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Council's Message

A Note of Thanks & Congratulations

On Sunday, August 24, the Lynx Summer Invitational was successfully held on the South Course at The Jockey Club Kau Sai Chau Public Golf Course. The event attracted 36 hardy golfers who braved the scorching sun and muggy weather and completed 18 holes in high spirits. After their rounds, the contestants mingled and socialized with each other over a sumptuous buffet dinner. It was a great day.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the event. Also, we are grateful for the help from members of Hong Kong Prime Golf Society, especially Mr. Ray Tsang who put in a lot of time, thought and effort in orchestrating a successful tournament.

Congratulations go out to the following participants: Jeffrey Lai and Robert Watkins for winning the Longest Drive contests; Tanni, Wong Sew-wan, Luk Yue-Leung, and Yvonne Chan for winning the Closest to the Pin contests; Popy Suthiwan for winning Best Gross Score; and in the New New Peoria competition: Michael Li for winning third place; Yvonne Chan for winning second place; and Tony Yau for winning the championship.



*The much-coveted
Summer Invitational Trophy*

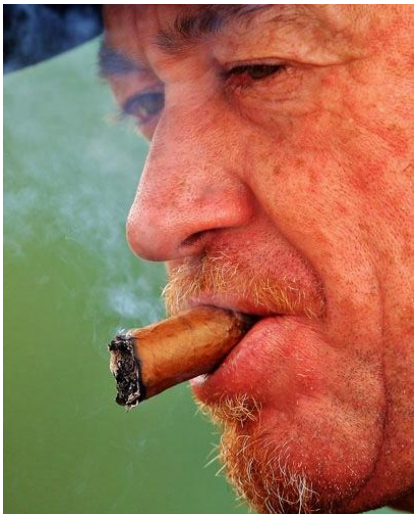
As I Please

- To Smoke or Not to Smoke -

By Ray Tsang



Northern Irishman Darren Clarke



Spaniard Miguel Angel Jimenez

“Unless your handicap is 18 or below, it is not advisable to try to look stylish smoking a cigar on the course.”

Cigar-smoking and golf are two popular pastimes among adult males. In fact, men often take part in these two activities simultaneously. Men have a strange inclination to puff on a cigar when they play golf. (It is like how holidayers feel it is necessary to read a book when they go to the beach.) I have attempted to play golf and enjoy a cigar at the same time, but I was not very successful. I found that smoking a cigar distracted me from my game. (I have also tried reading a book at a beach, but found that I suddenly became dyslexic and unable to focus on the book, as I was constantly distracted by the hot girls roaming the beach.)

Smoking a cigar while playing golf may seem like a cool thing to do. In actuality, however, trying to do these two activities together can be irksome and will compromise the enjoyment of both. When playing on a public golf course without the assistance of a caddie it is difficult to enjoy a cigar because you simply have too many things to do: pulling the trolley, cleaning your clubs, attending the flag, fixing ball marks and filling divots, putting on and taking off your glove, holding an umbrella, marking your scorecard, taking practice swings, etc. On top of fumbling to do all these things, the course marshal is perpetually harassing you to play faster.

It requires total concentration to play good golf. Smoking a cigar on the course will take away your concentration to a considerable extent. Darren Clarke and Miguel Angel Jimenez, both accomplished professional golfers and cigar aficionados, do not endorse smoking a cigar while trying to play good golf.

"I still smoke cigars all the time, but because my golf hasn't been so good lately, I think it is a bit silly smoking cigars on the course," Clarke said.

"I will smoke cigars during practice rounds and pro-ams, but I do not smoke during an official round," Jimenez said.

However, it is interesting to note that in the 2004 Ryder Cup when Clarke and Jimenez (who, by the way, are bosom friends) were paired together to play a "four-ball" match against their American opponents, they made it a point to smoke cigars throughout the match. Clarke and Jimenez wanted to let the Americans know that the Europeans had more style, more flair, more panache, more sophistication, and more fun. Luckily, Clarke and Jimenez managed to not let their cigar-smoking distract them, and they went on to win the match.

