

News

Golf lessons

By Rob Vanderzalm

HAVING a golf lesson in the future might no longer require a visit to the practice range.

Renowned Victorian professional Peter Croker has created a teaching academy where his students can view their swing and get tips via the Internet.

Croker calls it the golf lesson of the future.

"I see this as a revolution that's set to change the way golf pros teach the game," he told The Golfer.

"With high speed internet you can download video images and compress them so golfers can access them very easily.

"That means improving your golf swing is just a click away.

"What I've created at crokergolfsystem.com is a complete learning experience for the student to use in their own time."

Croker believes the obvious advantage of the Internet is accessibility.

In more than 25 years of coaching both in Australia and overseas, he understands golfers have less time.

Being able to get expert advice away from the practice range and golf course is a significant advantage.

"People are time poor these days.

"It's hard enough to give up five hours for a round and then work on your game.

"With my website you can be looking at your swing by accessing the forum and ask questions at work or at home."

While Croker believes the Internet is an important tool.

He insists students should

still seek face-to-face contact, especially at the early stages of their development to ensure they're heading in the right direction.

"Ideally you can't replace hands on instruction at some stage.

"To me the Internet is a complementary instruction that's given at our schools and at individual lessons by our teachers."

Croker, who operates his academy from The Dunes Golf Links in Rye, provides his students with a DVD so they can view their swing afterwards.

He believes the video helps the student understand their swing better and helps them formulate questions.

"Students will always want to ask questions after the lesson that they might not have asked at the time.

"So over the Internet they can ask it on the forum.

"We can see the video of their swing online and get a very thorough answer.

"It means they can move on with their progress without having to come back for a hands on lesson right away.

"It connects the student to the instructor. It allows the student and the teacher to set up a clear line of communication.

"Before there was always a lot of confusion after a golf lesson.

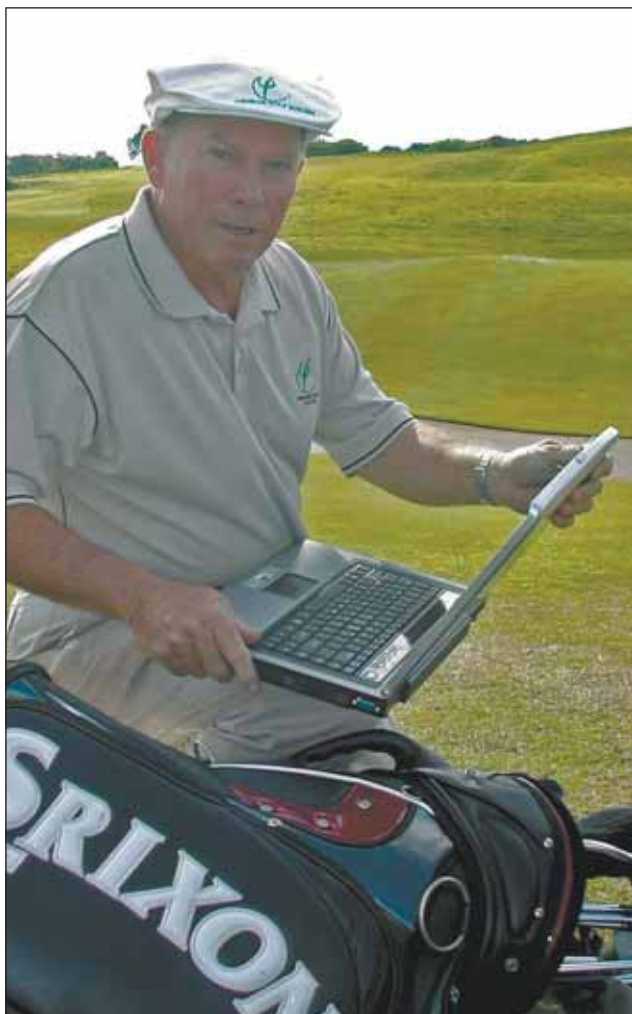
"Most people have a hard time remembering the main points.

"They might get one or two points but they miss a lot."

Croker's website allows all golfers to access the forum at no cost.

There's also a high levels teachers section designed especially for golf professionals

Croker has passed on his



▲ Peter Croker

teaching methods to professionals around the world and currently runs schools in Asia, Europe and the United States.

Students looking to acquire advanced information can access a special members section.

He said the website aims to introduce newcomers to the Croker Golf system and provide ongoing support for those who are serious about improving their game.

Croker believes the Internet will raise the standard of teaching.

"Golf pros will be required to understand more about the

Internet in the future."

"For Croker Golf we're really excited because we have a complete system. My main hope is that I can share this system with pros anywhere in the world.

"So as people become more aware of how workable it is, they are just a click away.

"They can explore what we do without even coming to see us. It opens the door for a lot of people to get good information for nothing.

"Or if they see the value they'll actively participate and eventually book into one of the schools and see us face-to-face."

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