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INDIAN HILLS NEWSLETTER

NEWS

It feels like winter hung on much too long, but spring and golf are here at last. While February and March were very cold, we did open the golf course for play on March 29th. That cannot be considered late, but of course, we were all spoiled by the record warmth in March of 2012. Somehow, playing earlier in the season last year made it even harder to wait to play this year. It's warming up now, although we still haven't seen any *above* average temperatures for a long time. The grass is just starting to look lush and green, and the trees and flowers are waking up as well. The greens have been mowed and rolled; they are really pure. It's beautiful, as always; come on out and play a round.



Leagues mostly start at the beginning of May, so right now it's pretty easy to get to the tee. Even in the summertime, it's usually fairly open between 10:00 and Noon and from 2:00-4:00 on weekdays. Do try to avoid arriving at 1:00, as the regular senior group has the tee for about half an hour and there can be a wait. On weekends you can call for a reservation; the busiest times are usually from 11:00-4:00, mornings have more availability.

Regular hours are now in effect: Mon-Thu 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Fri-Sun 9:00-6:00. As always, these are our minimum hours. These hours really only come in to play on rain days. When the golf course is open and people are playing, we are generally here from sunrise to sunset. If you do manage to tee off before we arrive, you may play (provided there's no frost) and pay when you have finished. Please keep in mind that we do stop allowing electric carts out when there is less than two hours of daylight remaining in the evening.

If you still haven't gotten your clubs re-gripped yet, we highly recommend the Winn Dri-tac (soft) and Duratech (firm). Everybody loves them. The newly developed polymer material will retain its tacky, non-slip feel even in the rain (it's possible that we haven't seen the last of the rain).



Inside this issue:

ADJUSTABILITY 2

COURSE NOTES 4

COUPON 4

CONTACT INFO. 5



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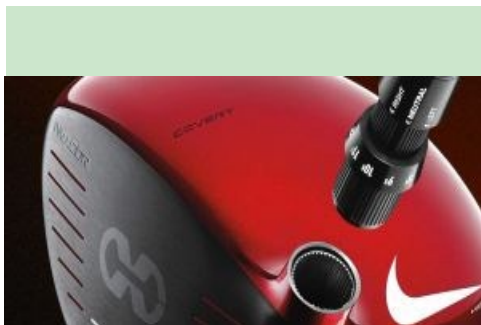
HELPFUL TIPS

Hitting a really good shot with the driver is one of the most fun and exciting experiences in the game of golf. It feels great when you make perfect contact, and it looks great when you see the ball flying just the way you had intended. Often these are the shots that keep us coming back to play more. When you hit a good shot with the driver, you get a big reward; more distance than any other club can provide. Of course, the driver can be volatile; there is risk involved. Poorly struck drives can end up in horrible places like lakes and forests. Often, your worst drives (especially those leading to penalty shots) will cost you more strokes than you can make up with your best shots.

The driver is engineered for distance, and sometimes golfers evaluate their driver on its maximum potential for distance. The real goal with the driver, like the vast majority of golf shots, is to set up the next shot: thus the need for control and consistency. A gain of 1%-3% in distance on your tee shot will not necessarily translate into lower scores, but eliminating your worst drives (the ones that result in penalty strokes) will help significantly.

Two of the characteristics of the driver that have a direct effect on accuracy and consistency are the loft and the face angle. Both of these things also affect distance, but not as much as they do accuracy. Traditionally, the loft and face angle of a driver head were fixed at the time of manufacturing. Back in the day of wooden club heads adjustments were tricky but possible; metal heads generally have not been possible to adjust. Until recently. Now most major manufacturers have at least one model of driver that features easy adjustability for loft or face angle or both. Most models come with a wrench that allows the golfer to loosen a screw, make an adjustment, tighten the screw, and be ready to hit a ball in less than one minute. The current USGA rules prohibit making adjustments during a round of golf. Of course, until recently the USGA prohibited golf clubs that could be easily adjusted. What will the USGA approve or ban next? Nobody knows, but my guess is that both the rules and the equipment will continue to change.

Like all sorts of technology, golf club adjustability can be beneficial if used properly. Remember, in golf, as well as many other things, any potential reward usually also involves some risk. In my mind, the best thing about adjustable clubs is that they allow each golfer to explore different settings and directly experience the risks and rewards for themselves. While a professional club-fitter can determine which loft and face angle will perform best for a golfer, the golfer is sometimes left wondering what would happen with different specifications. Now you can see for



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yourself. Since most golfers fade or slice the ball with the driver (the ball curves to the right for right-handers), it makes sense to try the driver in the closed-face position. But what if it works? If you now curve the ball to the left instead of right, will you be comfortable lining up differently than you always have? What if you just end up trading misses to the right for misses to the left? Some players adjust more easily than others to alignment changes.

