

Annual General Meeting

2nd December saw 44 members attend the AGM of Mahee Island Golf Club. Willie Moore was elected Captain and Lindsay Boyd Vice Captain for 2009. As out-going President, Jim Cooke proposed John Hayes as President for 2009-10. In addition to the new President two new Council members (Darryl Moore and Gareth McKibbin) were elected. The 2009 Captain thanked the outgoing members, Trevor Haslett, Lance Dermott and Graham Rush for their work and welcomed on the new council members.

Despite poor weather and the economic downturn the Hon Treasurer, Stephen Hewitt, was pleased to present an excellent set of accounts which continues to show the club trading in the black.

In appreciation of his service to the club, Archie McCracken was offered Honorary Membership. Archie thanked the club and in accepting, stated that he has a lifetime of wonderful memories spent at Mahee.

In response to concerns expressed at the meeting relating to 'NO SHOWS' on a Saturday, the timesheet is to be reviewed and steps taken against persistent offenders.

The Portuguese Masters – Special Report

Craving a little bit of sunshine in October I happened to be over in Vilamoura to see the Portuguese Masters.

For the 2nd year it was held at the Oceanico Victoria. Designed by Arnold Palmer it measures 7241 yards. Add to this narrow fairways bordered with 10 inch long rough and billiard table fast greens and you have a true test for the best golfers in Europe. Indeed, 8 out of the top ten in Europe were there all chasing the €3,000,000 prize fund.

The tournament was blessed with good weather which led to some very low scoring. It was eventually won by Alvaro Quiros who shot a final round 68 to finish -19, beating Paul Lawrie by three and Karlsson, Webster and Fisher by four. On the course the players have a job to do. They are serious and focused; after all they are at work and their cheque depends on performance. But once the card is signed the vast majority are happy to sign autographs, chat or even pose for a photo with the spectators. Special mention must therefore go to our very own Graham McDowell who stood patiently waiting for me, whilst I and my good lady wife tried desperately to get the camera to function. Another highlight was witnessing Jean Francois Lucquin's hole in one at the 8th, being thrown the ball and getting it signed afterwards.

The other thing I must mention was the litter; there was none. The reason behind this was that not only the number of bins but also the mind set of the Portuguese who actually go out of their way to place litter in a bin or if it's full, neatly beside it. This is something that we could all learn from.

So, what's the difference between a European Tour Pro and say the Editor playing off 3? Well; I have played this course several times and never broken 82 and this was off forward tees. So compared to Mr Quiros that's roughly a difference of 15 shots per round.

Conclusion – The Editor won't be giving up his day job!!!

Winter League 2009

The Winter League kicks off on the 3rd January and will run to the end of March.

Entry fee will be £2 for the individual plus £2 for the team competition. As in previous years those not in the winter league can still play on a Saturday but should mark the competition as sweep so that these cards can be distinguished from those counting towards the league.

A Prayer for the Mahee Pro

The Mahee Pro is my shepherd, I shall not slice.
 He maketh me to drive straight down green fairways.
 He leadeth me safely across still water-hazards.
 He restoreth my approach shots.
 He leadeth me in the paths of accuracy for my game sake.
 Yea, though I chip through the rough in the shadow of the bunkers, I will fear no bogies.
 For his advice is with me.
 His putter and irons, they comfort me.
 He prepareth my strategy for me in the presence of my opponents.
 He anointeth my head with confidence.
 The cup will not be runneth over!
 Surely birdies and eagles shall follow me all the rounds of my life, and I will score in the low eighties.
 Amen

NEW PROMOTIONAL LEAFLET

Green fees paid by visitors form not only a vital portion of the clubs income but ensure that annual member's subscriptions remain at an affordable level. The new leaflet (enclosed) forms part of our promotional programme and will be sent out to societies, hotels etc. But we can all do our own little bit to help our club. If you have a relative, friend or work colleague interested in golf, pass on the leaflet and suggest Mahee as a venue for their next game. They won't be disappointed.

The 19th – An Editor's View

Well, here we are at the end of another year. The (bought) turkey is cooking in the oven and that new driver you desperately wanted and gave so many hints about is wrapped and hidden under the Christmas Tree; cunningly disguised as a pair of socks.

You probably all had a few good rounds, a few more bad rounds and an even greater number of wet ones during the year. Yet despite all our golfing woes we still come back, and down to this little island of ours called Mahee. Whether it was your own game, the craic or just the scenery, I hope your golfing year was memorable for all the right reasons and that 2009 will be even more enjoyable and perhaps a little drier.

Mahee 9 Hole Sudoku

Well done to November's winner Geoffrey Stevenson. A £5.00 golf voucher awaits your collection.

As this is the Season of good will to all golfers there are two prizes this month. The winner will receive a £5.00 voucher with the runner up winning a souvenir programme from the Portuguese Masters.

Send your completed entries with your name on the back to: - The Editor C/O Macaw's Golfing Emporium.
 Closing date for entries is Friday 9th January 09.

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	1				9	
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1			8		7	4
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