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Council's Message

- Please be informed that the "Hong Kong Golf Outing Network" Meetup group has been renamed "Recreational Golf Outings" (or "RGO" for short).
- Our first official tournament, The RGO Cup, is set to take place in May. We welcome all of our members to take part in this wonderful event. It will be a perfect occasion for our members to socialize and test their skills against each other. Each participant will receive a specially designed memento. It is our hope that The RGO Cup will become an annual event. The venue, competition format, and other details will be announced on our Meetup website in due course.
- Ray Tsang, Amy Yau, and Joyce Cheng will join forces to oversee the smooth running of our golf events. They are committed to hosting two golf outings every month with one on a weekday and one on a weekend.

Meanwhile, Gilbert Joa will be hosting a monthly social event. This will give members more opportunities to socialize with each other.

We strive to do our best to serve our members. Feedback and recommendations from our members are most welcome. ♣



As I Please

- Titleist 975D -

By Ray Tsang



The simple & classic design of the 975D



A very alien-looking modern-day driver

“... swinging a modern driver is like waving a Volkswagen Beetle on a cane...”

The other day, my good friend Ben and I had some moments to spare before our practice session at the driving range, so we went into the pro shop to browse aimlessly without the slightest intention to buy anything. Ben, who is in-the-know about golf equipment, was casually looking at the used clubs rack, when all of a sudden he remarked with surprise, "Whoa! Titleist 975D. Come check it out, Ray!" I went over to look at the famed driver. I liked what I saw. It was in near-mint condition, and, as far as I was concerned, it was of the right loft (10.5°) and the right shaft flex (Regular). And it was selling for HK\$600 only! I was very tempted to get it there and then.

The Titleist 975D came out in 1998. It immediately became the most popular driver model on the PGA Tour. It was seen as a "player's club" targeted for advanced players. In 2000, the year I learned to play golf, I could still see many "serious" recreational golfers at the driving range play with the 975D. I aspired to become a good golfer, and I liked to play with equipment that good players used. So I went to get myself a 975D with a stiff shaft and 8.5° loft. I was then a strong 18-year-old, and I loved to swing at the ball really hard. I could hit the 975D quite well, averaging 250-270 yards. I remember once on a slightly downhill Par 4, I hit a massive tee shot with it that went 300 yards! Unfortunately, my swing soon went awry. I developed a nasty habit of swinging the club over-the-top and outside-in. Plus, swinging the club all-out every time was starting to take its toll on my back. I was no longer able to transfer energy from the club to the ball efficiently. I found it very laborious to hit a driver with a stiff shaft and only 8.5° loft. I decided to retire my 975D.

While hitting balls with Ben at the range, I could not stop thinking about the 975D I just saw at the pro shop. It had the right specifications, it was selling for a bargain price, and it reminded me of the good old days. After my practice session, I went back to the pro shop. I suppressed my excitement and, in a deliberately aloof manner, asked the staff for a discount on the driver. The staff, without much consideration, knocked a hundred dollars off the tagged price. I left the shop very pleased with my purchase.

What I love most about the 975D is its small clubhead (260cc) and classic design. I am a traditionalist. I refuse to try the modern-day, big-headed, futuristic-looking drivers. They are disgustingly and disproportionately big. Some golfers say that swinging a modern driver is like "waving a Volkswagen Beetle on a cane" or "swinging a shoebox" or "swinging a watermelon on a stick". And I do not see how those special screws and inserts and space-age materials (all very curious) incorporated in a modern driver can help my game. They are just gimmicks devised by manufacturers to boost sales.

I expect to get asked a lot on the course why I keep hitting a 3-wood off the tee. And I will not tire of telling them: "No, it's not a 3-wood. It's the 975D, my friend." ♣

Past Events

18 Holes at Kau Sai Chau 16 / 1 / 2014



Anthony is always cool as a cucumber



The boys enjoyed the brisk weather



Ashley and Robin in good mood



One of Hong Kong's most beautiful spots

Christmas Party at Havana Bay 13 / 12 / 2013



There is no better way to spend your Saturday afternoon than to sip away on quality coffee, tucked away in the little streets of Sheung Wan and having a good laugh over a girly chat! I have known Ms. Polly Yuen for over one year now. She is one of Meetup's very first regular golf enthusiasts. Not only is Polly creative and artistic, she is no ordinary female golfer, often driving up to 180 yards off the tee effortlessly making her a great golfing buddy to challenge on the course!

MEET & GREET

By Joyce Cheng



What is your background?

I was born and raised in Hong Kong. I studied Graphic Design at Polytech University.

What is your profession?

I graduated during the dot com boom so I started working in the IT & design industry specializing in web design, animation & multimedia.

But I hear you are running some other projects now?

Yes correct, I'm taking a new path this year. I resigned so I can focus on the projects I love to do.