Many golfers believe that they will hit the ball farther if the driver has less loft. This is definitely best experienced first hand. Try that low lofted setting and see how many good shots you can hit. Even if you do manage to create acceptable flight, the distance gains, if any, are likely to be minimal. The bad shots on the lowest loft setting will almost certainly be horrendous and should prove that lower is not always better. On the other hand, what if you could improve accuracy significantly while only risking the loss of a few yards? You can. Try that highest loft setting. Many golfers are far better with 12° - 13° than with 10.5° . More loft translates the spin into backspin instead of sidespin; this is the stuff that consistently good scores are made of. For golfers with swing speeds under 80 mph, more loft may very well create more distance also (especially if we calculate *average* distance, including the bad ones).

Each of the three drivers pictured at left are adjustable. The Ping G25 (as well as the Anser) is available in four different lofts; the adjustable adaptor allows the golfer to add or subtract $1/2^{\circ}$ from the original loft. The Nike Covert and Covert Tour are adjustable from 8.5° - 12.5° and allow for face angle adjustment from 1.5° open to 1.5° closed. The Titleist 913D2 and 913D3 have an adjustment range of $2\ 1/4^{\circ}$ for loft and $2\ 1/4^{\circ}$ for face angle also. For the most part, setting the club face in a closed position (club face points to the left for a right-hander) will help keep the ball to the left while also generating slightly higher ball flight. Having the club face in an open position will generally result in lower flight, and is usually recommended only for skilled players.

Successful driving is mostly about reliability. When you have a driver that you can trust, you should stick with it. It is irresistible, though, to wonder if the grass is greener somewhere else. Adjustability allows for experimentation without having to buy drivers by the dozen.

J.C.'s COURSE NOTES

Well it's spring, or at least the calendar says so. So far the sounds of spring haven't been so much chirping birds or the smack of a well struck shot, but rather the purr of a half dozen pumps. Actually the course has held up quite well. It was a very dry winter, and the ground and the river have been able to handle the rain. We are also benefiting from drainage projects completed the past two years that are passing their first big test. In the long run this wet April could be very good for us later in the season.

Golf carts can cause some damage this time of year. We ask that you avoid low areas and make gentle turns. We are attempting to extend our cart path system when we can get millings at a good price. Millings are pulverized asphalt from old roads or parking lots. We have extended the cart path on 6 tee to get you closer to the fairway, but it still needs to go farther. We're also adding to the path at 5 tee as well.

Despite frequent rain, the crew has been able to prepare the course for play. Greens and tees have been mowed several times and Kevin did fairways for the first time today. Jon has spiked the greens which lets the water get deep into the soil, encouraging a deep root zone and quicker drying. We've applied fertilizer so the first warm sunny day should give us a green kick. As we have for several years, we will soon be treating the greens and fairways with a growth inhibitor. This will make the turf appear sickly and yellow into early May. Stressing the turf at this time will prevent new seed formation that uses up the plants' resources and weakens it for the tough summer months. The greens also roll much better without poa seedheads popping up throughout the summer.

In case you wondered: Height of cut and frequency of mowing various parts of the course:

Greens=	.160"	Six times a week
Tees =	.500"	Every other day
Fairways=	.700"	Every three days
Roughs=	2.25"	Twice a week

Time for my annual plea. Please be sure to fix ballmarks on the greens. They need to be repaired soon after they're made and they have to be done correctly. Pinch the hole shut from the top. Do not pry the low spot back up, this rips and exposes roots. Anyone on the crew will be happy to demonstrate. Thank you.



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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.

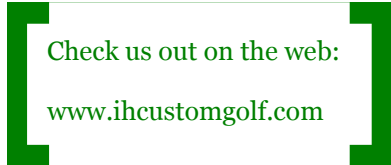
At Indian Hills Custom Golf, we've been building custom golf clubs since 1979. Our professionally certified club makers Sam Anderson and J.C. Petersen can customize clubs for golfers of all abilities, from beginners to top players. Our full service pro shop offers a full range of club repairs, including re-gripping, extending or shortening clubs, re-shafting, 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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