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# Santa Says

#### It's a new time of year for the PGA Championship (May 16-19)

2019 PGA Championship: Tiger Woods grouped with Brooks Koepka, Francesco Molinari at Bethpage Black. The three most recent major champions will play at Bethpage.

Thinus likes Brooks Koepka, and the fact that he finished 2nd to Tiger at The Masters puts him in good stead for the PGA. He has three majors and will become only the fourth player in the game to achieve a little history if he wins his fourth before turning 30 in May 2020.

Francesco went past Tiger to win the Open Championship last year, showing little concern for his little charge in the fourth round. However, the Tiger roar at Augusta caused the Italian to falter twice on the back nine. Check the classic picture with Tiger on the green at 12 while the leader, Francesco and playing partner, **Tony Finau** were playing their 3rd shots over the water.



Bethpage Black is a big course! You don't go there to achieve your personal best; you go there to survive. Tiger was the only player under par (-3) when he won the US Open there in 2003. More recently, Patrick Reed got it to -9 when he won the Barclay's there in 2016. I think the big guns will have the advantage and this time I am not ruling Tiger out at all...he may out-think, out-play and intimidate again. This week we will again offer the Golf Champs PGA pool (I'll send a separate mail). Start thinking about your four picks.

Bethpage State Park - Black Course																						
Tee	Rating/Slope	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
2009 U.S. Open		430	389	232	517	478	408	525	210	460	3649	508	435	504	605	158	459	<b>490</b>	207	411	3777	7426
2002 U.S. Open		430	389	205	517	451	408	489	210	418	3517	492	435	499	554	161	459	479	207	411	3697	7214
Par	U.S. Open <sup>[10]</sup>	4	4	3	5	4	4	4	3	4	35	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	3	4	35	70
Par		4	4	3	5	4	4	5	3	4	36	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	3	4	35	71
2012 Barclays		430	389	230	517	478	408	553	210	460	3675	502	435	501	608	161	478	490	207	411	3793	7468
Blue	77.5 / 155	430	389	230	517	478	408	553	210	460	3675	502	435	501	608	161	478	490	207	411	3793	7468
White	74.2 / 148	429	354	158	461	423	386	502	191	385	3289	434	421	432	480	152	430	457	195	394	3395	6684
Red	71.2 / 137	426	346	128	438	401	376	489	152	293	3049	377	412	403	472	139	417	431	178	345	3174	6223
Handicap		8	16	18	2	4	10	6	14	12		9	11	7	3	17	1	5	13	15		



## A big announcement!

**Anne Coesens**, owner of the popular Bard'au, combining style, beauty and wellness, will open a second location here at The Links on **1 June!** 



Our Aqua Spa, independently owned and operating here since day 1 in 2006, was a drawcard for members and visitors alike. Bard'au has achieved success and a large following here in St Francis. Anne's commitment to our members begins with 10% off on all treatments - at this location; another great member benefit here at the Club. The timing couldn't be better as Bard'au had already committed to being the umbrella sponsor for this year's Ladies' Invitational on June 1st!

Please welcome Anne and her professional team to The Links!

## What the camera caught

When you spot something, take a pic and send it to me!



# Happy Visitors

Guests from **Pacific Links** and ambassadors from **Pezula** - they will be talking about us!



# Coming soon...

Put these in the **must do** column!





# The St Francis Links Hotel by Mantis

# 1st unit starting now!

The proposed St Francis Links Hotel by Mantis is being sold as a sectional

#### title scheme. Commencement is based on the sale of the units.



The Hotel will consist of 60 1 and 2-bedroom suites, modelled after the successful hotel development at Pearl Valley, where the 2nd phase was launched recently. The Clubhouse will be home to reception manned 24/7, the Food and Beverage services, AquaSpa and of course, the home of the Jack Nicklaus Signature Course! Pam Golding Properties are handling the sales for the Hotel. Neil Fox is the lead person: <a href="mailto:neil.fox@pamgolding.co.za">neil.fox@pamgolding.co.za</a>. Saria Blaauw is assisting and they are dividing their time at The Links.



# **Our events**





Ernie and Linda Müller and their Team from **Selective Lighting** are making Fridays extra special at St Francis Links. Once a month, they host the Selective Lighting/The Fireworks Friday Competition. We shotgun start the players for 9 holes. Starting times are based on the season, 14h30 in the "Cool Season" and 15h30 in the summer months. Be a part of growing the Club and join us for nine and some good times after golf! Please enter in advance for numbers.



ITEC are our sponsors for **Open Wednesday** (2nd Wednesday) with meat and added prizes. Invite your friends to enjoy SA's best with special rates for golf, snacks after the game and great prizes – Hey, sometimes Curry Night follows – stay or take away! **Monday Roll-up!** Pitch up and play (9 holes or 18 Par-3 from 2pm). Let's add you to the Whatsapp group.

All day Saturdays: Morning and afternoon fields - the afternoon field will be booked from 12 noon backwards with emphasis on "ready golf".

Monday Men's Book Club - 5pm in Jack's Bar (no reading required). Ladies' Tea (and Coffee) - Every Tuesday at 10am on the Veranda.

<u>Click here</u> for the major events and winners.

# Results

1 May 2019 - <u>Click here.</u> 3 May 2019 - <u>Click here.</u> 4 May 2019 - <u>Click here.</u>

# Every great shot...

## ...starts with a smile!



# **Everyone wants forgiveness**

## Take it where you need it

If you describe yourself as a good or solid ball striker, these two shots still provide you with different challenges. You don't need forgiveness in your irons on the short shot, but the longer #5 or #4 iron shot will test your skills and consistency.



If you're consistent throughout your set, then a better players iron (more compact, possibly forged) is a great choice. If you start to lose consistency in the mid-irons, then consider blending two iron models through your set. A players iron for the shorter irons, and a more forgiving model for the mid and longer irons.



The shorter irons can be compact with a CoG that is a little higher, and closer to the face, with limited launch larger hitting zone and a little more assistance.

The mid to longer irons can be a different model: one that offers a launch assistance.

### It's about the distances

If you want to blend two different models into one set, then it's not about the numbers on the sole. It's about the distances you hit each club. As well as finding the perfect fit, we want to make sure you have each distance base covered.



# Knock it down. Knock it close.



Watch the Tour on TV and you'll see a lot of players finishing like this on wedge shots. It's a clue that they've played a lower trajectory wedge shot. They know its easier to control the distance they're hitting their wedge if they keep the ball on a lower trajectory.



Want to make the most of opportunities and hit your wedge approach shots close to the hole? Then learn this skill.

## Easier control and more spin

You'll hit your target distance easier. And the ball will have a ton of spin and check really quickly. Then learn to hit lower flighted, higher spinning wedge shots.





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