



Jude Read is a Senior PGA Coach and Custom Fitting Specialist at Manston Golf Centre with over 20 years' experience of coaching golf.

In this month's Q&A Jude talks to Alex Leroy who is a player on Jude's highly successful Pathway Program and how this unique coaching program has helped his golf.

What was wrong with your game before you came to see Jude?

I was wasting my time and effort at the range and using online tutorials. Nothing beats having a coach take you through your paces and give relevant advice at all times. Minor things would seem major, but with Jude, a tweak here and there, a bit of wisdom and advice, and I could start to see patterns in what I was doing, and to look out for on the course.

How many shots better on the course are you / how many shots lower is your handicap?

When I started a year ago, I wouldn't be able to hit off the tee, hit an iron/wedge or know how to chip or putt. Now I'm probably at around a 28 handicap, have a game plan and strategy and can actually start to enjoy the challenges that golf provides.

What frustrations did you have when playing before joining the program and how did you feel once you completed your first 4 months?

I literally couldn't hit a ball more than 70 yards, and it would go anywhere and everywhere. After 4 months, the game had opened up and suddenly my range expanded. I could enjoy and trust what I was doing so much more. We focused on smaller improvements, that when added together, started to form a foundation with which to build a swing.



How has your knowledge and understanding of your swing improved?

100% - golf as a game and the golf swing itself are very involved, and throughout our lessons. We've built my swing to something that is repeatable, features a good routine, and is relatively reliable in terms of distance and alignment. I know what to look out for when on the course and at the range and can understand why a flight path might not be what I intended after striking the ball. I could only have this feedback loop after speaking with, and getting advice from, Jude.

How does it feel now you have solved the frustrations about your game?

Exciting - whilst I'm a long way off being where I'd like to be, equally, I'm a long way from where I was. This has

meant doors have opened and I can start to go out on to courses with friends and family and enjoy the game more. I'm excited to see where I will be in a year.

Would you say the Pathway Program is different from other packages you have experience with, if so how?

Yes - the programme feels structured, in that knowledge and technique are worked on and built upon over a period of time, with goals in place. Jude is very open and friendly and will always come up with a different way of approaching something if at first it doesn't click. He's always available and excellent with communication. There's a great opportunity to meet other golfers on the pathway too, which I've never experienced before.

What would you say to someone if they asked you if they should they apply for the Pathway Program?

Yes - if you're serious about getting into and improving your golf, you should definitely speak to Jude. No amount of practise, without independent qualified guidance, will ever compare to having a coach alongside you.



You can see if you qualify to join this program by contacting jude@teachgolf.co.uk or visit www.teachgolf.co.uk/start-here