I would say, unless your handicap is 18 or below, it is not advisable to try to look stylish smoking a cigar on the course. A person who duffs and shanks a lot and hits a dozen balls into the water hazards and still insists on puffing a cigar is, I am sorry to say, just a narcissistic douchebag. You need to have a good game to back up your cigar-smoking. Resist the temptation to look smart. Focus on your game. Save those cigars for the 19th hole or the clubhouse patio. ♣

Past Events



Event: Lynx Summer Invitational

Date: 24 / 8 / 2014

Venue: Kau Sai Chau (South Course)

Number of participants: 37



I have been doing this interview column for a year already! This is my 12th monthly interview. To mark this special occasion, I have asked Mr. Garrick Kong to 'chillax' with me over tea and answer some questions. Garrick is one of the coolest and most popular guys in our group. He is quick to help out with organizing events, he contributes golf articles to our newsletter, and he is always happy to mentor new golfers. Garrick has been instrumental in the growth of our golf Meetup group. For his invaluable contributions, he was duly initiated into the exclusive Hong Kong Prime Golf Society.

MEET & GREET

By Joyce Cheng

A Little Background

Garrick is one of RGO's key organizers and has a tremendous passion for the game of golf. He moved to New Zealand at the age of 2, and then made a move to Sydney after high school where he stayed for 10+ years before coming back to Hong Kong.

I asked Garrick which nationality he would identify himself with and he answered, "It depends. When the America Cup or Rugby is on then I'm a Kiwi, when Adam Scott is playing in the Majors I'm an Australian, and if I'm traveling to China for work or holiday then I'm from Hong Kong. As you can see... I have an identity problem."

What made you come back to Hong Kong?

After spending 20+ years living down under, I always wanted to connect back to my 'roots' and experience how it is like working and living in Hong Kong. So when a work opportunity came up to take



Enjoying 'fusion' high tea at Above & Beyond in Hotel Icon, TST

up a role in Hong Kong I took the opportunity without hesitation and made the move.

I remember moving to Hong Kong on Valentine's Day i.e. 14th February 2013. I remember it well as my date that night was unpacking my bags in my temporary apartment in Wan Chai.

What field of work are you in?

I was working in Sydney prior to moving to Hong Kong as an IT Consultant specializing in architecting Regulatory Reporting systems for Financial Services.

I'm currently a Lead Consultant specializing in Data & Analytics, where I'm required to help our customers



Garrick pouting over his non-traditional breakfast. Buns instead of a muffin?

"After spending 20+ years living down under, I always wanted to connect back to my 'roots' and experience how it is like working and living in Hong Kong."



Ben, Garrick & Joyce at Blue Mountain Golf Club in Phuket. A very memorable round of golf.

“What other hobbies? There's only one... Golf!”



Garrick canoeing with RGO members and exploring those surreal sea caves.

understand how they are able to better use the they have collected through time to generate new insights and decisions in their operational processes, unlocking new and potential revenue streams, and analyzing customer buying patterns. One of the areas, which I'm focusing on at the moment, is helping a Hong Kong organization better manage their data so that they are able to bring to market new product offerings more quickly.

So how did you start with Golf?

I started playing golf in high school when I was 14. All my friends played and talked about golf so I ended up joining them on the course one day and I instantly fell in love. I remember we were so obsessed that we designed golf courses during economics class.

I started playing at a course called Titirangi Golf Course in Auckland New Zealand. Living in New Zealand, golf was so accessible paying only HK\$1,000 for a junior membership at an Alister Mckenzie designed golf course (the designer of Augusta National Golf Club) where we enjoyed free group coaching from the local pro, and enjoyed set tee times on Sundays.

How would you rate your game?

