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## Council's Message

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- To promote Recreational Golf Outings Meetup, we have designed a leaflet and made 2,000 copies of it. The leaflets will be distributed throughout Hong Kong. Also, we have been doing promotion on several popular online forums. We expect to see a rapid increase in membership.
- The "Path to the Green" program has been running for two months, and it has been a success so far. There is a good bonding between coaches and students. Many members have shown interest in the program, and enrollment is on the rise. We have decided to use the profit generated from the program in the past two months to subsidize our students. Starting from April, students will only have to pay \$150 for a two-hour session.
- The 2nd HKPGS Initiation Dinner was held at Mr. Ray Tsang's residence. We would like to thank Ray for being such a gracious host. He had prepared buttery goose liver and succulent sirloin steaks for his guests. After dinner, HKPGS members enjoyed conversations with each other over whisky and red wine. Pictures from that evening can be seen on P.3-4 of this newsletter. ♣



*Coach Ben Lau talking to "Path to the Green" students about posture.*

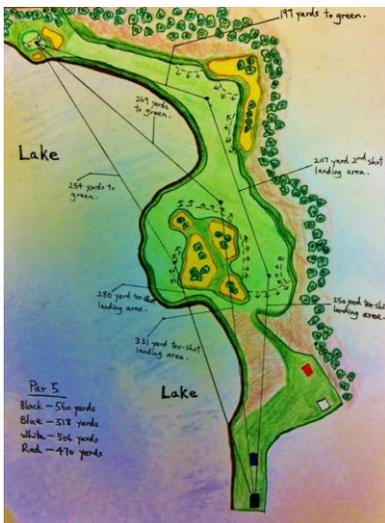
## As I Please

- My Twin -

By Ray Tsang



Clockwise: Daly, Aphibarnrat,  
Stadler, Parry



Golf hole designed by  
Kenneth

***“They did an  
admirable job  
refraining from  
laughing.”***

I have a "fraternal" twin brother named Kenneth. It is great to have a twin brother. Kenneth is my best friend, my confidant, and my cigar buddy. He is also my golf companion.

Kenneth and I share a similar taste in golfers. We have a peculiar fondness for rotund golfers and we always root for them. We love eccentricities in golfers, and fatness is our favorite one. When we first started playing the game in the early 2000s, our favorite golfers to watch were Craig Parry and John Daly. In recent years, we have enjoyed watching Kevin Stadler and Kiradeck Aphibarnrat.

Kenneth enjoys golf in a one-dimensional way. He merely enjoys the ball-striking aspect of the game. He is shamelessly disinterested in the short game. He does not take any practice swings to gauge the distance or to get a feel of the lie when chipping the ball. When his ball finds a bunker, he would ask his caddie to fetch it and he would take a free drop wherever he pleases. On the green, he seldom bothers to squat down to read his putt. When he hits an errant tee shot into the woods (a rather frequent occurrence), his caddie would duly go into the woods to look for his ball. After 15 seconds or so, he would get impatient and call off the search. He would ask his caddie to hand him a new ball, then he would place it on a perfect lie in the fairway about 160 yards from the flag (seems to be his favorite distance). Then he would attack the pin with an 8 iron and take a divot about the size of a 16-ounce sirloin strip. He would marvel at that big divot and say, "Look at that divot. Just like how the pros do it." The other day, I made him play properly. I made him count the penalty strokes, putt every putt, and keep score. He shot 70 on the front nine! When I informed him of the shockingly bad score, his reaction was "Oh well."

Once we were on a Par 5 at Mission Hills Golf Club in Shenzhen, China. We were playing night golf. Kenneth was getting ready to hit his tee shot. Our caddies stood quietly nearby. The group behind us was about fifteen meters away waiting patiently. Kenneth really wanted to hit a long drive as he was determined to reach the green in two shots. He swung so violently that he totally lost his balance. He spun 270 degrees and fell to the ground. Miraculously, the ball was still on the tee as Kenneth had missed the ball completely. Our caddies and the players in the group behind us witnessed the debacle. They did an admirable job refraining from laughing. Kenneth and I, however, burst out laughing like crazy.

