

Issue 2

June 2008



AKARANA GOLF CLUB

# Pro Shop News

## Pro Shop Newsletter

Welcome to the second instalment of the pro shop news.

In this issue you will find useful information on how to make your time spent playing golf at Akarana more enjoyable.

We offer tips on all aspects of the game of golf, including new innovations in golf club technology and swing method, course maintenance information, and we also have news from the staff members in the pro shop.

If you have any other questions related to the game of golf please ask the staff, we are more than willing to help.

**Michael Simpson**

*3rd Year Trainee*

*NZPGA Member*

**Akarana Golf Club**

**Thinking of buying a new set of clubs? Here are my top 7 tips to help make sure you purchase the correct set for your game.**

1. Never, ever buy a putter without getting it fitted for proper length and lie angle. The standard length putters off the rack are too long for most golfers. This means you have to adjust your setup and stroke to compensate.

2. When trialing a demo club, always bring your current driver to compare.

3. Women, if you have a handicap of 18 or higher, ask for game improvement clubs. These include wedges with a wider sole, 460cc drivers with at least 12 degrees of loft and putters with a high MOI.

4. If you are buying discounted clubs or a discontinued model, ask why they

are on special? Things to consider are future trade in value, outdated technology, or poor performance.

5. If you are not 100% satisfied with the look or feel of your clubs, don't be afraid to discuss this with your salesperson. At Akarana we endeavor to fit our customers with clubs to meet their expectations.

6. Do a little research on club specifications before you look to buy. Becoming educated on the basics will help you make a more informed decision.

7. Always use the advice of a qualified PGA professional. We are trained in golf club fitting and swing technique, and should be your first port of call when looking to upgrade your current set of clubs.

## Course Management 101

During the winter, courses in Auckland experience extremely wet underfoot conditions, and Akarana is no exception. The heavy clay based soils found in the region are unable to cope with the high level of rainfall during the winter. Because of this, members are asked to consider the following points:

Please keep your trundlers away from the greens (outside the white lines). The reason for this is to reduce wear on the turf surrounding the greens. The repeated compaction of the ground by trundler wheels kills the roots of the grass, and with water

added it quickly turns to mud. A small amount of effort on each persons part will help alleviate this problem, increasing the enjoyment of all members.

Another consideration is how to place the rakes in the bunkers. The correct way to do so is to put the rake in the bunker, facing the direction of play.

The reason for this is to give the least chance of the ball hitting the rake. If it were placed sideways in the bunker, the chances of hitting it increase, or even worse if the rake is outside the bunker the ball could ricochet *into* the bun-

ker, which would hardly be fair.

Akarana is a popular course with approx 55,000 rounds played each year. With this large amount of foot traffic it is imperative members do their part to help staff look after the course.



## New & Sale Items

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**50% OFF ALL  
SHIRTS  
ENDS JUNE 30TH**

**FOOTJOY**  
#1 SHOE IN GOLF

A new range of footjoy shoes has arrived for the winter, which means we are selling last years models for 25% off.

THE NEW DRIVERS ARE HERE!!



N I K E G O L F

Demo clubs are available in the shop for members to trial.

JUST ARRIVED !!!

Sport Leisure Winter Collection

Including:

*Mens & Womens Rain Jackets  
Full length or half sleeve  
Fashion colours*



## How to make best use of your 14 clubs

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You are allowed 14 clubs in your bag, so why not play with the 14 clubs that do the most good?

Things to consider: How much confidence do you have in your long irons? You need to have the skill to hit the ball very close to the middle of the clubface to get a solid feeling shot with a long iron.

The alternative to each long iron is to use the equivalent hybrid club. These

generally have a higher trajectory and stop more quickly on the greens than long irons.

Where do you play? Most of us play at Akarana more often than other courses, so your set make up should reflect Akarana conditions. We have long par threes, which would suit a hybrid club. We also have bunkers with coarse sand, which suits a sand wedge with less bounce and a wide sole.

Remember, if you analyse your rounds (and you should) you will find that you hit the most shots with your putter, followed by your wedges, followed by your driver. From this information you can evaluate your wedge game and course conditions to help you determine which are the best wedges to carry.

The best set make up can make a big difference in your scoring and can definitely improve your confidence level.

## New Craze on the US Tour

By Peter Hay-MacKenize, Teaching Professional, Akarana Golf Club

'Stack & Tilt' is the latest method of swinging the golf club to hit the US Tour.

Pre-Swing: At address, the shoulders are directly over the hips; toes of the shoes are turned out.

Back-Swing: Weight stays on the left foot, while the club is taken away in a steep plane. Left arm is at a 40 degree angle to the target line at finish of back-swing. Left leg flexes, right leg straight-

ens. Head does not move. Spine stays vertical. It will feel like your upper body is tilted toward the target.

