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Council's Message

- The inaugural issue of *SCRATCH*, the official newsletter of the Hong Kong Golf Outing Network Meetup group - a program run by Hong Kong Prime Golf Society (HKPGS), was successfully launched last month. It was well received by members, and many of them wrote to us to convey their appreciation for the publication.
- We are delighted to announce that our dear Ms. Joyce Cheng has been invited to join HKPGS. Joyce, a friendly and personable young lady, has been a member of our Meetup group since our early days. She is a valuable contributor of *SCRATCH* in charge of writing a monthly interview article. An initiation dinner in honor of Joyce will be held at KEE Club.
- To foster solidarity and fellowship within HKPGS, the Council has decided to commission: first, a fashion expert to design a smart suit for HKPGS members, which will be worn on special occasions; and second, a songwriter to compose a song, also to be sung on special occasions (or in the shower), that reflects the spirit and aspirations of HKPGS. ♣



Every prestigious establishment has its own regalia. The Augusta National Golf Club has its signature "Green Jacket".

As I Please

- Chucky the Poser -

By Ray Tsang



Blade 2 iron



John Daly and his
fancy pants

“A poser is a recreational golfer who likes to imitate tour professionals' fashion, equipments, and mannerisms.”

My friend Chucky is a 30-handicapper. He picked up golf about two years ago, and he is absolutely in love with the game. In his study there is a whole shelf dedicated to golf literature. Some of his favorites are such classics as: *Golf My Way* by Jack Nicklaus, *Five Lessons* by Ben Hogan, and *The Little Red Book* by Harvey Penick. He is a loyal subscriber of *Golf Digest*, and he is glued to the Golf Channel.

Chucky, I have noticed, is quite a poser on the golf course. A poser is a recreational golfer (almost always a male, for some odd reason) who likes to imitate tour professionals' fashion, equipments, and mannerisms.

On the course, your first impression of Chucky is that he is very well-dressed. For a while he idolized the flamboyant Columbian golfer Camilo Villegas, and he would only play golf in J. Lindeberg apparel. Of late he has found a new hero in Tiger Woods, and he now wears Nike products from head to toe. He often nags me about my lack of style on the course, because I always wear a plain Bossini polo shirt and a pair of Mark & Spencer khakis. I am quite glad he is not a fan of John Daly; otherwise, he would be wearing those clown-like pants made by Loudmouth!

Chucky is currently using a Nike driver that is well over 400 cc in size. He can't stop praising how forgiving it is on off-center hits. But then I was surprised to see that he plays with blade irons (including a 2 iron for crying out loud!), which is the exact same set that Tiger Woods uses. Now, blade irons are extremely unforgiving. They are specifically designed for low handicap golfers and tour professionals, who have the ability to consistently strike the ball solidly. For a high handicap recreational golfer like Chucky, blade irons are dreadful to hit. I asked him why the hell he got the blade irons, and he said coolly: "I prefer blades. They have better feel. I can work the ball better with blades." I have no idea what he meant by "better feel". And I have never seen him "work the ball" because almost every shot he hits is invariably a slice. He really annoys me whenever he insists on hitting a "stinger" off the tee with his 2 iron, which he can never pull off.

Thanks to the countless hours of golf he watches on television, Chucky has mastered the mannerisms of tour professionals. Some examples include: throwing grass into the air to test the wind; after hitting a bunker shot, he would tap his shoes with his club head to get rid of the sand on the bottom of his shoes; and when he happens to hit a good shot, he would make sure he twirls the club.

No doubt Chucky is a poser. For him to be a poser, he must really love golf. His keenness to imitate the tour professionals must be prompted by his passion for the game. I respect Chucky for that. ♣

Past Events

Phuket Extravaganza (HKPGS members & invitation only) 18 - 23 / 9 / 2013



Afternoon pool party



Stylish golfers



Cheers!!!



Extreme Canoeing!!!



While away the evening...



An enviable golf swing

Play 18 Holes at Mission Hills 5 / 8 / 2013



The contestants gathered for a group photo before teeing off

Sawa-dee-ka golf enthusiasts! Our October issue brings to our readers a glimpse of Ms. Amy Yau, a passionate golfer and a dedicated event organizer for HKPGS. Amy and I had some great laughs over our interview while we elegantly sipped away on our delicious cocktails in our bikinis by our sunny poolside villa in Phuket. To top that off, right at the foot of our backyard gate was the 6th hole of our resort's course. What a stunning view! Now imagine that scene, as you enjoy the juice of the interview.