I help out at a "Teapot Art & Craft" workshop run by a friend, teaching art & painting classes – a venture he started 2 years ago and is looking to expand this year. So I will assist him in the project.

On the side, I will also offer logo and website designing services for small businesses and ventures to enhance their branding & image.



What was the 'Fotanian Open Day' event about?

That was an annual art event held at my studio in Fotan, giving artists in the area the opportunity to showcase their works of art. I personally had about 10 of my own oil paintings on display. A few HKPGS members dropped in to support the event too which was really lovely!

How did you get started in golf?

I started going to the range about a year and a half ago but to be honest I didn't enjoy it at the beginning. I gave it a 'probation period' the first few months but I wasn't getting into it. I could barely swing my 7 iron well and I would get frustrated.

It was only after an experience on course at Palm Island did I start appreciating the beauty and fun of golf. I

"I resigned so I can focus on the projects I love to do."



Beautiful art on coffee cups

was all excited again to hit the range after that!

Do you play any sport other than golf?

Oh, too many! I have periods where I would spend a lot of time in one sporting game and then develop interest in another. So I have probably played any sport you could name!

What other hobbies do you enjoy?

Art jamming, painting and Salsa!

How would you rate your game?

I really do not know as it fluctuates so much. My best score is 109 but I normally average in the 115 range.

Any short term goals for golf?

Oh I am definitely looking to break that 100 mark.

Do you have a memorable round you could share with us?

Oh, I have so many!

One definitely being our first Meetup trip to Palm Island! We all competed for 'Longest Drive' and 'Nearest to the Pin' and I must say I was impressed with myself for winning Nearest to the Pin that day.

Another one was our trip to Firestone – first, a member couldn't find our meet-up point and we had to look everywhere for him; then, our coach broke down on the highway in Shenzhen. Somehow we still made our tee time! It was surely an adventurous journey to the course!



Polly's oil paintings

Which is your favorite club?

My Titliest Utility Hybrid 910H – I usually hit 120-130 yards with it. It never fails me!

What do you love about golf most?

It's a sport that requires a combination of skills, strategy and a decent level of fitness without the need for too much muscle to play. So it's great training, both mentally and physically!

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

Dynamic!



Polly holding "Nearest to the Pin" prize money

How did you come across this golf Meetup group?

I met Ray at my first golf encounter at Palm Island. He kindly invited me to join many of the Meetup events thereafter!

How would you rate our Meetup group?

Active. You guys are very active on regular outings and events. I have joined the group for about a year and I am glad to have met many fun golf enthusiasts, especially the organizers. I still remember the period we went hardcore golfing every week!

Any more feedback for HKPGS?

Keep up the regularity of the events! It's a great platform and I have enjoyed every event I have attended. In fact, I look forward to collaborating with HKPGS in the future some way or another! ♣



What's in My Bag

By Grace Cheng



University of St Andrews alumna

Tees

Definitely cannot play without these Magic Tees.

Woods 3 and 5

TaylorMade Miscela

Driver

Underneath Ranger the Golden Retriever is a XXIO MP500

Irons and wedges

Miura CB301 and 56° black wedge

Putter

Whitlam Joseph Flag Series

My Baikinman pouch

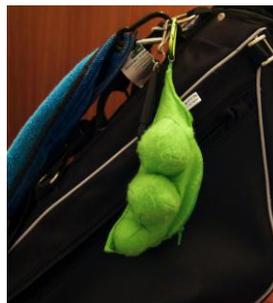
Where I keep my tissues, nasal spray, clean hankies etc.

Snack

Chocolate bars

Golf hats

I prefer hats to umbrellas, as I like to keep my hands free. The black hat is a seamless GORE-TEX and it feeds my silliness saying 'let it rain' on the back.



Gloves

Since I am picky with the fit of gloves, I tend to keep a few in my bag as spare. Most ladies gloves come in pairs so the fit 39 and some of the FootJoy ones does the job for me.

Golf balls and things

I use the Titleist Pro V1x to hopefully make up for my horrible short game. The Srixon AD333 gives nice long drive.

Edamame

To keep a few Pro V1x as a last resort.

Side pocket

Water & sunscreens

Golf shoes

As much as I love the classics, my flat feet insoles do not fit into most of them apart from the Lambada Venezia, a few styles from Bally Golf and the not so classic-looking FootJoy Junior. And the latter is the clear winner for comfort, I mean it is FootJoy (pardon the pun).

