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Council's Message

A Note of Thanks & Congratulations

Our first ever official golf tournament, the inaugural RGO Cup, was successfully held at Phoenix Hill Golf Club on May 18th. We were lucky as the weather held out just fine for our event that day. The turnout was fabulous with 35 members taking part in the tournament. Everyone had fun competing for the prizes, and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We would like to thank: Edmund Lau for suggesting the New-New Peoria competition format; Ben Lau and Garrick Kong for testing the validity of the format prior to the tournament, and calculating the scores after the tournament; Gilbert Joa for designing the banner; Robin Lam for helping with the logistics, and negotiating with the golf club manager to secure a private function room; Amy Yau for being our photographer; Joyce Cheng for finding us a wine sponsor, and being our emcee at the prize-giving ceremony; Ray Tsang for his indefatigable effort in overseeing the whole event; and, last but not least, all the participants who showed their support by joining the event.

And congratulations go out to: Greg Hides and Joyce Cheng for winning the Logest Drive prizes; Tani San, Tony Yau, Chris Piccone, and Tim Johns for winning the Closest to the Pin prizes; Chris Piccone for winning third place; Tani San for winning second place; and Tim Johns for winning the championship. ♣



The magnificent RGO Cup

As I Please

- A Character -

By Ray Tsang



Ben getting ready to hit his draw.



Moe Norman

"I daresay Ben would much rather hit a duck hook than a power fade."

"Hi Ray, let me ask you a question. If you know the answer, I'll be very impressed." Ben approached me, twirling his wine glass gently.

We were at a wine tasting event. It was my second time meeting Ben. He had seen me talk savvily on golf subjects on a previous occasion, and he had come to size me up this time.

"Oh, all right." I said.

"Do you know who Moe Norman is?" Ben asked.

I knew who Moe Norman was. I saw a documentary on Moe Norman years ago and I had recently finished reading his biography. I was impressed Ben also heard of Moe Norman.

"Ah, the great Canadian golfer. Tiger Woods once said: 'Only two players have ever truly owned their swings: Moe Norman and Ben Hogan.'" I spoke in a casual tone, to accentuate my ability to recall golf trivia off-the-cuff.

"Wow! Damn! You really do know your golf stuff, Ray!"

Since then, Ben and I have become good golf buddies. A nerdy guy who graduated from Princeton with a PhD in physics, Ben is an interesting character. He has a knack for using golf terms to describe everyday life. For instance, whenever he manages to avoid messing things up he would call it a "par save". Once we were on an overseas golf trip and we were very late for our flight. When we somehow made it to the boarding gate on time Ben said with relief, "We did it! What a par save!" I thought it was a clever and apt metaphor.

Ben is a self-proclaimed disciple of the American golf legend Ben Hogan. Like Hogan, he believes in drawing the ball, and he is bent on hitting a draw off the tee every time. If his tee shot does not draw he is not happy. I remember congratulating him on a tee shot which sliced merely five yards but landed right in the middle of the fairway. But Ben was not pleased with the shot. He said, "No, Ray. That's not good. That's not a Ben Hogan shot. That's a Jack Nicklaus shot." (For Nicklaus is famous for fading the ball.) I daresay Ben would much rather hit a duck hook than a power fade.

Ben is a stubborn golfer. Being a short hitter, he dreads those long par 3s that range between 190-210 yards. The only way he can reach the greens on such par 3s is to hit a driver. But he would never hit a driver on a par 3 because he considers it unmanly to do so. I asked him why he is so stubborn. "It's a pride thing." He frankly admitted. Ben is also a purist when it comes to golf equipment. Out of curiosity Ben purchased a 3-hybrid to replace his hard-to-hit 3-iron. But Ben has never grown comfortable with the 3-hybrid. The idea of "hybrid" just does not sit well with Ben's traditionalist golfing style. He intends to ditch the 3-hybrid and play the 3-iron again, in spite of his lack of clubhead speed. Good luck to him. ♣

Past Events

The Inaugural RGO Cup 18 / 5 / 2014



The beautiful trophies



Group photo before the tournament



Phoenix Hill



The official banner



All ready to go!