"I'm absolutely thrilled with the idea of starting a business from scratch."



Amy looking glamorous

MEET & GREET

By Joyce Cheng

Tell us a little about yourself.

I grew up in Hong Kong, but studied Business Administration in Toronto. After working for a few years in Canada, I made a decision to come back to stay with my family. For me, I value any time I get to spend with them.

What do you do?

Currently, I'm starting up a new business - a jewelry rental shop. This is going to be my first time owning a business and I'm absolutely thrilled with the idea of starting a business from scratch. It's definitely not an easy task; there's so much to learn along the way.

So tell us about your encounter with golf.

When I was young I always thought golf was an old man's game because it was my grandparents' favorite sport. Every Sunday, they would play a relaxing 9-hole round at Deep Water Bay before attending



the family gathering. As for me, I only played at the range a few times back in Toronto, but I was never really into it.

Then how did you start?

Well, it wasn't really until one day, when a friend asked me to accompany him while he play the East Course at Kau Sai Chau. That was my first encounter with an actual golf course. I was stunned by the spectacular view and the greenery. I was also really impressed at how one is able to find serenity in a sports game. And that's how it all began for me. I decided I wanted to learn the game from then onwards.



The two gals braving the sun and the heat



Constantly trying to improve

"A bad day on the golf course is better than a good day at work."



Amy & fellow HKPGS member Ray are good cigar buddies

How did you come across the golf Meetup group (now run by HKPGS)?

I've been joining Meetup events for hiking and volunteer work for about two years now. After I started playing golf, I thought it would be even more fun to meet new friends who play golf. So I typed in "golf" on Meetup and found this awesome group!

What do you like about this group?

I've made some good friends! Together we have so much fun whilst everyone has been improving their game at the same time. It's like a big family where every one of us loves golf.

How often do you practice?

Twice a week. I always enjoy a morning practice session with a cup of coffee.

Any short term goal(s)?

I'm trying to improve on my distance and my short game, so I can shave those extra few strokes off my handicap.

Thus far, what has been your best round ever?

Scoring two birdies in a 9-hole round a couple months ago at Nine-Eagles Golf Club!

What do you love about golf most?

I have a wanderlust, and there are so many great courses around the world. So it's like combining my two favorite hobbies together into one. The best idea ever! I went on a few golf trips with my golf buddies from HKPGS in the last few months, and every one of them had been a fun-filled and memorable experience. Just like our Phuket getaway now!

Which is your favorite club?

I recently got a new set of custom-fitted Ping clubs, and I love them as they give me more confidence when playing.

What is it about golf that attracts you?

Flexibility! One thing I like about golf is that you can play with your friends socially, or you could even play on your own without a partner or a teammate unlike most other sports.

Any golf hero?

I like Adam Scott! I guess girl golfers out there would agree with me because he is super good looking. Hahaa.

If you had to use a phrase to describe golf, what would it be?

"A bad day on the golf course is better than a good day at work!" ♣

"I've made some good friends. Together we have so much fun.... It's like a big family..."

What's in My Bag

By Ben Lau



A disciple of Ben Hogan

Little Secret

I am a big fan of Ben Hogan. I watch lots of his videos on YouTube, and always study his book *Ben Hogan's Five Lessons*. Like him, I seldom chat on the course, so don't feel weird if you don't hear me speak a word! I also enjoy carrying my own bag and walking the course without a caddy!

Snack

Gatorade really helps especially when you play in hot, humid weather.

Umbrella

Ping Jumbo
Big Size
Windproof



Driver

Titleist 910 D2 9.5 degree. The stiff shaft plus high kick point produce a low ball flight so it can minimize the wind effect.

Hybrid

TaylorMade R5 XL Plus. I bought this a few years back because I didn't know how to hit a long iron properly.

Irons

Titleist Z.B Blend forged irons. I like forged irons as they give you proper feedback which helps you understand the swing mechanics.

Wedges

Vokey Spin-Milled 52/56 with oil can finish. I always prefer rusty wedges because they look so cool. I'll soon get a 60 degree so I can play more flop shots around the green.

