

M.B.B.C. ILLUSTRATED

Volume 1 - 2005



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Meet the Players

Which Hole is More Than Famous?

Gentlemen,

Here are your surprises for the 2005 MBBC. The idea was to give you plenty of things to read during the flight down and any down time in the airports, rather than having to flip through the Golf Holiday Magazine, which you've probably already been through 20 times or your fantasy football magazine. I was going to tell you not to open these until you got on your flights, but I figured there was no chance of that happening. Enclosed please find yardage books for 7 of the 8 courses on this year's scheduled. Tidewater screwed me (because they're anti-semitic), but they will give them to us when we get there. Paul, in case you are confused, these books are used instead of your beloved GPS systems and while they are a little more difficult because they require reading, they should be helpful. I'm hopeful, this will help everyone make more birdies. I can tell you, having looked through the books as they came in over the last couple of weeks, that the biggest question that comes to mind is, "Well, this is helpful, except I don't know what tees we play from." Thanks to Rover's stats, I can give you what I believe are the correct answers or what I believe they should be:

Blackmoor: White tees!!! Look at the 8th tee and I think you'll agree

Barefoot: According to the STATS!!!, we play from the third tees... (we had a brief discussion last year that we were too far up)

Grande Dunes: Again, according to the STATS!!!, we play from the 4th tees

Angel's Trace: I assume the white tees

TPC: I certainly don't recall, but according to the STATS!!!, in 2000 we played from the blue tees (whatever?)

King's North: There are about 15 different sets of tees, so it is open for debate

Your other surprise, as you can see, is the inaugural issue of M.B.B.C. Illustrated. After the website, the MBBC is attempting to move into a new medium to draw more fans. When your wives ask, your responses are as follows: "Yes, Scott is the biggest loser in the world. No, Scott has no life. Yes, he needs to get a hobby or a girlfriend."

Please remember that this is the first attempt and there are a few kinks that we need to work out. Enjoy, and I'll be waiting for you in Myrtle.