Going by my last few rounds I'm playing to about a 24 handicap which is way too high for my liking. I would love to get back down to sub 18's. My game is really hot and cold and one of the areas I'm working on is to be more consistent in my golf game.

If I'm able to be consistent I know I'm able to shoot lower.

What has been your best or most memorable game?

My best score was a 79, but for some reason that wasn't a memorable round. My most memorable one was when HKPGS held a golf trip to Vietnam during Christmas last year and we played at Vietnam Country Club. The course was very challenging but was so much fun, as there was overhanging trees, tight fairways, and having to hit golf balls off tree trunks really encouraged you to be innovative in your shot making.

You're such a happy golfer, does anything make you mad on the course?

Nothing really drives me mad on the golf course, as I try to focus on my game and not let others distract me.

Apart from Golf, do you play any other sport?

What other hobbies? There's only one...Golf!

Do you have a favourite brand?

I don't really have a favorite brand of clubs. I just try and use something that works for me. At the moment I feel that golf clubs are very similar from one brand to another and I'm sure that you can find a club that fits your game no matter what brand it is.

However I do like what Taylor Made is doing with the SLDR drivers they are putting out, not just a club for marketing purposes.



Garrick focused & concentrated on his shot

“Even though I’m not a single handicap golfer, I don’t feel that you need to be good at golf in order to help nurture interest in the game.”

The beautiful par3 6th Hole of Titirangi Golf Course in Auckland where Garrick started his golf adventure at age 14.



What about your favorite club then?

It has to be my Odyssey 2 Ball putter, a classic putter which I bought on sale for US\$50 and it has never let me down since. It’s the only club that I have stuck with in the last 8 years. The ball just rolls so true off the putter face and it’s so easy to align I can’t see myself changing that putter any time soon.

Do you have any golf hero?

Probably my friend’s dad as he was the one which really got me into golf by taking me to his family golf outings which lasted for 2 weeks and went to play at courses which the NZ Open was held. He was a good player as well, at the time he was on a 5 handicap and was a golf addict recording every single golf tournament that is on cable TV, and bought new clubs every year.

What do you love about golf most?

There are two main reasons I love golf, the first is the technical aspect where it is a lifelong game. You are consistently learning and honing in on your golf game. The second is the social aspect of golf, where I’ve met some of my best friends out on the golf course.

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

Awesome.

How did you come to be one of the key members of RGO?

Like most others I came across the group through Meetup.com when I first came to Hong Kong. I brought my clubs over from Australia and wanted to meet some new people while I was out here. So I joined one of the driving range sessions at SCAA, and met Ray, Gilbert, Robin and Amy all in that one session.

After that it just snowed balled from there, going to dinner events held by the members, partied with them in LKF (as you do in HK :P), played a few rounds in China, went on a few golf trips, and before you know it I was organizing Path to the Green sessions, writing golf articles and helping out with the tournaments held by the members.

How would you describe our group to freshers?

The group is young, fun and accepting, no matter what your skill level is. The group really tries to help out other golfers or budding golfers to take up the game. I know in HK the cost of golf, accessibility to golf courses and ability to practice is a big barrier to entry into the game, and for a group to help break some of those barriers is a big positive in my opinion.

What’s your goal for golf?

Well I want to try and play more golf, but also help build interest into the game hopefully through the beginner’s golfer series, which HKPGS is holding regularly. Even though I’m not a single handicap golfer, I don’t feel that you need to be good at golf in order to help nurture interest in the game. ♣

What's in My Bag

By Logan Hairgrove



A thrifty approach to golf equipment: When it comes to my golf bag and what's inside it's cheap. I believe I can hit most clubs just fine (feel free to let me borrow yours anytime to see), so I don't worry about getting new ones unless I break the old ones. My rule of thumb is if it's usable then I'll use it.

