



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 Matthew Brooker who plays at Sittingbourne Golf Club 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?

Chipping and bunker play was awful, I had no idea what I should be doing to get a consistent strike when chipping. As part of the Pathway Program I had a lesson just on chipping, this transformed my game overnight as I now have a good thought and technique to employ in all situations.

I will say, having good technique is great, but practice is essential, and I practiced chipping a lot in those initial weeks and reaped the benefits, I have become a little lazy and the consistency I had has reduced, more practice is needed again.

I also had a dedicated bunker lesson and I confidently get out of bunkers now; I now need another lesson on the finesse side of bunker play.

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

This is a difficult one, I would say probably easily 5 shots on an average day, when it all comes good easily 10 shots.

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

I used to play golf to a handicap of 5 a number of years ago. I am now off 14



having been out the game for nigh on 10 years, so was frustrated that I couldn't play to the same standard as before mainly due to misses both ways on drives and not knowing what was causing this.

I now have a much better understanding of the causes. I still suffer a bit with the 2 way miss but a lot less and it's more controlled now. When it happens, I now know why and can work on this.

How has your knowledge and understanding of your swing improved?

I now generally know why I have hit a poor shot; I can diagnose the issue to a degree and practice the drills Jude has taught me that I know help me eliminate the bad shots from my game.

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

It's good to see the improvement so far, the frustrations have changed, I'm more focused, I still have frustrations

and am continuing the work to get these solved.

I'm excited and want to keep improving and setting targets for my game for the winter and into next season.

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

I have never undertaken a golf lesson package in the past, I rarely went and had lessons only when things got really bad.

I am now a firm believer in seeing a coach on a regular basis; and will be continuing with Jude as my coach (if he'll have me?) as he now knows my swing and faults and can easily spot the issues and explains them in simple terms.

He also has different ways of describing the fault and the fix as some thoughts for the fix do not always work with everyone. Jude is a patient and understanding teacher who knows how difficult this game is.

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

Go for it, get on the program at the highest level you can afford you will not regret it, I know I haven't.

On top of the program you become a part of the golfing group through Jude where there are organised golf days and trips, curry nights out etc where all like-minded golfers can meet and swap stories etc, I find this as much of a pleasure as the golf itself .



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