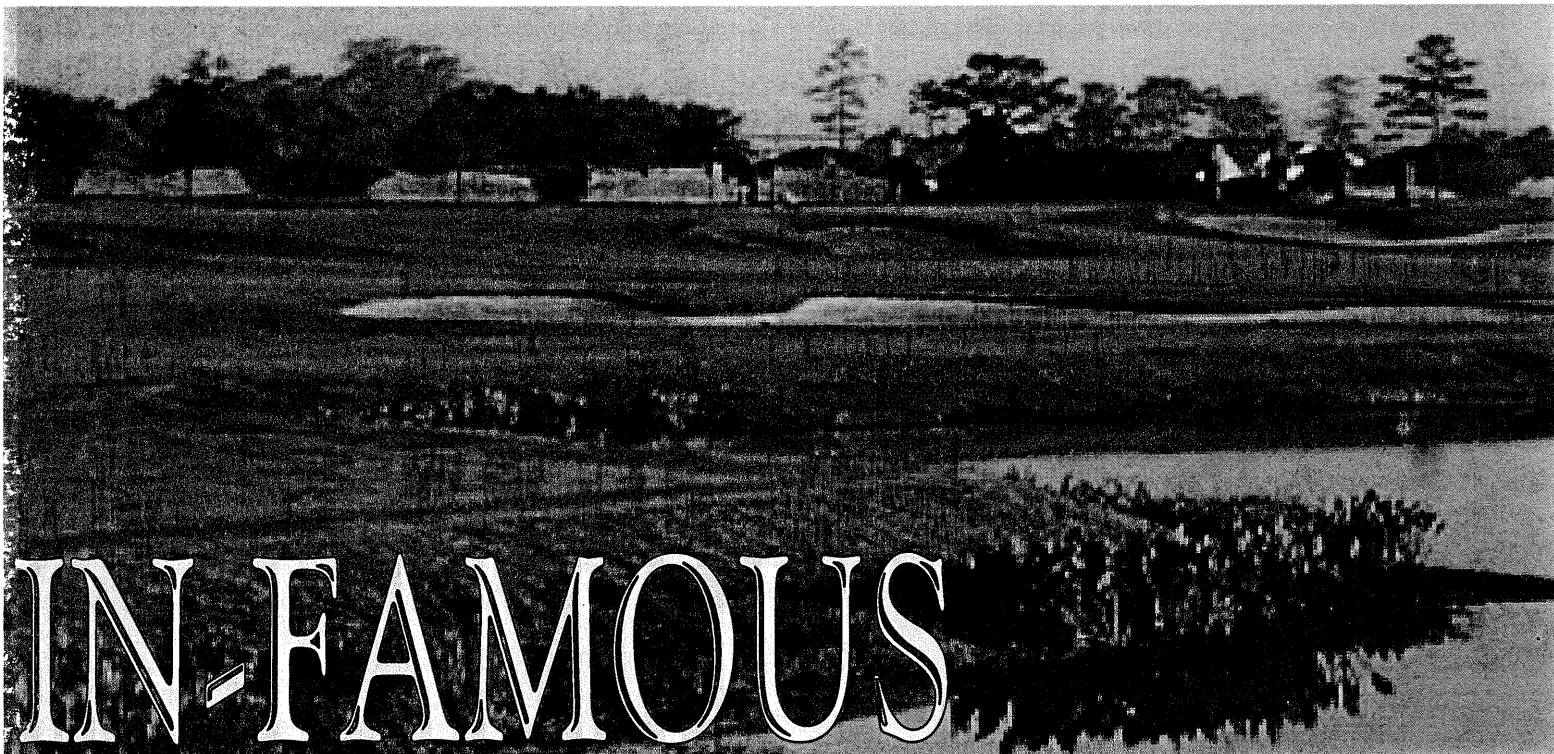
FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Thank you for choosing MBBC Illustrated. This is the first of what we hope to be many issues dedicated to providing you, the fan, with an inside look at one of the greatest sporting events in the world, the Myrtle Beach Birdie Championship. Each issue will include interviews with your favorite players, feature articles on the “hot topics” of the tournament, photographs and all the information and statistics a fan could ask for. Our goal is to become the best source in the world for information about the MBBC. We hope you enjoy our inaugural issue, and we appreciate any comments or criticisms you may have to help us improve our coverage in future issues.

THANKS FOR US!!!

MBBC ILLUSTRATED



IN-FAMOUS

As players stand on the putting green of the Par 3 third hole of the Love Course at Barefoot Resort, they can't help but do what most golfers are taught not to do; turn their attention to the next hole. That hole, the Par 4 fourth, features no intimidating water or marsh hazards that players are forced to carry, and certainly requires no strategy in the attack. Rather, the attraction of the hole is its length... or, actually, its lack thereof. At just 265 yards from the favored white tees (294 yards from the back tees), the green is drivable by even the worst of any foursome. And to players in the Myrtle Beach Birdie Championship drivability equals a birdie opportunity. Despite its apparent ease at first glance, the hole has yielded only two birdies in MBBC play and has mostly left players walking off the green shaking their heads and cursing at a missed opportunity. As such, it has quickly earned a reputation as the most infamous hole of the Myrtle Beach Birdie Championship.

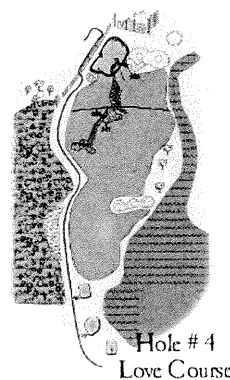
It is the pin placement and wind direction that players look for when they take that glance from the third green. A front pin position beckons the player to hit that perfect drive, and a helping wind adds even more

encouragement; as if any more encouragement was even necessary.

The Love Course's fourth hole is the subject of much discussion and fantasizing in the year between MBBC tournaments, as it is the one hole that players know is a birdie opportunity before they even tee it up. The key to the hole is quite simple and likely no different than most any hole, a solid and straight drive. However, the pressure to hit a solid drive on this hole is magnified on this tee box, more so than on any other. It is the only hole in the entire tournament that evokes thoughts of a "one and only" opportunity while standing on the tee box.