Irons: I have a 3-iron through a Sand Wedge, but my last few rounds I haven't played with a 4, 6, or 7-iron. I like my bag to be as light as possible, and I'm just not a good enough golfer for every club to matter. I miss my Cleveland 7-iron the most, but I broke it one day years ago, and I guess I didn't try to get it repaired.

Sand wedge: My Dad gave me a sand wedge from a charity golf tournament years ago, and it had served me fine, but when I was practicing at SCAA last year the club head flew off. Then I tried to play 9 Eagles without a sand wedge, which was dumb. I learned my lesson and before my next round at KSC I bought the cheapest Sand Wedge they had. It works fine, but my short game is pretty terrible, which is my fault not the club's fault.

Driver: My Dad gave me this Ping Titanium IST Karsten 10° driver. The club face has come off twice, and the second time it was re-glued the epoxy went from the shaft into the club head, so it has a nice little jingle when I swing it. Also some other part is missing from the club head. The coolest thing about this driver is when I've hit it off of driving range mats it sometimes sparks, which I just find absolutely amusing. I've hit a good handful of shots with this driver off the ground, which is also fun. These days I usually like the safety and additional consistency of my 3-iron over my driver for my par 4 and par 5 tee shots.

5 wood: It's the only Golden Bear club from the original set I have in my Golden Bear bag. It looks well used, but I sometimes don't use it an entire round.

Putter: I use a cheap Spalding putter I took from my parent's garage.

Bag: I got my Golden Bear bag when I got my first set of adult clubs. I think the whole set with the bag was less than \$200USD over 12 years ago. I'd say the bag is semi-functional and is characteristically cheap. It's one of those bags that has the legs that come out, but the problem is they don't stay in, so I have to bend them around the bag to keep them secure.



In my bag pouches: I have 3 golf gloves for some reason. I think at least one doesn't fit very well. I keep tissues, a few tees I've got from wherever, a purple divot remover I can't recall using, whatever the cheapest balls are and whatever balls I find on the course, an energy bar, a pen, and the newest thing in my bag: my golf shoes. My last golf shoes literally fell apart, and I played a back 9 with Ray with a sole that came partially off, and fully came off on the 18th hole.



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.



Appslicable 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!



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.



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.



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)



The Golfing Garage

- Putting Clinic Part 2: Dialing in Your Pressure Putting -

By Garrick Kong

One of the areas which golfers underestimate in putting is the mental side. Without clarity in your mind and confidence in your putting, it will cause havoc in your putting stroke and it can be the difference between breaking 90 for the first time. Therefore, when you practice putting you should practice with pressure. In the last part of the Putting Clinic, I will provide some pressure putting drills, which I use to help dial in my putting under pressure situations.

Box Drill – Improve your long putting game

The box drill is used to improve your putting game by setting up a box and progressively putting the ball from further and further away, trying to ensure the ball ends up inside the box.



The drill is as follows:

- 1) Set up a box with thin string or tees about 6ft x 10ft with the hole centered in the middle.
- 2) Perform putts at 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 feet .
- 3) Read the line, and putt by keeping head steady and minimize body movement. Make sure the ball lands into the box.
- 4) Start over if the box is missed.
- 5) Repeat drill until all the balls lands into the box.

Circle Drill – Improve your short putting game

The circle drill is used to improve your short putting game by assessing the putt and hitting 8 balls in quick succession. This drill will ensure that you develop short putt accuracy and to putt well under pressure, which in the case of this drill is time.



The drill is as follows:

- 1) Set up 8 balls in a three-foot circle around a hole.
- 2) Putt the ball within five seconds after assessing the break
- 3) Start drill over if ball is missed.
- 4) Repeat drill until all putts are made.

Nine Hole Par 2 - Pressure putting under a game situation

The aim of the game is to put your putting under pressure by playing a nine hole putting challenge where each miss will have consequences. The drill is the as follows:

- 1) Start 6ft from the hole and try to hole that putt.
- 2) If you hole it, you move on to the next hole (9 holes in total).
- 3) If you miss it, move the ball back from where it finished by one club length and repeat the process.
- 4) Consider each hole a par 2 and total your score for the nine holes.
- 5) Try to beat your best score each time.

