

June 2010 Newsletter



Dear Friends

The recent Heritage Classic in South Carolina was the setting for an unusual and yet most heart-warming sports story. Brian Davis from England, in a sudden death play-off with American Jim Furyk, and hoping to win his first title on the PGA Tour and the accompanying million-dollar cheque, called a two-stroke penalty on himself.

Davis had hit his approach into a hazard adjacent to the 18th green, where his ball found a playable lie amid the debris. He then flicked a loose reed on his backswing, which is deemed illegal according to the rules, as he played the ball towards the flag.

Although the officials did not see the infringement, and it was not picked up by television commentators at the time, Davis immediately alerted the referee. In doing so he forsook any chance of winning one of the most prestigious tournaments in America.

How unusual a reaction in the world of sport (and business) – and how uplifting!

The rule itself could be considered to be a bit unnecessary or petty, but doesn't that make it even more gratifying that Davis was not prepared to breach it? He gained no advantage from flicking the reed and did not do so intentionally, but neither did he turn a blind eye to his own infringement. In doing so he acknowledged the general culture of honesty that pervades the game of golf and that has done so through its long history.

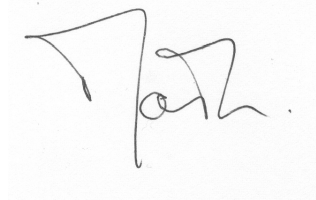
A newspaper at the time also quoted the climax of the 1925 US Open when Bobby Jones nudged his ball while setting up for a shot out of the rough. He immediately notified the marshals, but because neither they nor the gallery had seen the ball move, the decision was left to Jones. The American called a two-stroke penalty on himself and went on to lose the tournament by a single stroke. Commended for his honesty after the event, Jones said : "You may as well praise a man for not robbing a bank."

Whatever conclusions we may come to from these stories (and others) about integrity within golf, the Jones quote surely makes an important point about life for Christians and non-Christians alike. When we do what is right we are simply exercising our duty before God and living how He intends us to live. We are required to do what is right all the time, in every decision and action, just as God does. That is what is good for us, as well as the society in which we live. That is life as it was meant to be and the exercise of true liberty in the world a good God has made. Just as golf "works" when we play according to the rules, so life "works" when we live it God's way.

Sadly though, we don't live that way do we? We praise one another when we don't rob a bank and when we play according to the rules because so often we fall short of doing what is right. We rejoice in the fact that we're not as bad as we could be, and not as bad as the guy down the street, while all the time our right thoughts and actions are sandwiched between plenty of wrong ones, and we hope that somehow our life's scales are weighted more towards the good than the bad.

Of course, though, a perfect God and a perfect heaven require rather more than a majority situation. They ask for perfection. To be with and enjoy a pure, holy God and not be consumed requires perfection of character, not being good on occasions. And so we see how wonderfully the Christian message of Jesus Christ perfectly meets the need of all men, women, boys and girls. All have fallen short, all deserve God's condemnation, and yet all who put their trust in Jesus Christ and His death alone are washed clean of their infringements and credited with His total purity and righteousness. Not only that but they are changed, and a transformed life begins here and is finally completed there.

What a Saviour! What a message! Let's tell some golfers this season!



Mark Pinney
Director



Welcome

We are delighted to introduce our new chairman Tim Hanson who has recently taken up this important role. Please pray for him and the other Board members as they seek to guide our work.

Portadown Golf Day - 7th June

Why not join us and play at this Logos Golf Day on the 7th June? The day will consist of a round of golf, followed by a three course meal and short talk from Ken Revie, PGA Professional and Logos Chaplain on the Challenge Tour. This event is a wonderful opportunity for you to invite your non Christian friends to, and for them to hear the Gospel in an informal environment. Please consider who you could bring along.

Cost for the day is £25.00 per person and includes a round of golf, followed by a three course meal. First prize for the day is a round of golf at the Royal County Down Golf Club.

For further information or to book your place, please contact **Ken Revie, Logos Ireland Co-ordinator** on 07846 669524 or email him on golf@kenrevie.co.uk

Chaplaincy Team

We are pleased that Ken Revie is now going to events on the Challenge Tour, while Bill and Isobel Ferguson continue to attend the Seniors Tour and David Lewis helps Mark Pinney as a volunteer chaplain on the Main Tour. Please pray for valuable contacts as they give encouragement, pastoral care and friendship to the tour players.