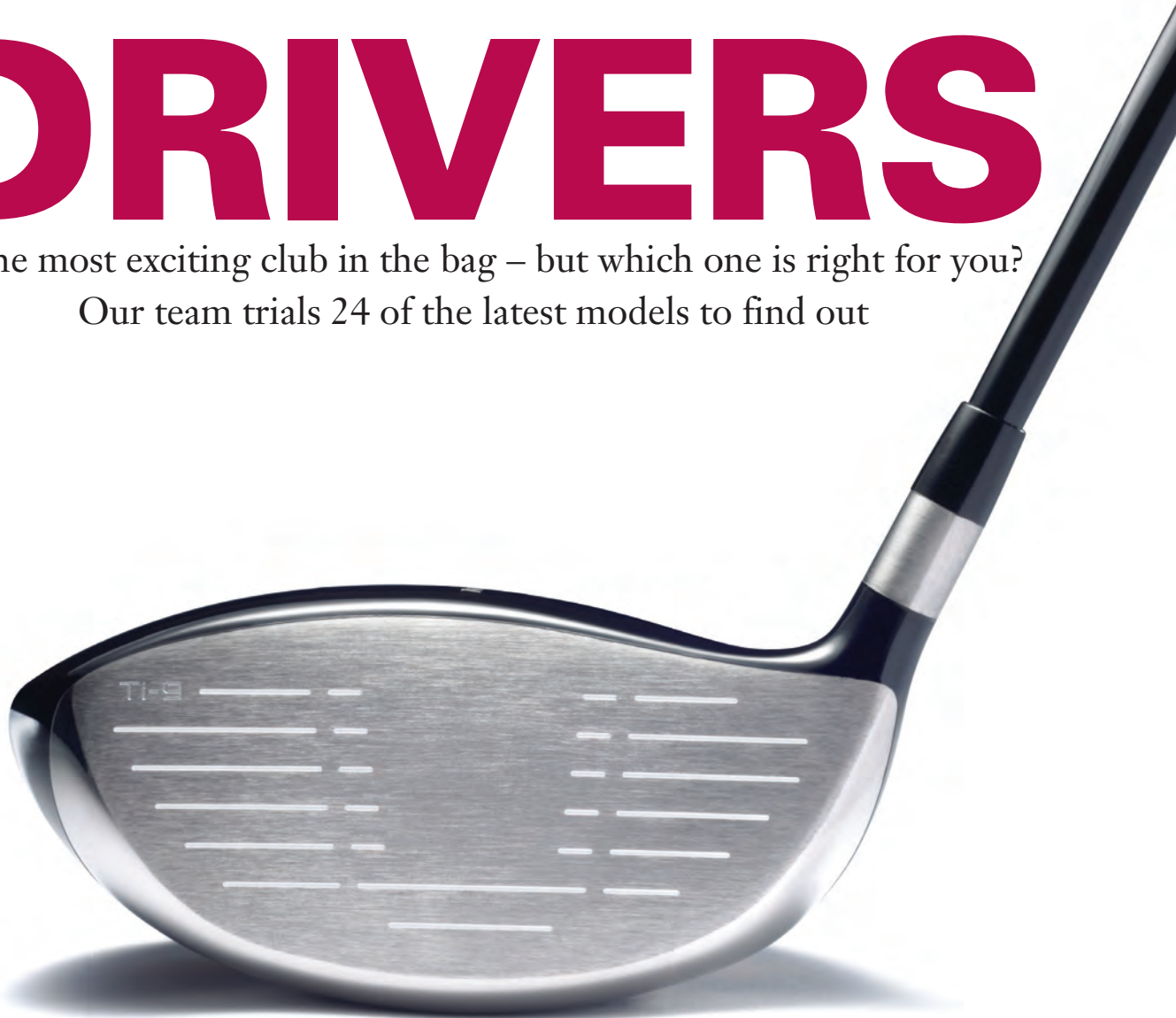


NATIONAL CLUB  
**Golfer**  
TESTS...

# DRIVERS

It's the most exciting club in the bag – but which one is right for you?  
Our team trials 24 of the latest models to find out



# MD GOLF SEVE ICON

---

**SRP:** £99.99 **LOFTS:** 8.5, 9.5 & 10.5°  
**LH?** No **STANDARD SHAFT:** UST  
Proforce **OTHER OPTIONS:** White  
version

## TECHNOLOGY

Titanium construction; perimeter weighting for stability and accuracy

---

## PLAYER COMMENTS

**Joe:** You can't argue with the value and the nice shape, but the sound just doesn't inspire confidence. I hit a few shots that I thought were terrible after hearing them, but in reality were fine.

