

## Golf

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spot on the club, it will still deliver a decent hit. With the old-style clubs it would have been just another miss. A beginning golfer probably won't notice much difference."

Stachnik believes golf balls have made the biggest improvements.

"The solid-core golf ball allows manufacturers to do so much more with the compression of the ball," he said. "It's allowed the slower swingers to compensate with softer-core golf balls. Before they gave up distance on every hit with a hard-core ball, but now the softer core makes the golf ball more lively and provides more distance."

Roger Jabara, who has been involved in the local golf scene for nearly 40

years, thinks the new golf equipment has made the game overall more appealing to the masses.

"It's just like the revolution in skiing equipment that has occurred over the last decade," said Jabara, a former director of golf at Shanty Creek who now is on the Crystal Mountain golf staff. "The new shaped skis make skiing easier for everyone. The new golf equipment is the same way. It makes the game easier to play for everybody. The game of golf is played in the air. You have to hit the ball into the air and control it to score. The new clubs help you get the ball in the air."

Jabara believes the biggest improvement in equipment can be seen in women's clubs.

"When I first started teaching, the women golfers would show up with their husband's old set or a

cheap, heavy set they had bought at a discount store," he said. "It was obvious that nobody had helped them, but they didn't have great choices even a few years ago."

Golf club manufacturers are offering lighter clubs made for female golfers, he said.

"They aren't just a cut-down man's version of the same club," he said. "You see a lot more women playing today and enjoying the game a lot more. Their numbers are growing faster than the men."

While new golf equipment may not make the average golfer into Tiger Woods, it may make the game a little more enjoyable and a little easier to play, especially for those players still holding on to their "real" wooden clubs. Most are hanging on golf club walls as artifacts and museum pieces.



Record-Eagle/Doug Tesner

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