

What's that in your BAG?

Steve Mohacsy is the kind of guy you want to know when you're looking for a one-of-a-kind birthday gift, reckons *Brandon de Kock*.



YOU KNOW THOSE motorbikes that you see driving by with flames on the fuel tank and riders wearing helmets adorned with beautifully painted eagles? Well, that's the world Steve Mohacsy comes from. Although he's been living in SA since 1981, his accent reveals his country of origin as a small island just off the French coast and, when you ask him what team he supports, the answer's "Spurs, mate!" Steve's a pretty jovial geezer. He's also an artist – an airbrush specialist – and a golf nut. When I first met him, he showed me a scar all the way down his lower left side – the result of a bike accident that's left him with more titanium in his leg than in his golf bag. It was clearly a painful episode, but he's particularly worried right now because he's having trouble trusting his left side on the downswing!

Why is this of relevance? Well, with something like 20 years of bike customisation under his belt, Steve, working under the trade name SMart Incorporated, has put his art onto just about every surface you can imagine including, you guessed it, golf clubs. "I just thought I'd draw something on a driver one day," he says, "so I started doing it in the UK, but it never really took off. When I moved here, though, it took off big time." And in these cash-strapped times we live in, the concept has even greater legs. Can't afford to buy a new driver just yet, but you're looking for a change of scenery on the tee-box? No worries, mate – just get Steve to pimp up your trusty tools!

He uses the same paint they use in any golf-equipment factory, so the finished product is as durable as any standard golf club. And he stresses the fact that each club is hand

Painted: "People always think I must be using stickers or decals, but then they get it: every club I do is an individual work of art, hand painted directly onto the clubhead – and then clear coated to protect the head."

A quick glance through his catalogue reveals just about anything you can dream of, from Premier League football teams to personal portraits, cartoon characters and those classic motorbike flames. "As you'd



expect, rugby is pretty huge," says Steve. "I can't remember how many Stormers and Blue Bulls drivers I've done – lots. The only flag I've never been asked to do is the Australian – surprise, surprise!" Sets are pretty popular too – like the Spider-Man and spiderweb

duo – and the hybrid set that has holes airbrushed into the back so it appears as if the ball has gone clean through the clubface is pretty wacky.

"I worked as an illustrator and art director in advertising most of my creative life," explains Steve, "so I've always prided myself on interpreting briefs really well. Basically, whatever you can think of, I'll find a way to make it work." His favourite designs? "Spider-Man and the Scottish flag works particularly well – and of course my Spurs! Actually, a lot of the flags work really well. And corporate logos look great which is why I've done quite a few."

The price to convert a club is R600 and Steve is based down in Table View in Cape Town, so if you can get your old head to him, there's no further cost. If you need it sent and returned, Steve will help organise it without any problem. Turnaround time is four working days so, "you can give it to me on Monday and you'll have it for your Saturday-morning round," says Steve.

■ To get hold of Steve, phone him on 082 595 4372 or e-mail steve@smartinc.co.za

THE COMPLEATGOLFER.CO.ZA PIMP UP YOUR DRIVER COMPETITION!



WE'VE CONVINCED Steve to customise drivers (or any club, actually!) for two lucky readers. All you have to do is go to our website www.compleatgolfer.co.za and click through to the 'Pimp up your driver' competition where you can post a description

of what you think would be a brilliant bit of artwork on your old driver, and even post an image of what you'd like airbrushed. There's also a gallery of some of Steve's work to get you inspired. At the end of May, Steve will select the best two 'works of art' and the winners will get a free treatment!