Forward-Swing: Start the forward swing with a lateral move of the left hip towards the target. Left leg straightens, right leg flexes. At impact, thrust hips forward.

Advantages: Head stays still



*Aaron Baddeley, one of the US Tour stars using the stack and tilt method.*

which improves quality of contact with the ball at impact.

Disadvantages: Can make the angle of approach too steep on the ball. Possible stress on the back.

Come and see me if you have any reaction to this method, or if I can help you use some aspects of it.

## Apprentice Report

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At the time of writing this report I have just returned from an Australian PGA coaching and business school in Sydney. The week long school included speakers from top golf clubs in Australia, with topics ranging from coaching technology to golf physiotherapy to golf retailing. Australian golf professionals are amongst the world leaders in coaching techniques and retail, so the information I learnt from this school was very valuable to my career as a club professional.

I am almost half way through the third and final year of my apprenticeship at Akarana, and only have a small number of assignments and playing requirements to fulfill. I am enjoying my job at Akarana, most of my time is spent managing the pro shop but as I become qualified at the end of the year I would

like to do more teaching and club repair. I have an interest in improving the junior program and I intend to work alongside Peter Hay MacKenzie to achieve a better system, as I feel this has been neglected over the past few years. I have also enjoyed working with the women's pennant teams this summer



*Hitting a bunker shot from the 18th hole at Akarana, didn't get up and down from memory!*

and I would like to continue to help with these teams for next year's competition.

I have been managing the pro shop retail operation for the past year, and I aim has been to give the members great deals on the best golf equipment. The shop is owned by Akarana, so any profit made is invested back into the club. We have new stocks of hardware and clothing arriving all the time, so look out for new products in demo days and fashion parades happening at the club in the near future.

## New iron technology

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Iron technology has rapidly improved in the last few years, especially for players in the mid to high handicap range.

Lower center of gravity and higher MOI parameters give an iron which is unbelievably easy to hit. Explained simply; lower center of gravity is achieved by putting a heavy weight in the bottom of the club, which has the effect of launching the ball higher (and further) into the air. High MOI is achieved by adding weight to the heel and toe of the club, which reduces its ability to twist in your hands if you miss the middle of the club face. Think of why a high wire acrobat

carries a long beam. They are less prone to tipping over if more weight is away from their center of gravity. Same principle applies with golf clubs.

### *Graphite or Steel shafts?*

Steel shafts offer more feel and feedback to the accomplished player. Graphite shafts are lighter and reduce the shock felt through the wrists and elbows from hitting the ground.

### *3 iron or Hybrid club?*

Hybrid clubs have a much

lower center of gravity than a traditional 3 iron, so I recommend all players with a handicap of 15 or higher have a hybrid club in their bag. The ball will fly much higher, and be a lot easier to hit than a traditional 3 iron.

If you require assistance or would like to further discuss iron technology, please see the Akarana golf professionals in the pro shop.

*"Graphite shafts are lighter and reduce the shock felt through the wrists and elbows from hitting the ground"*

## New shop assistant, Mrs Ann Collins

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Welcome to the pro shop team to Ann Collins, wife of Akarana Golf Manager Peter. Ann has worked at Akarana as the course gardener for the past year, but after her recent hip operation left her unable to continue work on the course she has started working part time in the pro shop.

Ann has been a member of Akarana for 18 years, and currently volunteers as the

Weekend Ladies Vice Captain. She has past experience working in the golf industry, having worked at Brigantine Golf Club in New Jersey, USA for two years in the mid 90s. Her outgoing personality and past experience will be an asset to the shop, and we wish her the best in her new role.





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**Teaching Professionals:**  
*Peter Hay-MacKenzie NZPGA AAA Member*  
*Michael Simpson NZPGA Trainee Member*

**We are on the web!**  
[www.akaranagolf.co.nz](http://www.akaranagolf.co.nz)

**Pro Shop Winter Opening Hours**

*Monday* ..... 7am — 5pm

*Tuesday* ..... 7:30am — 5pm

*Wednesday* ..... 7am — 5pm

*Thursday* ..... 7:30am — 5pm

*Friday* ..... 7:30am — 5pm

*Saturday* ..... 7am — 5pm

*Sunday* ..... 7am — 5pm

# New Products from Cobra

**COBRA GOLF STORE**

**HIGHER INERTIA. FASTER BALL SPEED. LONGER WALKS.**  
The New King Cobra Speed® LD & Pro Drivers.

**SPEED LD X**     **SPEED LD F**     **SPEED LD M**     **SPEED LD**