



Hi Guys and greetings from the southern-most (i.e. civilised) extremes of our fair island and many thanks to Alan for keeping me in touch with his excellent newsletters. I'm not sure if it is because he has remembered me as one of the founder-members or he forgot to take me of the distribution list! I now have six grandsons with four of them kitted out with clubs and trolleys, the other two will get them when they can walk!

I'm pleased to say that I still get to play quite a lot of golf – the wife and I have a standing booking for the first tee-time on Saturdays and I play with the lads first tee-time every Sunday so no problem there. I get to practise every week so I can take money of my three mates the following day (big money too, £1 front 9, £1 back 9, £1 overall and £1 each longest drive and nearest pin) and being a bandit (now off 18) I get to go home with a few bob sometimes (regrettably not always). All credit to the missus, she hasn't missed a Saturday even with all the wet and cold weather we have had. She often makes me go when I'd rather stay in bed. Unfortunately her longest drive to date has been 90 yards and she won't play for money. She did get me a Sky Caddy SG5 for Christmas though! Fortunately my club allows these in competitions.



I don't know if the Society has discussed these yet but I have certainly found it a help. You start by recording every full-on stroke and writing down the distance achieved. I also add a number from 1 to 3 for poor, good and super shot. When you have enough data you average the distance for every club. Now when you're, say, 98 yards from the pin (it's accurate to 1 yard) you can choose exactly the right club which should get you within 5 yards of the pin. Is that cheating though, unless every one has got one? I remember one of the very first Society matches when that little guy (Ralph is it?) won and we got him his prize of a plastic range-finder from JJB Sports (£2.95 – big money back in those days). It must have worked for him; I believe he's won a couple of times since then.



Unfortunately I have been diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis so my playing days are numbered and the drugs I'm on make me feel like shit most of the time – and I'm not allowed to drink at all as I have no immune system. But the doc says with a bit of luck I shall get about 2 years more before I get a blue trolley sticker which means I can leave it in the Captain's space. So I'm making the most of it, same as you lot obviously are reading those wonderful newsletters. Keep it up guys and all the best. Remember – keep your head down

Regards

Mike Sweeney