

# READER Report

Five readers put six top hybrids through their paces



## ◀ **Benross** VELOCT ESCAPE

A smart new range from Benross includes this visually distinctive hybrid  
SRP: £69.99

## **Cleveland** ▶ HIBORE XLS

The HiBore range has taken a step up from last year – but did it perform?  
SRP: £109

## ◀ **Nike** SUMO<sup>2</sup>

Nike certainly thought outside the box when they created this hybrid  
SRP: £130

## **MD Golf** ▶ EQL

MD claim this is their most playable hybrid club ever but did our panel agree?  
SRP: £79.99

## ◀ **Wilson Staff** FYbrid

This hybrid helped Padraig Harrington to win The Open – can it help you?  
SRP: £109

## **Srixon** AD ▶

Srixon's AD was extremely popular last year – but has it been overtaken?  
SRP: £99

## READER Report

### CLEVELAND HIBORE XLS



### BENROSS VELOCT ESCAPE



### NIKE SUMO<sup>2</sup>



#### READER 1

**Ross Whitfield**  
Handicap: Pro  
Current hybrid  
Don't use one  
Any reason?



I prefer to use a long iron, but may have been swayed after this

It's distinctive look is eye-catching and it felt very crisp in the strike. It gave consistent feedback and is a club that improves confidence  
**Value:** Good value

**SCORE: 7/10**

This felt very responsive and powerful with a good penetrating ball flight. Nicely put together with a classic-looking head  
**Value:** Great price

**SCORE: 8/10**

The square head is not something that appealed to me but it was responsive, very forgiving and stable. Flight was a little too high  
**Value:** Not great in comparison

**SCORE: 5/10**

#### READER 2

**Andy Barker**  
Handicap: 8  
Current hybrid  
Don't own one  
Any reason?



I find they fly the ball too high for me and I prefer a long iron

I thought the looks were a little ugly and it had too much loft for me, especially in the wind. Forgiving for a higher handicapper  
**Value:** Not good for me

**SCORE: 4/10**

It's a nice club and sat well. The feel was good and very consistent. I also liked the looks, but again, the flight was too high  
**Value:** Fantastic value

**SCORE: 7/10**

The looks were too bulky for my liking but it played well to be fair. It got the ball up very quickly with a higher flight than the others  
**Value:** Too expensive

**SCORE: 5/10**

#### READER 3

**Andrew Barnett**  
Handicap: 12  
Current hybrid  
Don't have one  
Any reason?



I use a seven wood but will be buying a hybrid after this test

I felt the Cleveland had too much offset for me and I didn't like the way it sat. Not too keen on the looks either  
**Value:** Not great value

**SCORE: 4/10**

The Benross felt OK and had a nice flight but I didn't like the way it sat or the pear-shape head. Not really for me  
**Value:** OK price

**SCORE: 6/10**

I liked the square head of the Nike and the consistency it gave me. Great for confidence and felt I could really go at the ball  
**Value:** Expensive, but I'd buy it

**SCORE: 9/10**

#### READER 4

**Keith Askin**  
Handicap: 14  
Current hybrid  
Collection 22  
Happy with it?



Playing OK with it but may change after this test

This was very forgiving, had a nice weight to it and a crisp feel. I liked the higher loft and the way it sat. OK looks  
**Value:** Good value

**SCORE: 8/10**

I also liked the weight of this and the feel. It got the ball airborne very easily with a good trajectory. Not keen on the looks though  
**Value:** I like the price

**SCORE: 5/10**

The Nike did help to straighten me out and was very forgiving. However, the launch was too high for me and I don't like the looks  
**Value:** Too expensive

**SCORE: 7/10**

#### READER 5

**Alan Paul**  
Handicap: 22  
Current hybrid  
Hippo Houdini  
Happy with it?



I get on very well with it

I struck the Cleveland well but it was not as consistent as some of the others. Not bad on looks but not for me  
**Value:** Not good value

**SCORE: 5/10**

This club improved my distance, was fairly consistent and I had no problems getting it airborne. I also liked the looks  
**Value:** Good value

