

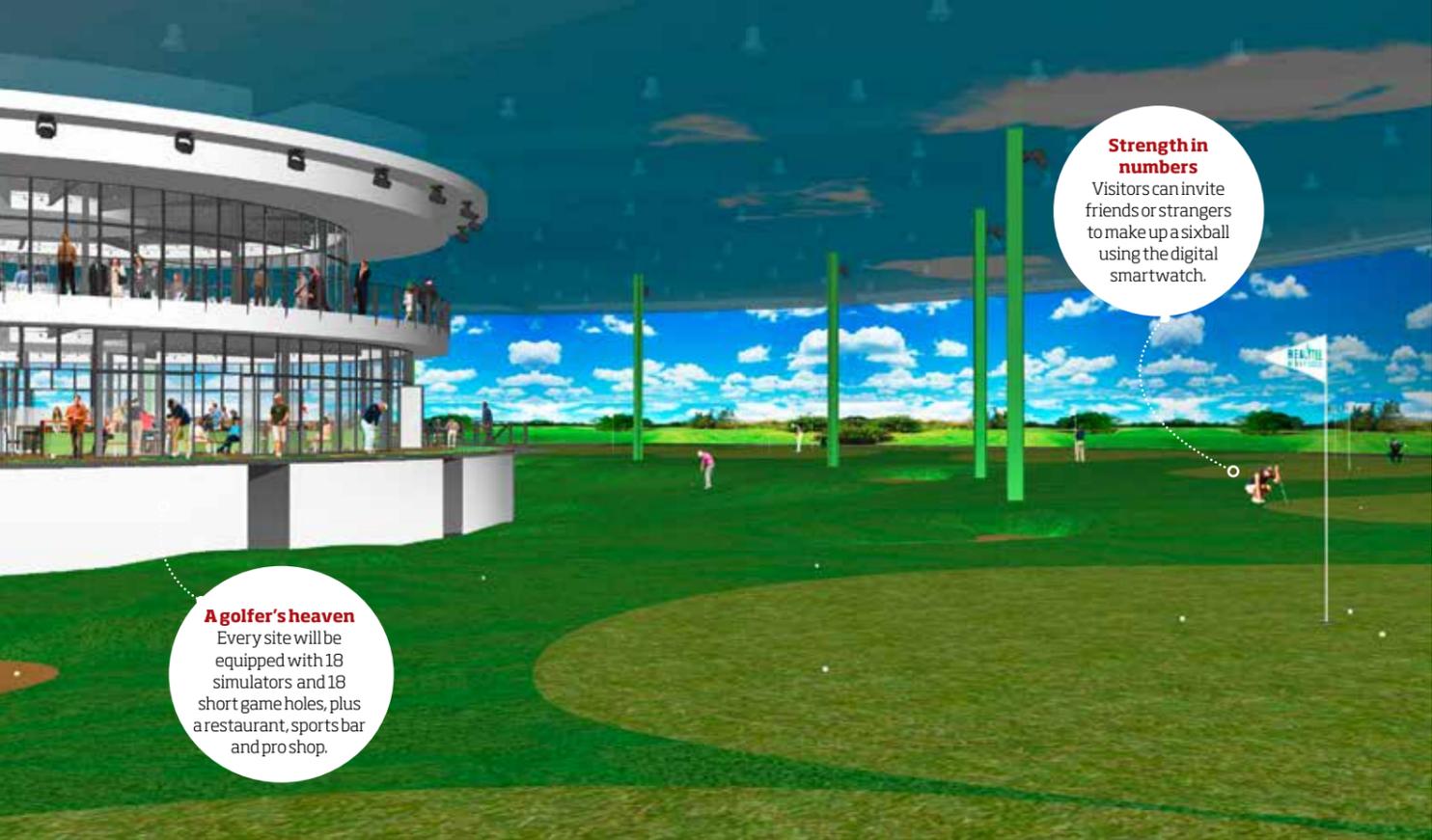
# 38

## BEST BITS OF NEW GOLF TECH!

From apps to wearables, shot-tracking gadgets to GPS watches, these are the best inventions to help you improve your game

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**Strength in numbers**  
Visitors can invite friends or strangers to make up a sixball using the digital smartwatch.

**A golfer's heaven**  
Every site will be equipped with 18 simulators and 18 short game holes, plus a restaurant, sports bar and pro shop.

# Is this the range of the future?

RealiTee offers a 'proper' round of golf, but indoors. We spoke to its inventor

We all love to complain about the British weather, so the thought of honing your game at a state-of-the-art indoor practice facility is enough to set the pulse racing. RealiTee Golf aims to revolutionise the driving range and pitch and putt experience by combining simulation play with live short game play. Ambitious? Perhaps. But world-renowned golf course architect Robert Trent Jones II is already on board and the success of Topgolf has paved the way for new indoor golf experiences. Little wonder Dave Shultz, the man behind RealiTee Golf, can barely contain his excitement...

**How does the concept work?**  
RealiTee Golf is a condensed version of real golf spread across two acres. TruGolf simulators will be used for driving and most fairway shots, but the great thing is that users can choose which courses and holes they want to play. The idea is to recreate an authentic and unique golf experience; that's why we have designed a 70,000 sq ft live-play area dedicated for shots inside 40 yards. There will be synthetic greens with 10ft of elevation variations, small pot bunkers and bridges and walkways so you can get to every hole quickly and easily.