Contestants enjoying buffet dinner



Members mingling with each other



The champion Mr. Tim Johns



Group photo after the tournament

This month's interview presents Mr. Popy Suthiwan, a recent member of the RGO Meetup group. Popy has made only a few appearances at our golf events, but he was able to leave a lasting impression on those who have had the opportunity to play with him. Having started playing as a kid, Popy exudes a solid and impressive game and he is a pleasantly well-mannered golf buddy to have a game with. I've noticed Popy can be quiet on the course – or more so just concentrated and focused – but he has a great sense of humor when he is off the course and hanging around his friends!

MEET & GREET

By Joyce Cheng

A little background about yourself

I was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas in the States and moved out after high school. I studied Architectural & Environmental Studies at Kansas University, and continued on to a Master of Landscape Architecture Degree at Cornell University.

I was working in Shenzhen as an Urban Designer before moving to Hong Kong almost one year ago. In fact, I'll be celebrating the 1 year anniversary next month ☺

What are you working as at the moment?

Right now I'm working for an Architecture and Planning firm as a Landscape Designer.

What are your hobbies?

I love to watch basketball. I do a little bit of painting/drawing and I used to play chess & the viola, but now I'm trying to learn guitar!



Popy and I (wearing blue skirt) practicing our putting before we tee off in the inaugural RGO Cup.

What about sports... do you play much?

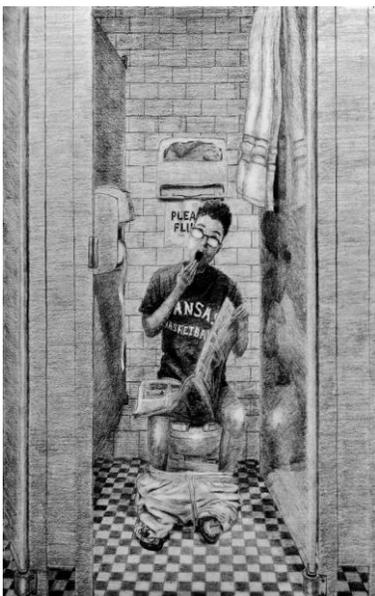
I play tennis, a little bit of basketball, and I love to go bowling - especially disco bowling!

How about Golf... how did you start?

Nobody really pushed me to start playing. I knew my dad liked playing on Sundays with his friends. So when my tennis game wasn't improving and my opponents on the court were kicking my butt, I decided to put my racquet in the closet and started swinging the clubs.

When did you start playing?

Thirteen was about the age I started going out on the course, but before then I actually started practicing in my backyard hitting plastic balls and



Popy's impressive self-portrait

“I decided to put my racquet in the closet and started swinging the clubs.”



Popy at an NBA game in San Antonio, 2008

“I spend more time checking my swing, posture, grip, alignment, tempo, takeaway at home, then practicing on course or at the range!”



Popy and his parents at a social golf event

making divots with the living room carpet - mom wasn't too happy about that.

But the thing was, my dad wouldn't let me out on the course until I was in my teens because he thought it was too dangerous - I have strict parents!

Where do you practice most?

To this day I spend most of my time practicing at home. I have probably spent more time checking my swing, posture, grip, alignment, tempo, takeaway, etc at home, then practicing on the course or at the range!

How would you rate your game?

I would rate my game to be medium to advance. My long game and putting is so-so, but I think I am a pretty good scrambler and have good touch around the greens, which helps to lower the handicap.

What is your handicap?

Current handicap is about 10. But it's really hard to say though, since my scoring is pretty inconsistent because I don't get to play on a regular basis.

Thus far, what has been your best or most memorable game?

My best round of 18-hole was a 1-under 69. Although it wasn't actually my most memorable since I was playing by myself that day.