Being married with two young children, Kenneth is resigned to the fact that his opportunities to play golf have been substantially curtailed. He now satisfies his golf itch by playing virtual golf on his Xbox, by reading golf magazines, by watching the Golf Channel, and by drawing golf holes in his sketchbook. Poor fellow. ♣

## Past Events

2nd HKPGS Initiation Dinner 15 / 3 / 2014





18 Holes @ KSC (North Course) 14 / 3 / 2014



*I've always admired my male golf counterparts who are able to hit the ball a long way. We women just aren't strong enough to do that. This admiration deepened when I witnessed Greg play on the course. He swung effortlessly and propelled the ball 250 yards with his 3 wood (300 + with his driver). Needless to mention, I was stunned. The 'wow' face of his caddie was quite an entertainment for Greg & me! This month's issue presents our readers with Mr. Greg Hides, a leisurely golfer from Australia and an active member of RGO Meetup!*

## MEET & GREET

By Joyce Cheng



***“We lived and breathed golf back then.”***



Greg is from Sydney. As a little kid, he had spent a generous amount of time in England, Sudan and Kuala Lumpur for his father's work. In 2011 he moved to HK due to a, somewhat unwilling, transfer by his company from Tokyo. Unwilling as he greatly enjoyed his time back in Japan, he tells me during our chat.

***So Greg, what are you currently doing in HK?***

I'm an IT manager at Credit Suisse but at the moment I'm enjoying my sabbatical! Life is actually a lot busier when I'm not at work!

***What are your other hobbies?***

I watch sports; enjoy watching good movies, and traveling. Good food & wine are always on the list too.

***How did you start in golf?***

I started playing when I was about 10 years old with my uncle and cousin. We had just moved to England at the time for



my father's work and I was very lucky to have a cousin my own age in England. We both took up golf really quickly where I started off with a single 7 iron. We took group lessons together and hit balls at a local school playing field almost every day, of course weather permitting. As I got better I built up a half-set of mixed irons and woods then joined a club as a junior and the rest... is now history.

Back then, if we weren't playing golf we'd be hunting for balls in the rough and scrub around the course, and there was no better feeling than finding a new Titleist tour balata or Maxfli HT!

***What kept you playing as a kid?***

Well, I had a group of school friends that all played at the same club, we lived and breathed golf back then. I was lucky



Boozing with his mate

to still be eligible for a junior membership when I moved back to Sydney, so my teenage years were pretty much all about golf and cricket!

***Where do you practice most?***

Asia Golf or Nine Eagles, though I find the range a little boring. I'd rather 'practice' on the course. Nine Eagles is great for practice if you can play alone midweek or in the evening. You can hit 2 or even 3 balls per shot. It's a shame that both locations will close this year.

***How would you rate your game?***

Okay. I think I have a decent swing but I struggle to put everything together on a given day. I hit too many 'really bad' shots for my liking. Consistency is undoubtedly my biggest problem, but hey that's the challenge of golf right!?

***What's your best score?***

My best score by far was a memorable 78 at the NSW course. Difficult, but an absolutely spectacular course on the coastline of Botany Bay, just outside Sydney. It's a very exclusive member's only club and it was the one and only time I played there. Everything seemed to go right for me that day, admittedly the weather was also perfect, barely any wind!

***What's your short term goal?***

Improve my putting. These days I struggle with my putts. With the extreme inconsistency, after missing a few easy putts I can quickly lose my composure. I am sure a few fellow members have heard my occasional screams of anger after missing an easy one!

***What about your most memorable game?***

Definitely the time when I played the Brabazon course at the Belfry in England, with 3 other good mates. We were all 15/16 at the time, kids full of confidence! The Ryder cup has played there a few times so playing a course you have seen on TV is really quite a special experience. I don't remember my score but I'm pretty sure I broke 100! ☺

***What drives you mad on the golf course?***

I guess two things come to mind – Lack of respect for the golf course and slow play. I was very lucky to be a junior member at a respectable club when I was a kid so etiquette was absolutely drilled into us. Replacing divots, repairing pitch marks and raking bunkers was second nature to us, we didn't have to think about it.