**How do players transition between the simulators and live-play area?**  
Every visitor will be equipped with a

smartwatch to manage the entire game and social experience. The watch enables you to check in on the simulator from anywhere within the venue, and also allows you to connect and play with friends and other golfers throughout your round. Once you are within 40 yards of the green, the watch guides you to your next playing location. From there, you simply press a button on your smartwatch and a laser of light will identify a location to play your next shot.

**Do you have to book tee times?**  
No, slots are typically allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The watch lists how many of the simulators and live-play holes are free and if there's a queue, you can check in and socialise with your friends while you wait between holes. You can even order food and drink from your watch. The beauty is that you don't have to play RealiTee in any particular order. You could play nine holes on the simulator before advancing to the short game area. There is endless flexibility.

**Who's your target audience?**  
RealiTee is designed for all ages and abilities.



The simulator can be pre-set to a beginner mode which creates virtual walls down the fairway to boost the quality of your shot. It's equivalent to using bumpers at a bowling alley and will help to level the playing field between a novice and someone who plays off single figures for example. It's important that beginners don't feel intimidated.

**What's the difference between Topgolf and RealiTee Golf?**  
Topgolf is built around a driving range but primarily focuses on food, beverages and social experiences. It's an entertainment facility, rather than a golf facility. RealiTee Golf will also focus on a social atmosphere, but visitors will have the added benefit of a shot-for-shot re-imagining of real golf. RealiTee Golf was designed to migrate players into traditional golf.

**When can we expect to see RealiTee Golf in the UK?**  
I would love for the first venue to be in the UK. I have been working closely with Peter McEvoy and the millennial generation really embraced the concept when I showcased it at the London Golf Show last year. Recently, there's been serious interest from Las Vegas, Boston Massachusetts and Dubai, so there's plenty of intrigue. The aim is to launch the first RealiTee Golf venue before the end of 2017 and to reach 100 sites by 2025.

# The new way to map greens

The world's best have gone crazy for these funky books

**The Green Book From £40**  
[www.progreenbook.com](http://www.progreenbook.com)  
Apart from the obvious, what do Rory McIlroy, Rickie Fowler, Matt Fitzpatrick, Andy Sullivan and Open Champion Henrik Stenson have in common? Well they're all early adopters of Clere Golf's new Green Book, which appeared on tour in July 2015. Rickie won the Scottish Open the week the book launched and Henrik Stenson used one during his Open victory at Troon. Sounds good, but what is it?  
It's basically an ultra-detailed course planner for each green on the course, to help you read and gauge putts more successfully than ever before.

Clere Golf, the company who came up with the idea, have worked out a super-detailed way to laser measure greens with up to 300 million different reference points and ensure every burrow is zapped to within half a millimetres accuracy!  
The laser's information is fed through 3D computer modelling software to create a complex 2D layout on the pages of a Green Book. Every slope and break of

each green is charted and depicted by a series of arrows, contours and numbers, so you can gauge the degree of slope in any direction every foot across the green. There's also a grid so you can position the pin for maximum accuracy.  
The inventors readily admit it's taken some pros a while to work out how to best use the detailed information that's presented within the book, but they insist the better informed players are, the more accurate their shot planning and making is. Of course, you still must feel and judge the pace of those putts, but this takes a lot of guesswork out of the process.  
The bad news is that you can't expect to pick up a Green Book for your local muni, as the guys are mainly working with the world's golf tours initially. The good news is that they do plan a gradual roll out around the UK over the coming years.  
We reckon the tech is fabulous, but just imagine how good it could be once there's a decent database of courses and it's possible to get the information on a GPS system or your mobile phone?



**Devil in detail**  
Lasers measure up to 300 million points on the green to ensure this book is the most detailed of its kind.

# MicroGPS

The most no-nonsense way to get your yardages

In our view tech should always make life simpler, not more complicated – and that's exactly why micro GPS systems have become so popular. Some golfers just want to know distances to the front, centre and back of greens without all the added extras more expensive GPS systems can deliver. Some need to be clipped to your golf bag or belt, while others can be slipped into your pocket. Essentially, though, they are all paired-down versions of their bigger more expensive GPS handheld brothers. These are our favourites.

**SkyCaddie Aire II £129.95**  
[www.skygolf.com](http://www.skygolf.com)

If you want to keep things simple the Aire II is right up your street. It gives exact yardages to the areas of the golf course you need to know about, and none of the fluff that loads of golfers don't use anyway.



**Bushnell Neo Ghost £99**  
[www.bushnellgolf.com](http://www.bushnellgolf.com)

GPS doesn't come much more straight forward than the Ghost. Distances are shown to the front, back and centre of each green and up to four hazards per hole, which is just about all you really need.



**Golf Buddy CT2 £129.99**  
[www.gpsgolfbuddy.eu](http://www.gpsgolfbuddy.eu)

Golf Buddy's first micro GPS has been designed to clip to almost anything. You get all the usual GPS distances plus lay-up and hazard yardages, an odometer and a clock. Unlike many it is waterproof up to 10 meters, too.



**Garmin Approach G10 £119.99**  
[www.garmin.com](http://www.garmin.com)

Distances are limited to front, back and middle of greens, along with hazards, but there is a view to show the shape of the green and you can manually position the pin. Doubles as a digital scorecard, too.

