

## Green science

North Shore golf centre brings high-tech simulators to help you unlock your game and tailor your clubs.



**GO GREEN** - Green Room director of instruction Matt Carrothers shows off the new motion capture technology. The system, the only in Western Canada used solely for coaching allows golfers to fully analyze their swing. Local golfers will get their first crack at the system starting on Feb. 29 when the Welch Street golf centre opens to the public.

Scott Neufeld photo

### Local renovators win more awards.

A husband and wife duo from North Van were among the major winners at the recent Georgie Awards. TQ Construction, owned and operated by Ralph and Helene Belisle, walked away with two awards for their renovations on a home in Deep Cove. The company was awarded the prize for best residential renovation in the \$400,000-\$650,000 category. TQ Construction also won for best kitchen/great room renovation.

"We are thrilled to be recognized for the excellent work of our crew on this Deep Cove home," said Ralph. "At TQ Construction, we believe in taking a good home and making it fantastic." The Georgie Awards honour excellence in B.C. home building each year. Taking home hardware from the Georgies is nothing new for TQ Construction, which was formed in 1985.

The business has been a finalist 15 times and has won eight Gold Georgie Awards. In 2003 and 2005 they were named best renovator in B.C.

### SCOTT NEUFELD

STAFF REPORTER

As long as golfers have been taking to the links, they have blamed their clubs for a missed putt or a wayward drive. While the excuse is often greeted with eye-rolling by fellow golfers, staff at North Vancouver's Green Room Golf have the science to back up that tired old excuse.

"Most people say it's the club's fault as a joke," says Green Room director of instruction Matt Carrothers. "But it is the club's fault."

Too often golfers simply go to the store and buy clubs based on preference, feel or sometimes based on their own size. But Carrothers says the process should be more like tailoring a suit.

That's where Green Room Golf comes in.

The new North Vancouver business, whose grand opening is February 29 to March 2, features a wide range of PGA level services, from golf club fitting to the most cutting-edge simulators and training tools.

"You probably won't find a centre with this much technology under one roof anywhere in the world," Carrothers said.

A group of investors came together over the past few years with the goal of creating a top-flight golf centre on the North Shore. The warehouse location on Welch Street proved to be the perfect fit.

Although they're expecting to get steady business from the car traffic that passes by, Carrothers said with so much technology under one roof, the Green Room will become a major destination for golfers. He said some Vancouver golfers fly to Arizona just to use some of the technology the Green Room now offers.

"We're trying to bring some of the things that tour players get to use to improve their performance and bring it to the average golfer," he said.

The biggest draw is likely the Motion Capture System, something that Tiger Woods and Mike Weir have installed at home but few amateur golfers have ever seen.

The golfer dons a full body suit covered in sensors, picks up a special sensor-laden club and takes a swing at a ball.

Six cameras capture the golfer's swing allowing coaches to analyze and improve a player's hitting motion.

For golfers who want something a little more high-tech than what a driving range can offer, the Green Room has five Trackman

bays.

The Trackman system is used on PGA Tour broadcasts to determine distance to the hole and analyze a golfer's swing.

At the Green Room the Trackman is used to simulate the feel of a driving range but match it with a high-tech tool to allow coaches to dissect a golfer's swing.

But the Green Room is about more than just science and diagnostics. Golf is, after all, a game.

The IST High Definition Simulator allows golfers to play legendary courses such as Pebble Beach without ever leaving the North Shore. Every inch of these courses is faithfully reproduced using high-definition photography and projected onto a 12-foot by nine-foot screen.

"Some beginners are very intimidated about going on the golf course," he said. "(The simulator) gets them confident, gets them feeling like they belong on a golf course."

But Carrothers says that golfers can improve their game immensely without even taking a lesson. He said just by getting fit with the right set of clubs players can improve their consistency, technique and timing.

"Really, if you're working against the golf club, you could have the best teacher in the world and you still won't improve," Carrothers said.

Using the SAM PuttLab and other diagnostic tools, staff at the Green Room can make your clubs fit you as perfectly as any suit or dress. This doesn't necessarily mean you need a new set, it might mean some tweaking of your existing clubs, Carrothers said.

"It's a much more holistic experience than what people might have experienced before," he said. "We take your golf clubs and assess your golf clubs, so you won't have to compensate and adjust for your equipment."

Once all the fitting is done, Carrothers says golfers won't be able to use that old excuse about their clubs anymore.

"Once the clubs fit the owner, the guesswork's gone, the inconsistency's gone," Carrothers said.

For more information on memberships and training programs visit [www.greenroomgolf.com](http://www.greenroomgolf.com).