We were taught to respect the course and respect our fellow golfers by leaving the course in better condition than we found it. So it really saddens me to see people these days taking huge divots and just walking away without replacing or adding sand back, or leaving bunkers unraked.

If we all took this approach, courses would be destroyed in no time. I think it's important to show respect to both the course and other golfers by cleaning up after yourself as you go around!

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***"I am sure a few fellow members have heard my occasional screams of anger after missing an easy one!"***



Greg's an adventurous lad

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***"Replacing divots, repairing pitch marks and raking bunkers was second nature to us, we didn't have to think about it."***

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**“Golf has a strange, somewhat addictive effect on people.”**



*The Anser 4 putter and Eye 2 3-wood Greg still treasures in his golf collection.*



### ***Do you have a favorite brand?***

Wow I have so many! As a kid I absolutely loved Ping and remember spending a whole Summer washing cars just to save up for a set of Ping Eye 2 irons, which were THE clubs to have back then! I still have an old Anser 4 putter and an Eye 2 3-wood from my junior days! Having lived in Tokyo, I've now become a real nut for the Japan Domestic Market equipment, (Yamaha, Romaro, Royal Collection and ONOFF's). There is so much choice and variety in Japan – it's unreal! I've always been a Titleist fan too. They have stayed true to classic styles and are of high quality.

### ***Which is your favorite club?***

Right now it would be my 54 degree wedge. It's a very versatile wedge, great for 100 yard full pitches and little pitch/chips around the green. I'm confident with it and can control the ball pretty well (well, most of the time anyway).

### ***What attracts you to golf so much?***

You know I've never given it much thought, I just love golf! Golf has a strange, somewhat addictive effect on people. There is no better feeling than hitting a pure shot. It's that feeling that keeps us coming back no matter how badly we play.

Golf is a huge challenge, technically, mentally and sometimes physically. Then you have to battle the course, the weather and your fellow golfers. It's a unique sport in that sense, and of course golf allows us to enjoy some spectacular scenery.

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

I would have to say 'Frustrating'!

### ***How did you come across our Meetup group?***

I stumbled across the group via the magic Googler.

### ***What do you like or dislike about the group? We're always looking for ways to improve on how we should run the Meetup!***

I think the group is terrific and really unique. You guys do a fantastic job! It's great seeing such a wide variety of people coming together to enjoy the game. It really optimizes what golf is all about!

### ***What do you want to strive for next?***

Haha deep question... I'm an Australian so I just go with the flow. ♣

### ***The Interviewer's Impression:***

*For the first time I played with Greg last weekend. He came across as a man of great golf etiquette. He respects the game. Needless to say, he has a lot of game.*

*As I turned to return to our cart, I had a fright from Greg's unexpected 'scream of anger' due to a lip-out missed putt – that was quite a scream! What I enjoyed most though, was witnessing his consistently long and what I'd describe as 'monster' drives throughout the 18-hole game!*

*If you'd like a challenging partner on the course, Greg is the man to go to!*

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# What's in My Bag

By Jolly Kwok



**Golf bag** Kasco golf bag with wheels. Although my friend say it's a little bit bulky, I can put all my belonging into this lovely purple bag.

**Golf Set** This is my third set of golf clubs. Before that I was using Kasco Dimples for men. I am a little taller than many lady golfers and so that's not much problems in handling men's clubs. Later I got myself Macgergor Mactec NVSL for women. They are lighter in weight but give me less distance. Amazingly they all come with purple pink color.

## Golfing background

It was years ago when I had a chance to work with a major golf shop and know more about the game. And since then, as a lady golfer and a busy financial planner, I have been enjoying the game with much intensity. It's not just picking the right clubs or doing a perfect swing, but also putting on the right dress of my beloved colors. Whether it is sleeveless pink polo, lightweight white pants or Bermuda purple shorts, it all lights up the life and brings out the fun of the sport.