"It's unique," commented one player, "because it's the one hole and the one shot that you think about all year, and probably the one shot during the entire tournament that you absolutely want to execute because you know you're going to have to wait another 365 days before you get another shot at it. All of that pressure, plus the general pressure of the MBBC, and the adrenaline running through you on the tee, makes that shot the toughest shot of the tournament."

Other than a few pot bunkers, the front of the green is fairly open to a running approach. The layout of the hole favors a slight fade off the tee. A slight draw could find several of the pot bunkers to the left, while a harder draw will be out of bounds. Several steep bunkers guard the right side of green, while a large depression will grab any drives that players "leave out there" leaving players with an almost impossible up and down opportunity.



A perfect drive certainly does not guarantee birdie, as the remaining shots are not automatic. The greens at the Barefoot Resort are some of the fastest

in the MBBC and a player will have to demonstrate the right touch and speed on a second shot chip or lag putt. A back pin placement can make the second shot that much more difficult. Players who hit two good shots should find themselves with a tap-in birdie, while others will have to wait another 365 days for their next shot at the most infamous hole in the MBBC.

THE PLAYERS

ERIC
DROZ
SNER



Nickname: Droz/Stinky/Jimmy
Hometown: Lower Gwynedd, Pennsylvania
Home Course: Lime Kiln Golf Course
MBBC Ranking: #3
D.O.B: November 20, 1974
High School: Upper Dublin High School
College: Penn State University
Occupation: V.P. of Trust Operations – Haverford Trust Corporation
Family: Wife - Samantha
Daughter - Haley

MBBC STATISTICS

Career Birdies (1999 – 2004):	14
Most Birdies in One Tournament:	4 (2002/2004)
Average # of Birdies (1999 – 2004):	2.3
Low Round:	81 – Barefoot Norman (2001)
Low 9:	38 – Willbrook – Back 9 (2000)
Best Scoring Average (Tournament):	89.78 (2002)
Most Pars in One Tournament:	50 (2003)
Most Pars in One Round:	9 – Barefoot Norman and Fazio (2001/2002)
Most Consecutive Pars:	5 – Arrowhead (2004)
Best Fairway Accuracy (Tournament):	54.6% (2004)
Most Fairways Hit in One Round:	12 – Shaftsbury Glen (2002)
Best GIR % (Tournament)	32.7% (2002)
Most GIR's in One Round:	10 – Shaftsbury Glen (2002)
Best Putts per hole (Tournament):	1.99 (2004)
Fewest Putts in One Round:	33 – Barefoot Fazio and Love (2004)

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Co-Champion with Paul Rovner in 2001... Member of the MBBC Scoreboard Committee with wife Samantha... Member of MBBC Lodging Committee... Only eats fast food in Myrtle Beach but loves spicy chicken

THE PLAYERS

D
A
N
I
E
L

H
O
E
L
K
E



Nickname:	Stormin' Dan
Hometown:	Wexford, Pennsylvania
Home Course:	Cranberry Highlands Golf Course
MBBC Ranking:	#1
D.O.B:	February 28, 1974
High School:	North Catholic High School
College:	Penn State University
Occupation:	Manager of Supply Chain Planning – Heinz North America
Family:	Wife – Nicole

MBBC STATISTICS

Career Birdies (1999 – 2004):	27
Most Birdies in One Tournament:	8 (2003)
Average # of Birdies (1999 – 2004):	4.5
Low Round:	74 – The Wizard (1999)
Low 9:	36 – The Wizard – Front 9 (1999)
Best Scoring Average (Tournament):	85.22 (2002)
Most Pars in One Tournament:	65 (2002)
Most Pars in One Round:	13 – Barefoot Love (2004)
Most Consecutive Pars:	7 – Barefoot Dye and Grande Dunes (2001)
Best Fairway Accuracy (Tournament):	62.6% (2002)
Most Fairways Hit in One Round:	12 – Barefoot Fazio (2002)
Best GIR % (Tournament)	38.9% (2002)
Most GIR's in One Round:	10 – Shaftsbury Glen (2002)
Best Putts per hole (Tournament):	1.83 (2003)
Fewest Putts in One Round:	30 – Arrowhead (2004)

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Champion in 2001 and 2004... 4-time winner of the Hilton Head Birdie Championship (HHBC) 2002-2005... Only player to be married and win the MBBC title in the same year (2004)... Has fired the 5 lowest rounds in MBBC History... Holds the record for largest margin of victory in an MBBC, when he won by 3 birdies in 2001...