	<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>Golf Laboratory is the premier indoor golf driving range in Hong Kong. Whether you're hoping to improve your game or simply looking for a quick round of golf, we are here to help. Maximize your practice sessions with immediate feedback from our simulators, including both club and ball data, or let our professionals help you get the most out of our advanced systems.</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: 1 U-Lam Terrace, Sheung Wan)</p>



The Golfing Garage

- Get out of trouble by knowing the rules and etiquette -

By Garrick Kong

As a young lad in the 'land of the long white cloud' (google to find out the country ☺) I was constantly yelled at by the older members of the golf club for walking out the bunker via the lip, not repairing divots on the green, not raking bunkers, and hitting up on players and not calling 'fore'.

To save you some embarrassment, in this edition of the Golfing Garage I would like to highlight some of the rules and etiquette that will be of interest to beginners and intermediate players. The rules have been adopted from The R&A (<http://www.randa.org>) that will fast track you in getting out of trouble from the marshals and playing partners when on the golf course.

General Points and Etiquette

The game of golf should be played in the correct spirit in particular:

- Show consideration to other players.
- Play at a good pace and be ready to invite faster moving groups to play through.
- Take care of the course by smoothing bunkers, replacing divots and repairing ball marks on the greens.
- Count your clubs as you are only allowed a maximum of 14 clubs.

During the round

- Don't ask for 'advice' from anyone except your partner (i.e. a player on your side) or your caddie; don't give advice to anyone except your partner. You may ask for information on the Rules, distances and the position of hazards, the flagstick.
- Don't play any practice shots during play of a hole.
- Don't use any artificial devices or unusual equipment, unless specifically authorized by Local Rules



On the tee

Play your tee shot from between, and not in front of, the tee-markers. You may play your tee shot from up to two club-lengths behind the front line of the tee markers. If you do not adhere to these rules you will incur a two-stroke penalty and must play a ball within the correct area.

On the green

On the putting green, you may:

- Mark, lift and clean your ball (always replace it on the exact spot).
- Repair ball marks and old hole plugs, but not any other damage, such as spike marks.
- When making a stroke on the putting green ensure that the flagstick is removed or attended to. The flagstick may also be removed or attended to when the ball lies off the putting green.

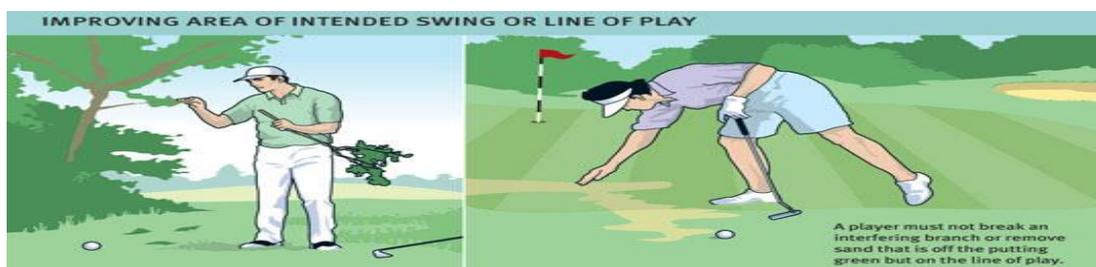
Playing the ball as it lies

Play the ball as it lies. Don't improve your lie, the area of your intended stance or swing, or your line of play by:

- Moving, bending or breaking anything fixed or growing, except in fairly taking your stance or making your swing, or
- Pressing anything down.

If your ball is in a bunker or a water hazard, don't:

- Touch the ground (or the water in a hazard) with your hand or club before your downswing, or
- Move loose impediments.

Ball Lost or Out of bounds; Provisional ball

When your ball is lost:

- You are allowed 5 minutes to search for a ball. If it is not found within 5 minutes it is lost.
- If your ball is lost outside a water hazard or out of bounds you must play another ball from the spot where the last shot was played, under penalty of one stroke, i.e. stroke and distance.
- If after playing a shot, you think your ball may be lost outside a water hazard or out of bounds you should play a provisional ball. You must state that it is a provisional ball and play it before you go forward to search for the original ball. This ball is played once the original ball cannot be found.

This was just the tip of the iceberg in regards to the rules of golf. As you can appreciate there are many rules governing the game of golf, with some quirkier than others. However I hope this provides you with a start on some of the rules and etiquette that you should be noticing while enjoying your round of golf. A great fountain of knowledge for the rules is The R&A website and also our local guru Ben "Hogan" Lau. ♣

This Month's Celebrity Golfer

Donald Trump

Mr. Trump is a tycoon. He has a colorful personality, and he is one of the cockiest human beings alive.

A golf fanatic, Trump has written a golf book called *Trump: The Best Golf Advice I Ever Received*.

Building golf courses is one of his latest ventures.

"My handicap is about 4. I play as much as I can but generally only on weekends. Plus, because I own the course I don't feel guilty playing because I consider it work. I can say 'Fix that tree,' and then it's work. [Laughs.]"



For information on our upcoming events,
please visit:

www.meetup.com/HKgolff/

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

info@hkpgs.com