Make the Hole look Bigger on the Course – Gain confidence

The aim of the game is to gain extra confidence on the golf course by making the hole seem bigger than it is. This is a good one to try before you go out on the golf course as the hole will seem twice as big giving you more confidence over shorter putts. Here's what you do:

- 1) Put 2 tees in the ground just in front of the hole, so they make the hole about half its actual width.
- 2) Try to make 5 putts from 4ft.
- 3) If you miss start over.

Now that you have several putting drills and games under your belt, take some time to practice your putting under pressure scenarios and hopefully it provide clarity in your mind and most importantly develop confidence in your putting stroke next time you are on the course. ♣

This Month's Celebrity Golfer

Justin Timberlake

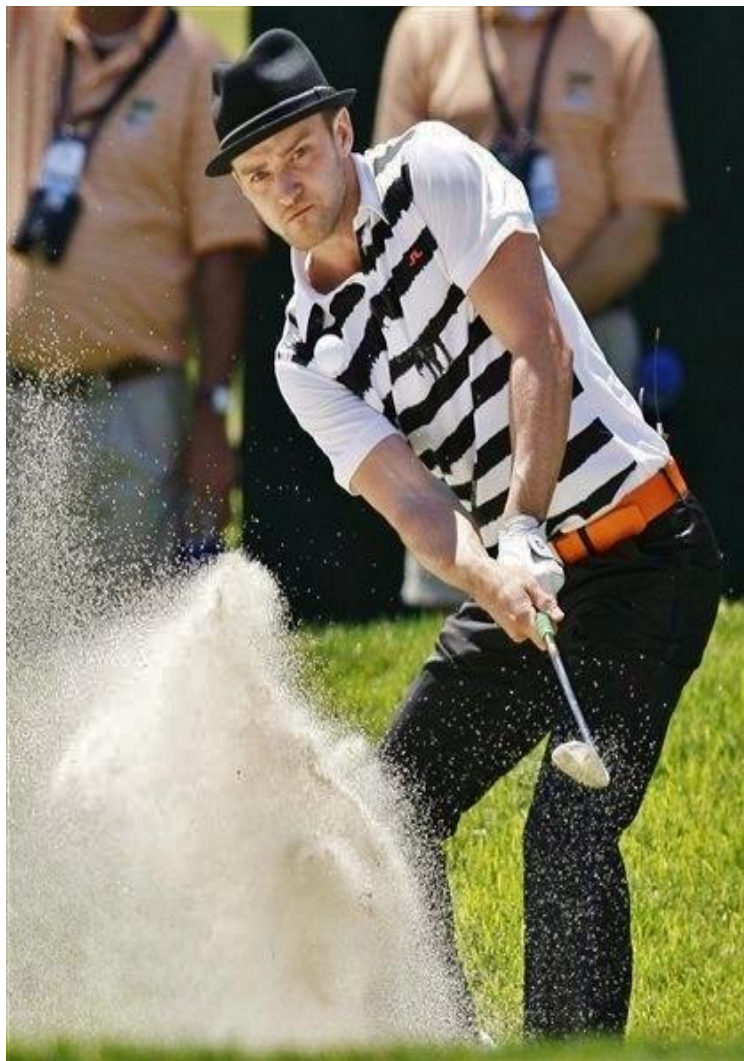
Mr. Timberlake is an American singer. He was a member of that very popular boy band NSYNC.

He once hired the world-renowned golf instructor Butch Harmon to be his swing coach.

He hosts an annual PGA Tour event called "The Shriners Hospitals for Children Open".

His handicap is 6.

"Golf is me and buddies out having a good time, but most of all, golf is about me and my dad. Anytime I think of golf, I think about my dad. He taught me how to hit a golf ball, and he got me playing."



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



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