



Cobra Baffler TWS

PRICE: £129 LOFTS: 16, 18, 20, 23, 26, 29 CONTACT: 01480 301114, www.cobragolf.co.uk

TECH TALK: The latest in long line of Cobra Bafflers, the TWS has three internal weights on the perimeter of the sole and a fastback crown design to place the Centre of Gravity further back and lower down in the clubhead. This club is designed to increase the Moment of Inertia and help launch the ball more easily. The large, laser-welded 275 maraging-steel face insert is intended to provide consistent ball speeds across the entire face, while the contoured sole has been designed to improve turf interaction and reduce digging.

WHAT OUR TESTERS SAY: The 2009 incarnation of the club that started the hybrid club revolution, Cobra's latest Baffler can be summed up in one word: hot. This is a seriously powerful club that is all about smashing the ball forwards from tee, fairway or rough, although such is the nature of it you might not want to risk hitting to a green where overshooting means certain death. The head looks quite elongated and the face area is one of the largest on the test, the net result of which is a club which is just ridiculously easy to use.

GW VERDICT: A seriously high-quality club from Cobra, the new Baffler might not have been the straightest but high ball speed and low spin equals big hitting. Superb.



John Letters T-Series

PRICE: £69 LOFTS: 17, 20, 23, 26 CONTACT: 08000 139139, www.johnletters.com

TECH TALK: Constructed from 17-4 stainless steel, the T-Series hybrid uses dual weights to move the Centre of Gravity low and deep in the head for a higher ball flight and reduced spin. Weight being moved to the fringes of the club also increases the Moment of Inertia while a Power Bar delivers more weight directly behind the ball for a more solid feel off the face at impact. A low-profile shallow face inspires confidence at address while an ultra-lightweight Aldila Tour Gold shaft helps maximise distance and control.

WHAT OUR TESTERS SAY: One of the least expensive clubs on the test, John Letters' hybrid was more than a little reminiscent of the original TaylorMade Rescue – which is no bad thing. The shaft did feel a little short but it had little trouble keeping up with the majority of the other clubs. The feel off the face was not particularly lively, and although there was a degree of inconsistency in the distances being hit, the T-Series was incredibly forgiving on off-centre hits. The standard grip might be a little too large for some players.

GW VERDICT: Reasonable performance from John Letters, especially from less-than-perfect lies where the v-shaped sole really proved its worth.



MD Golf Seve Icon

PRICE: £70 LOFTS: 15, 18, 21, 24, 27 CONTACT: 02894 460333, www.mdgolf.co.uk

TECH TALK: Designed specifically to help produce the kind of elevated ball flight not usually associated with hard-to-hit long irons, the new Seve Ballesteros Icon hybrid employs extreme perimeter weighting to lower the Centre of Gravity and increase the Moment of Inertia required for a high-launch, high forgiveness club. With a UST Proforce V2 shaft and a matching UST Multi-Compound grip as standard, and an impressive black PVD (physical vapour deposition) finish, the Icon hybrid aspires to be worthy of the Seve name.

WHAT OUR TESTERS SAY: Another good showing from Irish company MD Golf. The Seve Icon club might not give you the great man's skills but it certainly can help to extricate players from the sorts of situations Seve regularly found himself in, proving extremely adept from rough lies thanks to its deep face. But this club is not simply about escapology; the Icon was pretty powerful too, while a higher ball flight made it one of the better clubs for stopping the ball on the green from distance. At just £70, it won't break the bank either.

GW VERDICT: Proof that good quality need not cost the earth. The MD was one of the leading clubs outside the top 5, and offers both performance and price.



Nicklaus Polarity

PRICE: £79 LOFTS: 18, 21, 24, 27, 30 CONTACT: 0870 902 2048, www.nicklausgolf.com

TECH TALK: With less offset than other hybrids in the Nicklaus range, the Polarity optimises stability through the use of a centre runner flanked by thinner stabilising rails that reduce drag. An extra 50g of weight through the centre runner increases the launch angle while perimeter weight distribution creates a higher Moment of Inertia for greater forgiveness and stability. A multi-layered face is thinner around the edges and thicker in the centre, expanding the club's trampoline zone. An iron-like face helps blend with the irons in the set.

WHAT OUR TESTERS SAY: Another of the elongated head brigade, the Nicklaus is all about ease of use. The head is large, the offset helps square the club and if you are fighting the slice this is a club well worth considering. But to do so you'll have to get used to a noise that is, at best, a little unusual (one tester described its acoustics as like a hollow cricket bat). Looks-wise, the Polarity was not at all offensive and gives the definite impression that getting the ball in the air would be no trouble. The price is right, too.

GW VERDICT: A mixed bag from a club that looks fine, performs pretty well (it was one of the longer clubs on test) but sounds utterly bizarre, which lets it down a touch.