**Mark:** I really like the head shape but it sounds quite tinny.

---

**CONTACT w:** [mdgolf.co.uk](http://mdgolf.co.uk)  
**t:** 02894 460 333





**QUALITY OF A CLUB MORE THAN TWICE THE PRICE**

**MD GOLF  
SUPERSTRONG ST Ti460**

**SRP:** £99.99; £139.99 with UST AxivCore  
**LOFTS:** 9.5, 10.5 & 12° **LH?** Yes **OTHER OPTIONS:**  
 Offset version **STANDARD SHAFT:** UST ProForce  
**TECHNOLOGY**

Classic head shape; long, shallow clubhead for forgiveness;  
 high-quality UST components

**PLAYER COMMENTS**

**James:** Pretty much impossible to fault – fast off the face, looks good at address, and has a strong flight.

**Dan:** Different class. Brilliant for the money. We all found that this performed as well as anything on test.

**Mark:** Great value and a really nice sound. Excellent irrespective of the price.

**Joe:** The head shape is lovely and offers lots of forgiveness. It feels and sounds much more expensive than it is.

**CONTACT w:** mdgolf.co.uk **t:** 02894 460 333

**NCG COMMENT**

NEVER before has a club or set around half the price of most of the competition been the unanimous winner of our test.

We haven't voted MD Golf's Superstrong our top choice purely because of its price. It was simply that, the more we hit it the more we liked it.

When we request test samples, we give manufacturers the choice of sending clubs in shaft and loft options that we think will best suit us. In this case, to match our request, MD Golf sent us their driver with a UST AxivCore (pictured below) rather than the UST ProForce that comes as standard. Upgrading to this shaft costs £40.

For all we know, the club would have performed equally or almost as well with the standard shaft – it is very hard to quantify the exact difference a shaft makes.

We came away having reached two key conclusions: the Superstrong is an outstanding driver regardless of shaft; and finding a shaft that suits your swing is massively important and well worth paying a little extra for.



# WHAT WE LEARNED

Get the right shaft, forget strange head shapes, and trust adjustability

## SHAFTS ARE VITAL

Shafts are the most important part of a club in our opinion.

Clubheads can influence ball flight, sure, but unless the shaft is doing what it should be during your swing then you will struggle to get the best results. Flex and kickpoint position (where the shaft bends and therefore how high/low the ball launches) can make all the difference so do some research and/or get fitted.

## STRANGE HEAD SHAPES ARE A THING OF THE PAST

One or two clubs on test didn't offer the prettiest aesthetics at address, but generally speaking, it seems the weird and wacky shape phase has been and gone – for now.

## LOOKS AREN'T EVERYTHING

Even if you find a club with a head that doesn't immediately suit your eye, we think you should still give it a go. We found these issues could easily be forgotten after a handful of shots. So before you dismiss a white or blue finish, or turn your nose up at an odd head shape, give it a go.

## FACE COLOUR A FACTOR

It all comes down to personal preference, but the colour of the clubface can really make a difference. The traditional black crown/silver face combination is a tried-and-

## THE TEST IN NUMBERS

**24** Drivers tested

**1** Drivers tested with a square, triangular or pentagonal head (Nike MachSpeed)

**124** Highest clubhead speed recorded by Trackman on the day in MPH – the shot itself was a cold top

**4** Aching backs the following day

tested one, but do try drivers with all-black heads, or white crowns and black faces to see which one suits your eye best.

## SPECS VARY BY BRAND

If you think you are, say, a 9.5° stiff, don't assume it's the same for every manufacturer – different heads work differently with different shafts.

## ADJUSTABILITY WORKS

It's been around for years now and has encountered a fair bit of criticism, but the truth is – and we saw the TrackMan data to prove it – adjustability works. Let's face it, your low slice isn't going to turn into a soaring draw by changing a weight but you will see a difference.

## LIGHT DRIVERS CAN WORK – BUT THERE IS A TRADE-OFF

One of the newest trends we've spotted in driver construction centres around weight. Manufacturers are keeping clubs as light as possible to help you swing faster and get more distance.

We can safely say it works (judging by increased swing speeds on TrackMan), but there is a trade-off. We found the lightest drivers were harder to feel throughout the swing and strike quality seemed to suffer when swinging flat out at high speeds.

## LONG SHAFTS CAN BE WILD

The same applies for another common feature among new drivers – long shafts.

The longer the shaft, the further away the clubhead is from the golfer and the more speed it generates on its wider arc.

This will generally increase club speed and therefore distance, but may well come at the cost of accuracy.

The industry standard, in so far as there is one, is around 45".

Tiger Woods famously used a 43.5" driver in the pursuit of accuracy, and won most of his Majors with it, while Long Drive competitors use clubs over 50" in length. The longest shaft we tested was 46.5".

If you want to find more fairways, go for a shorter shaft, and if you want to hit it as far as possible, go for a longer one.