I'd say the most memorable round actually came during a 9-hole men's club matchplay event. I ended up shooting a 2-under 34, but more importantly it was the

knockdown 40 yard pitch shot through gusting head winds that I stuck to about 3 feet and saved par on the last hole to win the math, which made it very memorable.

Do you have any short term goals with golf?

I am definitely working on refining my swing. I didn't take any golf lessons until about 4 years ago and realized only at that moment I had a poor grip, my wrist hinge was incorrect, and I was over-swinging without realizing it. For the past couple of years I've been working to undo all those bad habits and develop a more reliable and effective swing.

Is there anything that drives you mad on the golf course?

Poorly raked bunkers, unkempt-aerated greens, and extremely slow players. I really hate playing behind a group that doesn't let faster players through and think they're playing on the PGA tour 6-hour schedule.

As for the bunkers and greens, this is pretty much an indication of the golf course's overall lack of proper maintenance and doesn't make it any fun to play the course regardless of how nice the layout might be.

Do you have a favourite brand?

I would say it's a deadlock between Titleist and TaylorMade.

I believe Titleist makes the best golf balls and putters, and TaylorMade makes the best Drivers, Fairway woods and Hybrids hands down with no doubt in my mind.



At his landscape architecture studio in Cornell

***“... my ambitions...
creating a healthier
and more sustainable
built environment -
and hopefully
designing and
building a golf course
on a brownfields
reclamation site.***



Popy likes a quiet game of chess, too.

Do you have any golf heroes?

Sure! I have two golf heroes in fact.

First, Gary Player - for being a great ambassador of the game and for promoting physical fitness & health for the sport.

And Second, Bobby Jones - because of his integrity for the game, his sportsmanship & honesty, and the fact that he didn't turn professional even though he was the best in the world during the peak of his career.

What do you love about golf most?

The challenge of the game. Whether it's enjoying a friendly scramble with friends or strangers, practicing by yourself on a weekday afternoon, or even getting out of bed early in the morning just to test a new swing thought.

It's always a new adventure that's different each time you take the club back.

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

Addictive.

How did you come across our Meetup group?

I was looking for a way to get out on the golf course in Hong Kong. So I did a Google search and happened to stumble across the Meetup.com/Meetup app and found the RGO group.

What are your thoughts about the group?

I really like the fact that the group is now having outings at least once a month.

However, most of these monthly outings are on the weekday, which really sucks for me since I'm stuck in the office during the week. ☹

What are your upcoming plans?

Work on getting my Landscape Architecture professional license, so that I can work on projects more closely related to what my ambitions are in my career and life - which is creating a healthier and more sustainable built environment - and hopefully designing and building a golf course on a brownfields reclamation site (definitely could be a part of that dream).

The Interviewer's Impression:

I played with Popy for the first time last month at KSC. I have heard from our fellow golfers in the group that this gentlemen is very good, has a solid game and is probably the best player in our Meetup group. To be honest, I was a little intimidated. I had all intention to group the better players together and a few of us 'less' better players on another flight. But with a hit & miss I ended up in the same group with 3 very low-handicappers. Put aside the slight 'stress' on myself, I was amazed by the consistency in Popy's swing and I must say, that day his putting was so impressive! ♣

What's in My Bag

By Tony Yau



Irons

Titleist AP2 714 5-6-7-8-9-P with the custom KBS Tour stiff shaft 2° flat. I tried these irons on a demo day, and they are the only irons good enough to replace my old Mizuno MP59. The workability of these irons really plays to my strengths.

Hybrids

This two Taylormade Rescue Burner 19° & 21° with Fujikura S flex & R flex respectively are in a different class than others I've played, so easy to hit the ball high even out of the rough & land softly on the green.

Fairway woods

Taylormade R11S 3-woods 15° Fujikura S flex shaft, standard loft with closed setting, this is my least used club.

My take on golf:

A bad tradesman always blames his tools. I know if I don't play well, it has nothing to do with my clubs. I always look after my clubs, making sure they are mud-free. Clean clubs make me feel more confident.

