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golf

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...with Helen Alfredsson,
Nick Dougherty & Denis Pugh

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TITLEIST PTS SOLO

While the all-conquering Titleist Pro V1 (and its latest ProV1* alternative) balls continue to dominate the podiums on the pro tours, its performance features – not to mention its price – are not for all types of golfers.

The company has been busy refining the popular Titleist PTS range, for many years a durable and affordable ball packaged in that distinctive red box. The latest addition to the family is the PTS Solo, specifically targeted at golfers with mid

to low swing speeds. The aim has been to design a core-and-cover combination that will deliver increased core velocity, higher ball speed (and hence longer distance) for golfers with nominally slower swing speeds. The company claims the new design delivers a softer feel than its predecessor and also generates less spin, thereby reducing the effects of hook and slice spin.

Price: £22.00 per dozen

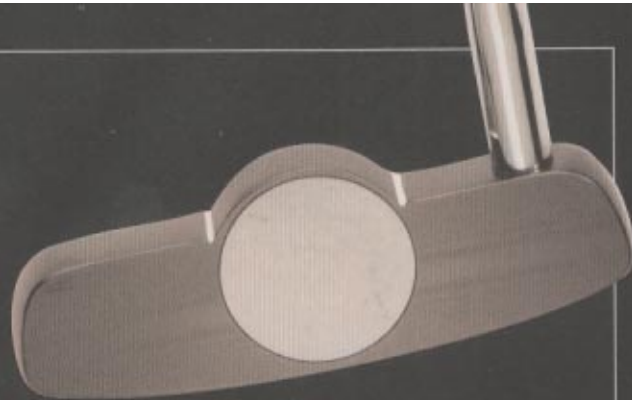
Contact: 01480 301114;
www.titleist.co.uk

KING COBRA FORGED SS IRONS

While Callaway grabbed the glory for the first oversize metal wood, it was its Carlsbad neighbour, Cobra, who pipped it to the oversize iron, back in the mid-1990s. While still known primarily for its game-improvement clubs, the latest King Cobra irons are targeted at the better player (scratch to 10-handicap) and follow the success of the King Cobra SS 370 driver

adopted by many single-figure golfers.

The limited edition King Cobra SS Forged iron is an oversized cavity back blade with a traditional appearance and a hand-forged feel that offers greater workability than its predecessors. The head is designed with a 'muscle arch' behind the hitting zone, which the company claims delivers superior accuracy without compromising distance and



DIAMOND TOUCH GOLF DR4E PUTTER

The most glamorous accessory at the Orlando show was, of course the model, Robin Kay, who graced the Diamond Touch Golf booth wearing a 2,000-carat \$1 million diamond necklace.

In a smart piece of promotion, the company is now offering golf's version of the crown jewels to the first professional to win a PGA Tour event using its DR4E driver, which is propelled by an insert fashioned from 20-carat industrial grade diamond powder.

In the meantime, sparklers are again the story in the company's matching putter. This time it's a 12-carat diamond insert in the head of a stainless steel, flat mallet head with a milled face. Most interesting is how the club rebels against the fashion of the soft-feeling putters of recent years, with the company claiming that the same ultra-hard properties of diamond that power the driver are equally appropriate for the

putter-face.

"The idea of 'soft' putters is a cyclical fad," says Larry Parks, the company's technical adviser. "Ideally, a face should be made of a low-spinning material that will limit the skidding and jumping of the ball at impact, which affects its line when it lands.

Diamond, with just 5% of the friction of titanium, encourages the truest roll," he claims.

Having already endorsed the driver (which he says gives him an extra 20 yards), Ronan Rafferty has also taken to the putter, which is rounded off by a triple-bend, face-balanced True Temper shaft and a Golf Pride 'pistol' grip.

With the diamond face certainly providing a unique feel, there's no doubt that whoever said "you drive for show but putt for dough" obviously hadn't sampled this stylish piece of kit.

Price: £349

Contact: 00 1 281 655 83 41;
www.diamondtouchgolf.com

forgiveness. The sleek look is furthered by the minimal offset that also promotes a more penetrating trajectory.

As with the regular King Cobra irons, the forged version incorporates a 'skid' sole to prevent both digging and thin shots.

Price: £675 for 8 irons (3-PW) with True Temper Dynamic Gold steel shafts

Contact: 01480 301114;
www.cobragolf.co.uk