**Driver** 11.5° Mactec NVSL  
It is so beautifully designed but it doesn't lose its functionality.

**Hybrid** 20° Mactec NVSL UT 3.  
My favorite which compensates my lack of distance and it is my good partner especially on a Par 5 hole.

**Irons** 5, 7, 9, PW, SW Mactec NVSL  
Very girly style. Has adopted a four-way round sole.

**Putter** Interestingly I still keep the Kasco Dimples Putter for men.



## Golf insurance forms

There is a funny quote which says "I know I am getting better at golf because I am hitting fewer spectators." Ha ha! It is not surprising that the most important thing I bring with me is a few golf insurance application forms for my friends who are beginners! Well, who knows if I am going to hit a hole-in-one and the insurance will come in handy for a nice celebration!

## Ball

Pinnacle Gold Ribbon Pink Ball. I love using fun color ball that adding some bling to my swing.



## Ball marker & hat

My new companion. Callaway Bear Bear Hat clip Golf-marker. It's a perfect match with my pink golf hat and is a very convenient way to use a ball marker without digging into my pockets.

## Tee

Plastics graduated tees.

## Driver cover

Bear Bear driver cover which is so cute and puffy!



## Gloves

Callaway Alura Gloves provides superior flexibility and ventilation

## Snack

I love to bring some Bear Bear chocolate biscuits which come in small pieces. They are small but give me enough energy for the game. And they are not messy which is important because you have to be ready for pictures anytime!

## UV Lotion

Fancl House Anti-UV SPF 30 PA+++ Lotion. "Less is More" which is an important item for lady golfers like me!

## Shoes

ECCO golf shoes. They are quite fashionable with purple strip.

	<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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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 &amp; Wilson wanted to create - a place to relax and enjoy your coffee! (Address: 1 U-Lam Terrace, Sheung Wan)</p>

## The Golfing Garage

### - Hit golf shots and not golf balls -

By Garrick Kong



You head to the driving range having good intentions to practice and get good at the game of golf. You start with a 7 or 9 iron and hit about 10 balls, the shots are good with the ball flying off the face and the gets good airtime, “not bad” you say to yourself then you grab your driver and begin hitting a few more. The first two sail to the back fence, while the third one was 10 yards short. You then think about the technique you saw on YouTube about leg drive to improve distance, and you begin hitting it well, very well. So well in fact you begin to brag to your friends how awesome you are hitting your drives.

Then suddenly you begin hitting it left, you tee up another ball, you hit it more left, you tee up another ball which goes right and tee up another ball and goes left again. Now you are getting confused, what’s wrong with my swing and you don’t even care about the extra distance you were looking to achieve any more. All you want to do is to just hit the ball straight again.

Does the above sound familiar?

When we go to the driving range a lot of the times our objective is to ensure that we get a ‘feel’ for what a good shot is and hit ball after ball in order to reproduce it and put it as muscle memory.

However as Butch Harmon (ex-coach of Tiger Woods) would put it, when we play golf on the course we hit **golf shots and not golf balls**. Therefore when we go to the range we need to ensure that we have a purpose and a plan when we are there and not become a ‘range monkey’.

To ensure that we have an effective time at the driving range and not hitting golf balls aimlessly and become frustrated try the following tips when you go to the range.

- 1. Know why you are practicing** – When you go to the range, the chances are you are looking to work on a few areas within your golf game. However, instead of working on everything that you have observed through your friends or YouTube, just stick to one technique to practice on. This is the only way in which you are able to put it into muscle memory and give enough time for the new technique to sink in.



