

# Your game

## THIS MONTH:

- WE REVIEW A BATCH OF FAIRWAY WOODS
- TITLEIST'S NEW 905T DRIVER
- YOUR VERDICT ON WEDGES
- HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR POSTURE
- WHAT TO DO WITH A SLOPING LIE



## Isn't it good – Persimmon wood!

**Some 14 years after The Open was last won by a golfer wielding a Persimmon driver, Dan Murphy relives a golden age of golf club craftsmanship and remembers the unmatched feel of wood**

I REMEMBER attending the 1993 Open at Royal St George's and investing in a Cleveland persimmon Brassie. It was the last wooden-headed cub I ever bought. By the end of that week Greg Norman had brought Sandwich to its knees wielding a space-age King Cobra metal and alongside them the likes of TaylorMade and Petron began to dominate the marketplace. Ever since, drivers have got bigger and lighter. Much bigger and much lighter, in fact.

Wooden heads became obsolete, but now Persimmon Golf are bringing this classic material back into the game with a range of stunning-looking woods that combine heritage and craft with state-of-the-art shaft and grip components.

I can honestly say that no other parcel to arrive at NCG in recent times has attracted such interest and excitement as this one did.

The memories came pouring back of the days of searching for that perfect head shape and feel, when you knew that every single driver looked and played slightly differently to the next.

The gorgeous polished finish. The screws – hence the phrase, now redundant, about catching one right out of the screws. The beautiful rounded body.

Nevertheless, it was with trepidation, as well as fascination, that I headed to the range to try them out. I half-expected to be unable to get the ball

airborne; that they would be impossible to use.

In fact, I caught my first attempt right out of the aforementioned screws – and experienced a feel I'd forgotten existed in golf. Along with that, the sound was a blast from the past. Not just off the face, but the ball made a different noise as it fizzed away.

Suddenly I knew exactly what several pros have meant over the years about ball-striking becoming a dying art. With a bit of skill, these clubs can make the ball go round corners. It simply comes too quickly off the face of modern drivers to achieve the same effect.

It reminded me how rare it is now to see a shot that starts well left of target and ends up right. Or vice versa. These days, the direction a shot starts off is much more often where it finishes.

It's true that if you miss the centre of a Persimmon you suffer much more than with a modern driver. I'm also pretty sure you lose distance playing into the wind simply because there is more spin on the ball. Hit one out of the meat, however, and it will go as far as your best shot with a 460cc titanium.

But that's not really the point. Each and every one of us should have a hit with these clubs if only to remind ourselves what the game is all about and how a ball was meant to feel as it leaves the club.

Now that's priceless.

### PERSIMMON v TITANIUM

**WHAT'S the difference between persimmon and titanium?**



Titanium is a lighter, stronger and harder material than persimmon. That enables heads to be made much bigger without increasing the overall weight of the club. Persimmon Golf clubheads are crafted and finished in Kentucky, USA, then assembled in the UK.

"The outstanding qualities of persimmon – the combination of feel, accuracy and length – are impossible to replicate in metal," they say.

• Persimmon Golf's T-Classic driver costs £269 (Fujikura graphite) inc. delivery. Visit [persimmongolfeurope.com](http://persimmongolfeurope.com) or call 01558 822 552