

IT'S BACK!

Yes, the Mahee Times returns for another season and now direct to your door.

For first time readers, we hope to inform and entertain through a series of mostly light hearted articles covering the goings on at the club and golf in general. Regular readership will see that we have retained the services of the Mahee Pro who will be dispensing advice and stories from around the club. There's a new section on golf psychology and of course the ever popular 9 Hole Sudoku returns with a £5 voucher for the lucky winner.

Like all good newspapers the Mahee Times comes with a colour supplement in the shape of the new Fixture List and also a copy of the new 2008 Saturday Time Sheet. Some starting times have changed to assist continuous play so take a note and don't be late!

W M Stevenson Trophy

The Stevenson family have kindly donated a new trophy in memory of the late William M Stevenson, a past Captain and President of the club. Awarded to the 'Golfer of the Year' it will take the form of an Order of Merit with the top ten net scores in selected competitions (see * Fixture List) being awarded 10 points to 1 point and a cumulative score maintained throughout the season. No doubt this will be a closely fought contest that will develop into one of Mahee's premier competitions.

Council wish to extend their thanks to the Stevenson family for the trophy and for this excellent idea.

Office Bearers 2008

The fixture list also contains a picture of this years Captain, Colin Commander. So if you see him on the course please ask if he wants to play through. This is not just etiquette but also (if he's driving a buggy) much safer. And whilst we are on the subject of club officials, congratulations also to our new Vice Captain Willy Moore. Willy is a long serving member of the club and we wish him well on his term in office.

Winter League

Despite a faltering start with the course closed 3 out of the first 5 Saturdays in 2008 due to rain, snow and frost, the Winter League is reaching an exciting climax. The reduction in Saturdays has led to a very tight leaderboard with everything still to play for with only a handful of points separating the top 10.

The INNER GAME

How many times have you stood over a shot and thought I bet the ball ends up in the bunker, out of bounds or after playing a bad shot hear yourself say, 'I knew I was going to do that'. If your last thought before you play your stroke is a negative one it will make you tense and will inevitably affect your swing. This is the same for a putt as it is for a drive. Negative thoughts lead to negative shots.

Learn from the pros; have a set routine so that you do the same thing, whether you're faced with a wide open fairway or a narrow tree lined gap. This way you will not feel additional pressure when you're faced with a shot which carries more risk.

When you stand on the tee focus on where you want the ball to go. When you look down at the ball picture the target in your mind and then commit to that target. Everywhere else is irrelevant.

Thinking positively does not guarantee success but the correlation between thinking well and good shots is much higher than that of negative thoughts.

TALES from the MAHEE PRO

The Captain and the President were teeing off on the par 3, 8th one foggy morning. They could see the flag, but not the green. The Captain hit his ball into the fog and the President followed. They proceeded to the green down the winding path known as Wilson Way to find their balls.

One ball was about 6 feet from the cup while the other found its way into the cup for a hole-in-one. Both were playing the same type of ball, Dunlop 65, and couldn't determine which ball was which.

They agreed to consult the Mahee Pro and allow him to decide their fate.

After congratulating both office bearers on their fine shots, the Mahee Pro asked,

"Which one of you used the orange one?"

The 19th – An Editors View

Can anyone tell me why my driver is now illegal? Now, before anyone pipes up and tells me that it's because Tigers hitting the ball too far, can I point out a couple of flaws in this answer. Firstly, as much as I wish to have Tigers talent I don't hit the ball as far as him. Secondly, Tiger doesn't actually use his driver that often, opting for position over length and when he does pull the driver out of the bag the ball more often than not misses the fairway if not the entire hole. It's what he does after his tee shot that makes Tiger special. Finally my new conforming driver is designed to hit the ball even further than the old one which makes nonsense of the ban. The only beneficiaries in all this are the club manufactures who'll happily provide you (for a small fee) with their latest model. Surely the ruling bodies should look at course design rather than restricting club design.

However rules are rules and we must obey. For further information and a list of Non conforming drivers go to the GUI website www.gui.ie.

Of course we could always go back to making woods out of wood? Now where did I leave that Persimmon?

MAHEE 9 HOLE SUDOKU

This is the first chance to win that coveted **£5.00** golf voucher for the 2008 golfing season. As usual please leave your completed entries with your name on the back marked for:

The Editor C/O Macaw's Golfing Emporium.

Closing date for entries is Thursday 1st May 08.

9			1	6		
	7		8		9	2
		8	6	3		7
3			7	9		
6	9			1		8
		1		8		3
4			5	8	7	2
5	6			9		4
		2		4		

Any news, good scores, bad scores, shots worth celebrating – Please drop a line to The Editor