Driver

I have tried many new drivers in the market, but I am happy with my Taylormade R9 Supertri TP with Fujikura Motore F1 65g stiff shaft, which gives me the most consistent ball flight and control.

Wedges

I carry 3 wedges Vokey SM4 52° 08, 56° 11 and 60° 08 with True Temper Dynamic Gold S300 shafts. Many amateur/weekend golfer overlook the importance of the bounce on the club. Knowing the purpose of each club can help you play different types of shots.

Miscellaneous items

- Face Towel
- Titleist cup w/ Red Bull ball marker attached
- 2 pairs of gloves
- Oakley Half Jacket G30 Polarized Sunglasses
- Bushnell Tour V2 Laser Rangefinder
- Taylormade Torque Wrench
- Golf Ball Line Marker Tool
- Sun protection for body, face & lips
- Insect Repellent
- Berghaus Waterproof Gore Tex Jacket
- Water Flask
- Tees
- Ball-Titleist Pro V1



Putter

Putting is the worst part of my game. I must've changed putters at least three times the last 2 years. I've switched back to my Teryllium Newport Tel3. It was made famous by Tiger Woods winning the 1997 Masters.

John Daly head cover lion mascot

It's a reminder that golf should be fun and shouldn't be taken so seriously. Just grip it and rip It!

Ryder Cup 2002 Pitch Repairer & Ball Marker

I bought this in Belfry. The event was scheduled for 28-30 Sept, 2001, but was postponed for one year due to the Sept 11 terrorist attacks. They have been in my bag ever since.

CLUB	YARDAGE
Driver:	275
3 wood:	225
3 hybrid:	210
4 hybrid:	190
Iron: 5	180
Iron: 6	170
Iron: 7	155
Iron: 8	145
Iron: 9	135
Iron: P	120
52°wedge	110
56°wedge	90
60°wedge	80

	<p>Since our inception in 1971, Lynx has consistently outfitted golfers with exceptional equipment. Over the years we have worked long and hard to perfect our craft and change the way golf is played. We have enjoyed a brief hiatus, during which time we sunbathed, drank sangria, went skinny-dipping – and created the most technologically advanced golf club ever made. So now, armed with our exceptional range of clubs, we are back. We have never forgotten our core belief – that first and foremost, golf is played for fun. This drives our commitment to you, the player. To enhance the experience for each and every one of you out there on the course, whatever your handicap. We place our customers at the very heart of our business, wholeheartedly embracing and welcoming collaboration, feedback and ideas. Lynx remains a family owned business, a close knit team proud to continue building on our reputation and heritage as one of golf's premier manufacturers of equipment, still committed to delivering the ultimate in technology, desirability, innovation and style.</p>
	<p>Applicable endeavors to provide the best possible Mobile Solutions for your Business. We understand the complexity of building Mobile Apps on any platforms, whether it is IOS, Android or HTML5. Using us as your Mobile Solutions provider you don't have to worry about any of those as we will make sure it will work on any platforms!</p>
	<p>Velvety is a California based company that produces quality wines in Napa Valley. We focus on creating the best of the best, the epitome of Napa & California, new world wine. Each harvest we go out to find and hand select grapes for our wine selection. After establishing itself into Hong Kong, Velvety began to realize that it had a large customer base that craved a Californian lifestyle. Velvety Lifestyle was created to meet the market needs of a luxurious California lifestyle.</p>
	<p>SIR provides a bespoke handmade leather shoe experience for both men and women. Shoes from SIR take a step away from yesterday's fashions, adding a current feel to footwear, while maintaining the image of strength you need in business today. Most important, SIR shoes let you transition from the boardroom to the ballroom, blending in just about any situation. Contemporary design partnered with the best leather available makes the perfect final touch for a powerful first impression.</p>
	<p>Love coffee? Lof10. A hidden gem in the mid-level quietness of Sheung Wan! Lof10 is a distinctively unique coffee shop that replicates the owner's loft-designed accommodation back in LA. The concept behind the partner's desire to establish this joint is to bring a piece of their West Coast lifestyle from LA to Hong Kong - from its imported Handsome Coffee Roasters, their loft-inspired & spacious in-house design, stylish decorations, to their sustainable support of 'Boxed Water' - the whole place, the vibe, the environment is one of its kind and certainly not one you find easily in the midst of this non-sleeping city. It isn't located at the most convenient location, it takes effort & takes dedication to get here, you might even consider the stairs a bit of a hike - it's all the reasons that makes it THE perfect hideaway for your afternoons! That, essentially, is what Marcus, Eugene & Wilson wanted to create - a place to relax and enjoy your coffee! (Address: I U-Lam Terrace, Sheung Wan)</p>