THE PLAYERS

PAUL
ROVER



Nickname: Rover
Hometown: Maple Glen, Pennsylvania
Home Course: Center Square Golf Course
MBBC Ranking: #4
D.O.B: October 19, 1974
High School: Upper Dublin High School
College: Penn State University
Occupation: V.P. Finance and Administration – Haverford Trust Corporation
Family: Wife - Lisa
Daughter - Jenna

MBBC STATISTICS

Career Birdies (1999 – 2004):	10
Most Birdies in One Tournament:	4 (2002)
Average # of Birdies (1999 – 2004):	1.7
Low Round:	94 – Barefoot Fazio/Tiger's Eye (2002/2003)
Low 9:	44 – Barefoot Fazio – Front 9 (2002)
Best Scoring Average (Tournament):	100.78 (2003)
Most Pars in One Tournament:	28 (2003)
Most Pars in One Round:	5 – Rivers Edge (2002)
Most Consecutive Pars:	2 – (Various Courses)
Best Fairway Accuracy (Tournament):	35.8% (2002)
Most Fairways Hit in One Round:	9 – True Blue (2002)
Best GIR % (Tournament)	14.2% (2002)
Most GIR's in One Round:	5 – Barefoot Fazio (2004)
Best Putts per hole (Tournament):	1.94 (2003)
Fewest Putts in One Round:	30 – Barefoot Love (2003)

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Co-Champion with Eric Drossner in 2001... Sank lengthy putt on the final hole to win the 2003 Battle at Cane Patch with teammate Scott Woods... Founder and annual champion of the Double Par Club... creator of the MBBC website... MBBC statistician... voted best Driving Range Player 1999-2005... member of MBBC Transportation Committee... Holds record for the worst single round in tournament history with 121 at Man O' War in 2001... Only player to skip a round of the MBBC... Creator and All Time Champion of Woodball

THE PLAYERS

SCOTT
WOODS



Nickname: Woody
Hometown: Baltimore, Maryland
Home Course: Mountain Branch Golf Course
MBBC Ranking: #2
D.O.B: March 11, 1974
High School: Atholton High School
College: Penn State University
Occupation: Attorney – Nationwide Insurance Company
Family: Single

MBBC STATISTICS

Career Birdies (1999 – 2004):	25
Most Birdies in One Tournament:	6 (2003)
Average # of Birdies (1999 – 2004):	4.2
Low Round:	85 – Tidewater (2003)
Low 9:	40 – Willbrook – Front 9 (2000)
Best Scoring Average (Tournament):	89.89 (2002)
Most Pars in One Tournament:	54 (2002)
Most Pars in One Round:	9 – Crow Creek (2002)
Most Consecutive Pars:	3 – (Various Courses)
Best Fairway Accuracy (Tournament):	51.9% (2004)
Most Fairways Hit in One Round:	11 – True Blue (2002)
Best GIR % (Tournament)	28.4% (2003)
Most GIR's in One Round:	9 – Crow Creek (2002)
Best Putts per hole (Tournament):	1.84 (2003)
Fewest Putts in One Round:	27 – Barefoot Love (2004)

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Champion in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2003... Only player to win consecutive titles... Only player to fire birdies on consecutive holes (3 times)... Member of winning team with Paul Rovner in 2003 Battle at Cane Patch... Creator of and Designated “Thrower” in Roofball... Kidnapped “the Croc” from Crocodile Rocks... 3-time winner of the MBBC putt-putt challenge

THE SHOT HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD...