**SCORE: 6/10**

It's the first time I've hit a square club and it felt OK. Good distance, consistency was OK and good forgiveness. Liked the looks  
**Value:** Wouldn't pay that amount

**SCORE: 7/10**

### The verdict from De Vere Oulton Hall, Leeds

**28** A disappointing result for Cleveland who have made a hybrid that would slot in well to most bags. However, only two of our panel loved the HiBore's qualities

**32** The unique pear-shaped looks of the Benross divided opinion, but all our panel had good things to say about the way it has been put together

**33** Everyone loved the easy-to-use nature of the Nike, but the overriding opinion was that it flew the ball a little too high and some couldn't get over the square-shaped head

MD GOLF EQL	SRIXON AD	WILSON FYBRID
		
<p>The best for me. Classy looks, a good boring flight, very stable and fantastic feel. Would consider putting it in my bag  <b>Value:</b> Exceptional value  <b>SCORE: 8/10</b></p>	<p>This is a very powerful club that you could feel squaring up at impact. Classy looks and a great shaft and weight combination  <b>Value:</b> Good value  <b>SCORE: 7/10</b></p>	<p>Looked the part and is one of Wilson's best ranges to date. Very responsive, forgiving and well balanced. Good for confidence  <b>Value:</b> Just about OK  <b>SCORE: 8/10</b></p>
<p>Easy to use and had few problems hitting it, but had too much offset for me. OK in the looks department  <b>Value:</b> Not great for me  <b>SCORE: 5/10</b></p>	<p>I liked the way the Srixon sat as well as the feel and ball trajectory thanks to a little less loft. The looks were OK  <b>Value:</b> OK value  <b>SCORE: 6/10</b></p>	<p>This was the best for me. It sat more like a wood with a large head and didn't appear to have too much loft. Great shaft  <b>Value:</b> Good value  <b>SCORE: 7/10</b></p>
<p>Not a bad club. Pretty average all-round. Looks were OK, as was feel, forgiveness and consistency. Not bad, but not great  <b>Value:</b> OK price  <b>SCORE: 5/10</b></p>	<p>Easy to use and I liked the way it sat, but was another that was offset and not for me. Not struck on the looks either  <b>Value:</b> Average  <b>SCORE: 6/10</b></p>	<p>The ball felt nice off the face of the FYbrid and it was very easy to hit. Longer in the shaft which gave me a little less control  <b>Value:</b> Not bad  <b>SCORE: 7/10</b></p>
<p>Quite a good-looking club and very consistent, but I thought the face was a little too shallow and I didn't like the way it sat  <b>Value:</b> Good value  <b>SCORE: 7/10</b></p>	<p>I hit the Srixon well and it has some great qualities, but it's not for me. I found it to be a little heavy  <b>Value:</b> OK value  <b>SCORE: 7/10</b></p>	<p>Looks great, nice weight, very forgiving, crisp strike and sat well. A little more like a three wood and I'd have it in the bag today  <b>Value:</b> Great value  <b>SCORE: 9/10</b></p>
<p>I tried the MD first and it stuck with me throughout. It straightened out my fade, was very consistent and had great feel  <b>Value:</b> Great value  <b>SCORE: 8/10</b></p>	<p>Even though this had the least amount of loft, I seemed to hit it a bit higher. All round not a bad club though  <b>Value:</b> Not as good as others  <b>SCORE: 7/10</b></p>	<p>I liked the looks, feel and forgiveness of the Wilson which was also good on distance. A good spec as well  <b>Value:</b> Better value than most  <b>SCORE: 7/10</b></p>
<p><b>33</b> MD have proved again that they are on an equal footing with the larger manufacturers with a club that appealed to the majority of our panel</p>	<p><b>33</b> This is Srixon's AD model that proved to be popular in 2007, and with some great qualities that were appreciated by the panel, it's easy to see why nothing has changed</p>	<p><b>38</b> The Wilson has centered past the post by a few clear lengths and went down a storm in the hands of the NCG readers – just as it has in Pdraig Harrington's</p>

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