

The Year So Far

Two months in and the competition year is in full swing. Noticeable performances include M Marshall, A Ross, C Doherty and R Ross in the Mahee Team Classic; winning for the second year running. A blow by blow account can be obtained upon request from any of the team members.

In May the GUI Ulster Branch also chose Mahee to host one of the qualifying rounds of the Pierce Purcell. Whilst the club's council appreciates that this meant closing the course; hosting this type of event does bring in valuable revenue in the form of green fees.

Special Report by our on the course correspondent Adrian Ross (no fee involved)

The sun shone from start to finish on Sunday May 10th when again the Pierce Purcell qualifying was held at Mahee. Unfortunately Mahee failed to qualify for the knock-out stages of the competition. The 4 qualifiers on the day were: Ardglass 347, Spa 353, Downpatrick 362 and Donaghadee 362.

The course has rarely looked better and our reputation as a club worthy of hosting such an event was further enhanced.

Thanks must go first and foremost to Wilson and Alistair for the condition of the course, they were down at 5.00 am on the morning of the event cutting greens and carrying out the finishing touches. Their efforts were greatly appreciated by all those who played. Thanks must also go to Colin Macaw in the shop, caterers Mark and Claire, to Kevin McAlpin, Ian Brady, Daryl Moore and Rab Hiles for acting as spotters at the kiln during the day, to Colin Commander and Karl Doherty who provided an excellent service behind the bar and to Harry McKnight and Jim Cooke for marking out GUR etc. It was also good to see Captain Willie Moore, Vice-Captain Lindsay Boyd and President John Hayes down during the day.

One telling comment came from one of the GUI officials on the day, David Heaney from Scrabo. When asked if the speed of the greens was the reason for Scrabo not qualifying, he replied that Scrabo had used all their shots up before reaching the green. If I have left anyone out of the list for thanks please accept my apologies.

WHAT; NO 0.1 BACK?

You may have heard that following a visit from the Golfing Union of Ireland, Mahee's Standard Scratch Score was reduced from 70 to 68.

So what are the consequences of this?

First of all you need to know the difference between the SSS and the CSS.

The **Standard** Scratch Score (SSS) set by the GUI is a measure of the playing difficulty of a course for a scratch golfer under normal midseason course and weather conditions.

The **Competition** Scratch Score (CSS) uses the scores on the day of the competition to quantify the influence of weather and course conditions on the scoring ability of the field. The CSS is the figure used to regulate adjustments to handicaps.

However, if when calculated the CSS is more than 3 above the SSS then the competition is treated as non-qualifying. This means that your handicap can be reduced, but if you have a poor score you do not receive .1 back.

For example; as a consequence of the high scoring during the competition held on 18th April, the CSS was calculated at 72. As this was 4 above the new SSS of 68, the competition had to be treated as non-qualifying. Players with scores below 72 had their handicaps reduced but high scores did not receive .1 back.

The Mahee Pro

The Mahee Pro continues his explanation of golfing terms:

Handicap - An allocation of strokes on one or more holes that permits two golfers of very different ability to do equally poorly on the same course.

Par - Score achieved by a golfer who had only a few great shots in an entire round but somehow managed to hit them all on the same hole.

Bogey - The number of strokes needed to finish a hole by a golfer of average skill and above-average honesty.

Ace - The completion of a hole in a single stroke. The odds against this happening are about 45,000 to 1.

Somewhat worse than the odds of finding a brand-new Pro-V lost in the rough at the 6th (27,000 to 1) but considerably better than the odds of hitting a perfect drive off the crowded first tee (1,000,000 to 1).

The 19th - An Editor's View

6th June 2009 is the day set for Willie Moore's Captain's Day. I have therefore decided to turn my thoughts towards the many traditions associated with Captain's Day. There's the Captain's tee shot from the third tee the night before, which sets the spot for 'Nearest the Captain's Drive'; there's the best dressed golfer award and of course there's my traditional 6, 6 start. There's the 19th hole (hospitality unit) or should this be called the 9½ hole as it is the traditional resting place of the distraught golfer who has seen his hopes of lifting the most sought after prize of the year slip away. After 9 holes players can be categorised into three. The first category pace up and down and nervously wait for their turn on the 10th. These players have a good score going. The second category have a soft drink. This could indicate that they have a good score or they prefer a soft drink or they are being sensible. However, as many a golfing widow will confirm, the words sensible and golfer does not sit easily together. Finally comes the largest category, who require a shot of medicinal alcohol to calm their frayed nerves and smooth the putting stroke. Traditionally the drink measures served to these patients come in two measures. First there's the 'That'll do', which is a double and then there's the 'That'll do, that'll do!!' which usually results in a 'NO RETURN'.

Finally the Captain must enjoy the occasion, and it is up to all of us to ensure that this, the most important of all traditions on Captain's Day continues year after year. So relax, take it all in and have a great day Willie.

Mahee 9 Hole Sudoku

April's winner - David F Kennedy.

Winner receives - **£5.00** golf voucher.

Entries to - The Editor C/O Macaw's Golfing Emporium.

Closing date for entries is Friday 19th June 09.

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