

Captain's Day Review

With fantastic weather, a great course and even an air display, this Captain's Day seemed to have everything. The aerial theme continued into the prizes with Sam Bower winning the Gross prize which was a helicopter trip. I hope you have a head for heights Sam, and don't forget to take a few snaps of the course when you're up there.

As usual the course was set up in true traditional US Open style, with manicured fairways, punishing rough and slick greens. Congratulations to Wilson, Alistair and all their helpers for setting up a course fit for a major.

It takes a great round of golf to win a Captain's Prize and this year it was produced by Wesley Campbell with 42pts. Obviously Wes had his mind on his game and not his golf shoes which he left on top of the car on the way to the club. This led to a frantic search of the Mahee Road prior to tee off. After suffering a whole afternoon of shoe jokes he'll be happy to put his feet up and enjoy his prize which was a weekend for 2 at the Radisson Roe Park Hotel & Resort. The prize also includes golf, so Wes; remember to pack the golf shoes in the car boot this time, as it's a longer road to Limavady.

Last but most importantly, special thanks to our Captain Colin Commander for his hospitality throughout the day. It's usual for Past Captains to pass on words of wisdom to the new boy but unfortunately this didn't include not making your speech after jiving to "Do the Huckle-buck".

However, whether it is in his role as Captain or as Fred Astaire, Colin certainly exudes enthusiasm and energy, and I for one was extremely impressed.

Open Week

Our 9 day Open week is just around the corner and with an estimated 1000 entries it's not something that happens overnight. Advertising posters, leaflets and starting time sheets all have to be designed and printed plus bar staff and competition starters have to be found. So if you've got an hour or two to spare between the 5th and 13th July the Open Week Supremo Jim Cooke will only be too happy to hear from you.

9 Hole Competitions

Due to changes to the 2008 handicapping system, qualifying competitions over 9 holes are now possible. A number of these competitions will be held over the summer months. Look out for further details on the notice boards and on the club website at www.maheegolf.com

The Inner Game

The Andalucia Open was won this year by Thomas Levet after a play off with the 19 year old Oliver Fisher.

Fisher was in the lead but some how managed to hit his ball into a lake at the 18th after taking an iron for safety off the tee. I can only think that his mind was racing ahead to the thought of picking up his maiden tour victory which led to him making that unforced error. In fact several weeks later Darren Clarke almost grasped defeat from the jaws of victory in the Asian Open by thinking of the winning post too early. Happily for Big D and the vast majority of the watching public, he managed to pull himself together.

The Saturday monthly medal may have a little less pressure but the fundamentals of concentrating on one shot at a time remain the same. So whether it's a stroke play or match play situation stay in the present and celebrate only when the last putt is holed.

Tales from the Mahee Pro

"You surely don't want me to hole that?" the pompous amateur blustered. His ball was about 18 inches from the hole.

His opponent, the Mahee Pro, answered quietly. "No" The amateur picked up and walked on to the next tee. He was about to take the honour when he was interrupted by his opponent.

"My honour, I think," said the Mahee Pro. "I won the last hole, as you didn't putt out."

"But you said you didn't want me to hole out," spluttered the amateur

The Mahee Pro smiled, "That's correct. I didn't, and you didn't".

The 19th – An Editors View

Mid May saw some great results with the Ulster Cup team beating the 2007 Champions, Lisburn; the Irish Mixed Foursomes team qualifying at Dungannon for the match play stages and the J B Carr team winning for the first time ever, triumphing over the current holders Carnalea.

It's a widely held belief in some Mahee golfing circles that we are some how inferior and disadvantaged when it comes to competing against other teams because we are from an "easier" course. Granted that the likes of Knock and Portrush are longer and more demanding. But more importantly the standard scratch set on these courses reflects their difficulty and the scores returned.

Whilst I simply would not say that I am a better golfer than anyone else, I am confident that I am capable of competing against members from other clubs of a similar handicap.

Those who believe they cannot play as well as players from other clubs will undoubtedly end up doing exactly that.

A little belief goes a long way and if you need more proof it's in the shape of a green pennant hanging up in the clubhouse.

Mahee 9 Hole Sudoku

Congratulations to May's winner **Dr R Bolton**

You are all getting too good at coming up with the correct answer so this month we've set you a difficult one to separate the men from the boys or should that be the husbands from the wives? Another £5.00 voucher awaits the winner.

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 Friday 1st August 08.

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