

Stuburt worked with PGA Tour Pro and Ryder Cup star Darren Clarke to design the company's classic leather shoe range.

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Sporting 150 years of heritage

by Mel Cheskin

Stuburt footwear may not be a household name that can be mentioned in the same league as Nike and adidas, but in terms of heritage, with over 150 years of tradition, it can boast a history of quality and experience with some of the great English sport shoe names of the past alongside Gola, Foster Brothers, Walsh, Mitre, Stylo and Hall.

Situated outside Manchester in the suburb of Salford, Stuburt currently specialises in quality golf shoes and apparel. Following in the footsteps of other famous brand names in the industry such as adidas, Lotto and Converse, the name Stuburt originates from the family names of its two founding partners: Ralph Stubbs and his assistant Frederick Burt. It has been around longer than most sports brands, with a heritage dating back to 1860.

Finding its feet

Over the years, Stuburt has launched into many types of performance sports footwear categories, including yachting shoes, soccer boots and ice skates. Stuburt soccer shoes were even worn on the feet of several players in England's most successful World Cup squad back in 1966. Since 1980, the company has concentrated on golf, offering a unique range of shoes and apparel by blending the latest material innovations and technologies with traditional quality and experience.

Looking to the future by going back to its traditional roots, Stuburt has refined its shoemaking skills for golf shoes by offering a range of handcrafted leather models using the Goodyear welted construction technique. Designed in conjunction with PGA pro Darren Clarke, Stuburt uses

wooden midsoles and leather outsoles to make these traditional golf wing-tips, which are a rare find in these days of plastics and synthetics. The Darren Clarke Classic shoe is a combination of old world traditional shoemaking and biomechanical updates.

The traditional components of the Stuburt Classic shoe consist of premium full-grain leather uppers, a full leather outsole with a rubber moulded lug inlay and a wooden midsole with a stacked heel. To bring the shoe up to twenty-first century biomechanical standards, the company has added a full Dri-Back bootie membrane lining for waterproofing. Champ Stinger Cleats and a grommet system have been inserted into the 360 Goodyear welted construction.

Goodyear welted construction remains one of the most expensive quality shoe making methods around today. It is a particularly sturdy welted construction whereby the upper is sewn to the midsole and outsole. In a traditional sport such as golf, where waterproofing is a necessity, the company's Goodyear welted construction offers quality shoemaking, consistent style and fit, plus a one-year waterproof guarantee. The shoe comes in both wing-tip and plain-toe designs for men and women.

The modern touch

Not to be 'out-teched' by the major brands, its Helium Tour model aims to compete in the modern-day athletic shoe marketplace. Designed in the Blucher saddle style with reinforced thermo-plastic urethane (TPU) saddle overlay and strengthened metal eyelets, the Helium Tour contains several biomechanically influenced features. The most outstanding innovation in this model is the M2H TPU shank and heel support for torsional control, which works in conjunction with the TPU saddle and lacing system to give a snug, supportive fit.

A TPU toe guard has been incorporated into the sole to prevent scuffs and stability along with 'swing dams', which surround the outsole for a more stable base and better lateral and medial control on the swing. The moulded midsole/outsole unit includes EVA flex grooves in the forepart for full toe flexibility on the drive and a cushioned Phylon/EVA midsole for walking comfort. The removable cleat system is the Stinger Q-Lok system from Champ and



The hand-crafted DCC Classic – part of the Darren Clarke signature range. CREDIT: STUBURT

the shoe is waterproofed with a full Dri-Back bootie lining waterproof membrane inside. The upper is PU-coated Tectuff leather with hidden stitch and turn seams.

Other models in the Stuburt golf range include the Helium Comfort with a rubber/EVA outsole and full-grain leather, the Oxy Lite, with a lightweight rubber/EVA sole unit, the Comfort Pro with its Action leather upper and the Pro Am II made with a synthetic leather upper. It also makes a range for ladies called Hidro Pro with a hook-and-loop strap closure system and a Junior Helium model in sizes 13 up to adult size six. Another dedicated golf shoe on offer is the H-Lite Boot, a high-cut golf boot with hook-and-loop closure straps. It is made from synthetic leather for all-weather use and is surprisingly lightweight for an above the ankle design.

Not only footwear

If you are as passionate about golf as Stuburt is about its products, the chances are you play golf in all weathers. England, therefore, is an ideal country to wear-test golf apparel. With an impressive stable of fabric technologies and colour choices, the golf specialist is as determined to make its mark on the apparel side of the golf business as it is in the footwear category. At the heart of its performance apparel range, Stuburt is banking on the Dri-Back waterproof membrane system, a technologically advanced fabric lining that allows water vapour to escape while repelling wind and rain. 🌧️

Stuburt's Helium Tour shoe featuring Champ Stinger cleats, anti-shock heel absorption and TPU lacing system.

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