After eight years of play, there is growing debate as to what is considered the greatest accomplishment in the history of the Myrtle Beach Birdie Championship. Many experts believe that Scott Woods' 4 consecutive and 5 overall championships is the greatest accomplishment. Many have suggested that the back-to-back birdies fired by Woods on three separate occasions is the greatest, as evidenced by the fact that no other player has ever managed it once. Still others believe that the greatest single accomplishment was the 74 shot by Dan Hoelke at The Wizard in 1999 with his 76 at Grande Dunes in 2001 a close second. However, the growing sentiment among players and experts alike is that, all of the above pale in comparison to what occurred on the 1st hole in the opening round of the 2004 MBBC on the Wood Stork Course at Wild Wing Plantation.



The first day of the Myrtle Beach Birdie Championship is generally very relaxed as the players arrive from their respective homes and immediately head to the first round without checking into their host hotel. Having usually not seen each other for at least a few months, the players exchange pleasantries as they begin the first round. Much of the round is spent recovering from the flight and adapting to the Myrtle Beach heat and course conditions, which are usually far different from home. While birdies are made during the first round, and first round birdies have been known to propel a player to the title, the majority of the time the first round is a feeling out time and players turn their attention to the 36 holes played on Day 2.

"I generally don't play well on Day 1," commented Scott Woods, "because I never sleep the night before and after rushing around all morning, I'm usually exhausted by the time we reach the first tee. I don't expect birdies on the first day... I'm certainly excited if it happens, but I try to set myself up for Day 2."

Certainly no player expects to birdie the very first hole of the tournament, which is exactly what Eric Drossner did in 2004. The first hole birdie in and of itself would be considered one of the greatest accomplishments in MBBC history, but the player who did it and the circumstances surrounding it are what make this feat legendary.

Depending on the publication, Eric Drossner is the second or third ranked player in the MBBC. However, he is most well known for his failures in the tournament over the years. He did manage to capture a share of the title in 2002, but he has never managed more than 4 birdies in a single tournament and his lack of consistency has led to a series of disappointing finishes.

Drossner's biggest downfall has been an absolute inability to putt, an absolute must in the MBBC. Drossner's tendency to ask the ball to "turn" in mid-roll or to ask himself after a putt, "Are you even looking at the hole?" have been well-documented. His putting statistics prove that he is the worst putter of the MBBC foursome.

Add to this Drossner's brash and cocky attitude off the course, and many have openly wondered whether he has the right make-up to be a champion.

Things were no different for Drossner entering the 2004 MBBC. As usual, Drossner had little practice prior to the 2004 tournament. In July, he and his wife Samantha welcomed their first child, daughter Haley, into the world. Drossner openly admitted prior to the tournament that family responsibilities had left him no time to properly prepare, although, as usual, he vowed that he would be a factor for the title.

Friday, September 17, 2004 started no different than any other opening day of the MBBC. Drossner and Paul Rovner awoke early and drove together to the Philadelphia International Airport for their flight to Charlotte, North Carolina. Drossner and Rovner arrived in Charlotte approximately 30 minutes late, met up with fellow competitors Scott Woods and Dan Hoelke and barely made the connecting flight to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The flight from Charlotte to Myrtle Beach was certainly less than relaxing, as high winds had the plane rocking and rolling throughout the flight and forced a rather adventurous landing.

Upon arriving in Myrtle Beach, Drossner and Rovner learned that their bags,

and more importantly their golf clubs would not be arriving for another 2 hours due to the quick connection in Charlotte. Faced with this news, Drossner and Rovner were forced to rent golf clubs, balls, shoes, gloves and other equipment. The players piled into the rented mini-van and drove immediately to Wild Wing Plantation for the first round on the Wood Stork Course.

And so the stage was set as Eric Drossner stood on the tee of first hole of the Wood Stork Course, a 359 yard Par 4. Having played sparingly in the months preceding the tournament, having had little sleep in the month before due to his first child, barely making his connecting flight in Charlotte, surviving a nightmarish flight and landing into Myrtle Beach, dealing with high winds never before seen in the MBBC and holding a rented club in his hand, Eric Drossner stood over his ball and was about to create a legend. Despite all of these factors, Drossner managed to hit a solid drive, which came to rest just off the fairway. His second shot was equally impressive under the circumstances as his approach not only found the green, but came to rest approximately 7 feet from the hole.

