

Letter from the Pro



Here we are at the start of the 2006 golf season and what's the buzz, what's the hot item, what's the piece of equipment that's going to catch every-body's eye? Last year the Ping driver was the "hot item". I definitely sold more of the Ping G2's than any other driver. What has Ping done but come out with a new, improved driver – the G5. Its internal weighting promotes lower spin, thus higher launch and more distance, hopefully. In turn, TaylorMade had to improve on its R7 series driver with adjustable weights. Sure enough, now there is the R7 425 and the huge 460 driver. They have incorporated more moveable weights, a larger head for more forgiveness and a new shaft technology that is supposed to give the golfer more stability for more consistent drives. Don't be surprised to see several manufacturers come out with interchangeable shafts. A few, actually, have already been offering them in their fitting systems. Cobra has also come out with the new "Speed Series" titanium drivers. These are said to have the hottest face around! You'll see all of these in my shop this year for you to try.

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or cigars in the clubhouse, lit ones anyways. This is the wave of the future, cleaner living, and healthier lungs. I hope we won't offend you smokers. Feel free to puff out on the patio or on the course. Smoking within the clubhouse will be prohibited.

So, welcome back! You'll see a few changes at Prairie Isle this year. While the golf course will stay relatively unchanged, (why fix something that ain't take on a new "look", so to speak. You won't see or smell cigarettes, pipes

Also, how often do you go to the first tee without even stretching or hitting a single ball? Well, without a driving range, the latter is a bit difficult, but for those of you who like to or need to stretch before your round, you will see stationed by the first tee a contraption known as the StretchHorse. This is an ergonomically designed stretching station, engineered to facilitate improved performance and health through increased flexibility. In other words, you can use it to limber up and work out those early morning kinks we all have. To learn more about the StretchHorse go to www.stretchhorse.com.

Once again, I will have a fully stocked Golf Shop with some new and exciting things. If you don't see something you've heard about, please speak up. I can get just about any piece of equipment. And, for your business, if you are ever looking for corporate gifts, such as balls, tees or shirts, don't hesitate to ask me. I can get any of these items as well and I should be able to save you some dough.

I hope to run a few more special events this year. Since there will no longer be a Buick Scramble (formerly, Oldsmobile Scramble), I plan on conducting our own Prairie Isle Scramble to take its place. Along with this 4-person scramble, there will be a 2-Player Better Ball tournament, sponsored by ESPN/Callaway. Winners will have a chance to advance to Las Vegas for the finals. The annual Match Play and Ringer tournaments will begin Memorial Day weekend and the Club Championship once again takes place the two weekends prior to Labor Day. For our growing Junior Membership, boys and girls, I plan on conducting a Junior Club Championship for them on August 5 and 6. Any junior is eligible to play in the main Club Championship but school commitments usually make that difficult.

Check out our Web site for the complete list and dates of upcoming events this year. Speaking of the Web site, I hope to be able to post tournament results within 24 hours for you to check on scores and tee-times as well as other current information.

On a very sad note, 2005 saw us lose three good friends from Prairie Isle. Gary Nissen passed away last year. Gary was a Saturday morning Permanent Tee-Time member with his brother Greg. Gary will be missed. We also lost two of our regular members, Dick Degalan, a fine man I got to know from my time as an assistant at Bull Valley and Tom Knoedler, a true gentleman and dedicated golfer, both lost their battles with cancer this past year. I will miss seeing them grace our fairways.

Yours for better golfing,

John Babcock

Director of Golf