Fairway wood

(not shown here)
Ping i20 15 degrees

Ball marker

I got it from Broke Hill Golf Club in the UK

Putter

(not shown here)
R.A.M. Heel-Toe Weighted 202 SELECT. A friend gave it to me for free.

Gadget

Masters 3-in-One cleaning tool

Tee

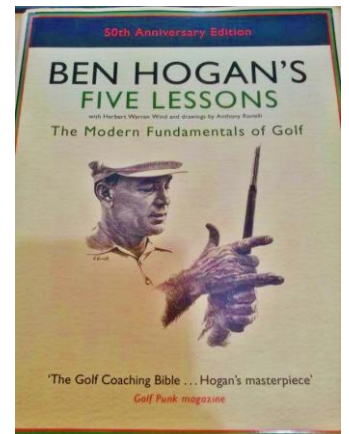
I like wooden tees because it feel so good when you hit a solid drive and break the tee.

Ball

DT-Solo or ProV1x

Glove

Titleist "Players" & FootJoy "Rain Grip"



90% of us begin hitting golf balls at the driving range, where we learn to hit golf balls under very flat and predictable lies. However this is not reality, in the 'real world' the lie in which the golf ball sits varies, where it can be sitting in the rough, on top of tree roots, and even on logs. If we don't think carefully in how we need to adjust the ball position, stance, and the effort to swing the golf club, these different lies can make us hit the ball either fat, thin, or just an all out ugly shank, turning a possible par to a double or triple bogey.

In this edition of the Golfing Garage what I would like to address is tackling the dreaded uphill and downhill slope. In general when we try and play an uneven lie we always want to

- Ensure that we have good stability so that we remain balanced while taking a swing, and
- Take a bit off the swing to ensure that you make good contact with the ball (a good guideline is to swing about 80%).

Specifically highlighted below is how to conquer the dreaded uphill and downhill lie.

Uphill – To tackle the uphill lie we need to ensure that the ball is slightly more forward than how you would hit the ball normally, this is to ensure that we adjust our contact zone in line with the slope. The steeper the slope the more forward you would want the ball in the stance. As depicted in *Photo A*, this very awkward uphill slope had me play the ball quite forward.

Additionally as we are using the slope to drive the ball upwards there are times when you might seek a longer club to propel the ball forward and not just up, so you will need to think carefully on the club you are using.

Downhill – On the flipside playing a downhill lie is nearly the complete opposite of playing an uphill lie; we seek to have the ball slightly backwards in the stance (as depicted in *Photo B*), and due to the downhill slope the club is de-lofted and therefore we should get a higher lofted club in order to get the ball up in the air again.

When playing on the course we are faced with many different challenges and it is not just about how great your swing is. You need to think about how to address the ball correctly, playing the right club for the situation, and also knowing when to take a little bit off the accelerator to ensure you make good contact with the ball.

Hopefully these tips will help you understand the different thought processes and strategies that are needed each time you hit the golf ball on uneven lies. As homework, what would you do if the ball is below or above your feet?

Happy Golfing.

P.S. We would like to thank Laguna Resort Golf Club for allowing us to use the 4th hole for this edition of the Golfing Garage. ♣

The Golfing Garage

- Beating Uneven Lies -

By Garrick Kong

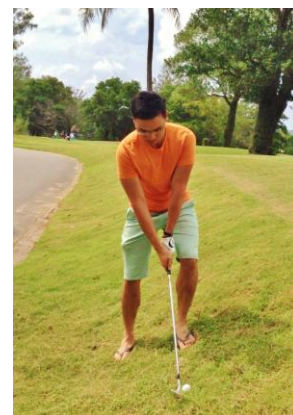


Photo A



Photo B

“...hit an all out ugly shank, turning a possible par into a double or triple bogey.”

This Month's Celebrity Golfer

Condoleezza Rice

Ms. Rice was a former Secretary of State of USA.

She was one of the first of two women ever admitted to Augusta National Golf Club, arguably the most exclusive golf club in the world.

Her handicap is 14.

"I love to drive the ball and I love to putt. Everything in between is an adventure."

"If I can get better from 100 yards in, my handicap, - it'll plummet!"



For information on our upcoming events,
please visit:

www.meetup.com/HKgolf/

If you have questions or comments, please
write to us at:

info@hkpgs.com



PRIME GOLF SOCIETY

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