FOR THE PRICE OF THREE!

WALKING OR RIDING

SATURDAY OR SUNDAY BEFORE 11:00 A.M.

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