The Golfing Garage

- Getting Ready for Summer Golfing -

As we enter into summer, it reminds me of this time last year where I experienced the toughest golfing conditions I have ever played in; playing 2 rounds of golf where the course had no carts, had minimal shade and under 34 degrees heat and 99% humidity. I ended up losing 4kg of water over the two days and became 4 shades darker.

Playing golf in the summer does not need to be as horrendous as I just painted it. Even though golfing in these tough conditions sounds daunting all is not lost, with a few concessions and preparation before you hit the round you can not only survive golfing in the summer but can also play some of your best rounds. Apart from the usual wear light colored clothing, apply sun screen and wear a hat. Here are some tips that I have used over the past to beat the Australian heat.

- 1) **Accept it!:** It's going to be hot, but do not let the heat beat you mentally and bring you down before you even step out onto the course. Instead you should be embracing the heat and think positive in how nice it is to play under the summer sun. The thoughts that run through my mind is that I would rather be out playing golf in the heat rather than being trapped indoors. Think positive and don't let the heat distract you.



- 2) **Liquid is your friend:** As the weather heats up, you will be losing a lot of fluid and salt as your walk out of the bunker. So in order to prepare for the loss, I would ensure that I bring enough liquid. Drinking water sometimes is not enough. It is advisable to drink liquid with electrolytes such Pocari Sweat and Gatorade to ensure that sufficient salt is getting back into your body. Beer, Whisky, Cognac, and Vodka do not count as essential liquids ☺.



- 3) **Get fit:** Playing golf in the heat is already a tough assignment on its own, therefore if you're not fit or carrying a little extra baggage around makes playing golf under the sun even tougher. Therefore to prepare for summer golfing try and do **30mins of Cardio X 3 times a week** to ensure that your body is physically prepared for the summer heat. Getting fit not only allows your body be physically ready, but also mentally as you are confident playing the 18th hole will be the same as playing the 1st. Not only will you be playing better but you will also look fantastic as you go on the junk boat trips.



- 4) **Take extra shirts:** You can't play your best golf if you are drenched and your shirts are clinging to your arms as you swing. Unfortunately we are not allowed to wear singlets on the course therefore I would bring at least 2 shirts in my bag to ensure that I have a change of clothing so that I feel refreshed after the turn.



Golfing in the summer does not have to be a painful experience. If you are prepared it's actually my favorite time of the year to play. Not only are there less people on the course, there are a lot more tee times and also cheaper green fees. Therefore why not make the most of it and get ready to take on the summer heat out on the course.

Cannot wait for the next round. ♣

This Month's Celebrity Golfer

Huges Grant

Mr. Huges Grant is one of Great Britain's most celebrated actors.

A golfing addict, he travels to St. Andrews to participate in the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship pro-am event every year.

His handicap is 7.4.

"I'm very embarrassed about my golf habit. It's awful. I wish it had never happened to me. I used to have a well-rounded personality, many interests, and now I don't really care about anything except golf. I used to be a big reader. Now I read Dave Pelz's Putting Bible."



For information on our upcoming events,
please visit:

www.meetup.com/HKqolf/

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

info@hkpgs.com