Drossner would certainly not have been criticized had he failed to make the ensuing birdie putt, and likely would have been praised for making par under those circumstances. However, Drossner eyed his slightly downhill putt and calmly and stoically made the putt with a putter he had never used before and gave a hearty fist pump for good measure.

It is important to note that this legend does not end with the mere fact that Drossner birdied the first hole of the tournament, something never before accomplished and something that may never be seen again. Many believe that Drossner actually predicted that he would birdie the first hole, much like Babe Ruth's called homerun in the 1932 World Series. As with Ruth's homerun, there is much debate as to the veracity of this claim. Some have claimed that Drossner sent at least one e-mail message to the other players in the months preceding the tournament claiming that he would birdie the opening hole. That e-mail has never been produced and Drossner has never commented on the issue. Either way, this debate is likely to only add to the legend of what must be considered the greatest accomplishment in Myrtle Beach Birdie Championship history.

THE 19th HOLE

Each issue, MBBC Illustrated will feature a Question and Answer Session with a special guest. This issue, we sat down for a one-on-one with five-time champion Scott Woods, who spoke candidly regarding the past, present and future of the MBBC, as well as other issues.

MBBC Illustrated: Which of your five titles do you consider your greatest?

SW: Definitely 2003. While I'm proud of the four titles I won from 1997-2000, the MBBC really changed in 2001, when Hoelke won. Up until that point, players really weren't taking the MBBC all that seriously. The intensity and competition really went up a few notches in 2001 and 2002. By the time the 2003 tournament came around, it had been three years since I had won, and I heard the whispers that perhaps the game had passed me by. To be honest with you, I was starting to wonder myself if I would ever win again. So, to win in 2003, with everyone playing at the top of their game, and to prove everyone wrong, was really satisfying.

MBBC Illustrated: Do you think you can win again?

SW: Absolutely. I wouldn't be playing if I didn't think I could win.

MBBC Illustrated: You have largely been credited with the creation of the Myrtle Beach Birdie Championship. Can you tell us how it came about?

SW: I don't think it's a secret... It started in 1997 when someone suggested that we go to Myrtle Beach to play a few rounds of golf. We had a great time, but the golf was somewhat frustrating, mainly because I could not beat Dan Hoelke. He pretty much whipped my ass every round we played. This went on for a couple of years, and, at some point... I'm not really sure when... I noticed that I seemed to be making more birdies than the rest of the foursome. I thought that was pretty cool, so I started calling my self the Birdie Champion, and it just kind of grew from there.

MBBC Illustrated: What do you think the state of the MBBC is today?

SW: Clearly it's stronger then ever, and I think it's done more than I ever expected it to. I think it's a great format for the four us to compete in. Gambling games can get frustrating and I don't think I've ever played one of those games that lasts the whole round and using handicaps can get confusing. Given that everyone has won at least a share of the championship, at some point, I think it's clear that this is a fair competition. There's something about making a birdie that brings a smile to your face even in the middle of a horrific round. I

think it makes the game of golf much easier to play when you know score doesn't matter.

MBBC Illustrated: How about the future...?

SW: I think it can only get better. We're looking at bringing the tournament to as many different venues in Myrtle Beach as possible, so that more fans can watch the tournament. And, in general, we're just looking for more ways to bring the fans closer to the game. We already have our website, and this magazine is just another attempt to do that.

MBBC Illustrated: Any chance for expansion in the future?

SW: I doubt it. We've discussed that issue in the past, and while more players would take the competition level up even higher, we also think it would take something away from the tournament. It would also be difficult to find other players who would appreciate the history and tradition of the MBBC.

MBBC Illustrated: What's the biggest obstacle to the MBBC?

SW: Babies!

MBBC Illustrated: What's the worst thing about the MBBC?

SW: The smell!

MBBC Illustrated: Ah yes, I know that smell...
Will anyone ever reach double-digits in a single tournament?

SW: With all of the talent in the group, it's bound to happen some time.

MBBC Illustrated: Who do you think will be the one to do it?

SW: That's hard to say... I'd like to think it would be me, but really anyone could do it.

MBBC Illustrated: How about a real answer?

SW: Since you're making me pick someone, I'd have to go with Hoelke.