- 2. Practice as if you were in a game** – We are all guilty of being ‘range monkeys’, therefore when we go to the range do not just hit golf balls; try and hit golf shots. Simulate each shot as if you were in a game. After each ball take a step back, aim at your target, take a practice swing as you would with a normal golf shot, and then go and hit another ball. In addition, what we should be ensuring is that we are aiming at a particular target point, and ensure you are pushing outside your comfort zone slightly.
- 3. Good practice requires continual and specific feedback** – When you go to the range and work on a particular skill, you need to ensure that you are practicing correctly and that you are getting feedback from what you are working on at the range. We all have blind spots and what we feel is correct is not reality. Therefore when you go to the range ensure you get specific and continual feedback, this can be achieved by using training aides, having a knowledgeable golf buddy that is telling you what is wrong, a coach, or just simply a video camera to replay your swing.



As you can now appreciate practicing well does not equate to practicing hard. When you go to the range sometimes it's more effective to limit yourself to hit 30-40 balls concentrating on one area of your game rather than 200+ balls. So next time think about the tips given above and ensure that you come out of the range knowing you have improved your game and not being more confused about your abilities.

Happy Golfing. ♣

## This Month's Celebrity Golfer

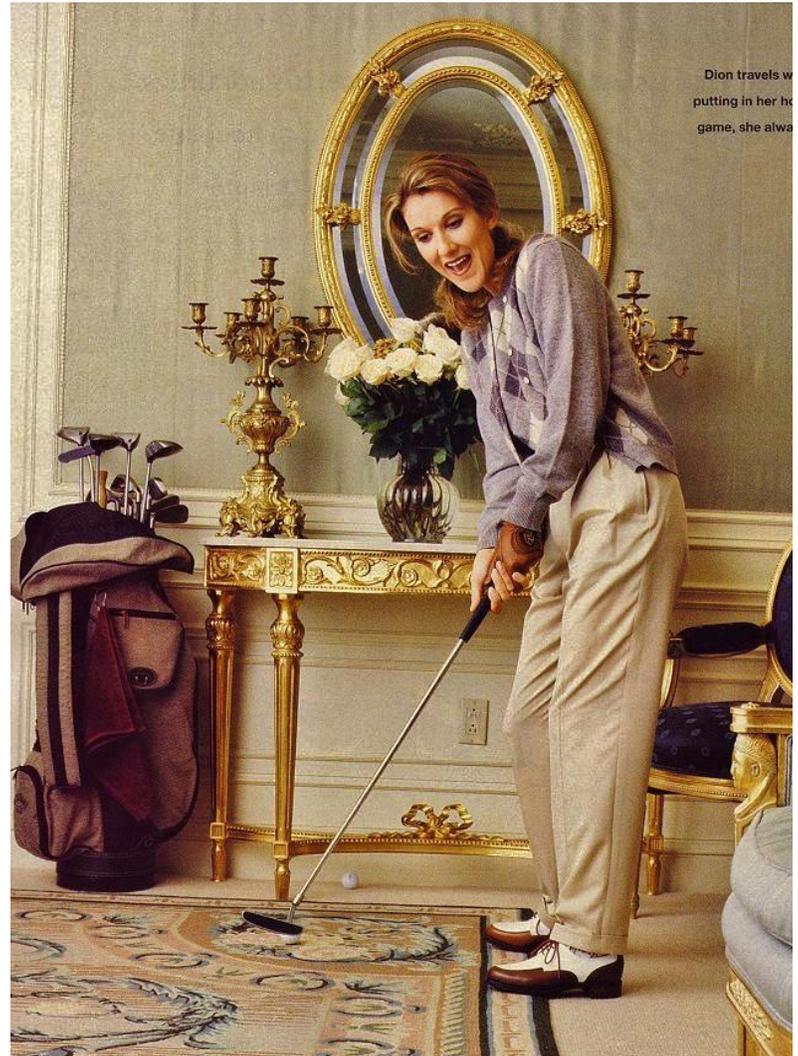
Celine Dion

Originally from Quebec, Canada, Dion is one of the world's most renowned singers.

One of her most famous songs is "My Heart Will Go On", which is the theme song of a movie about a sinking ship.

Her handicap is 17.

*"Golf is a search for perfection, for balance. It's about meditation and concentration. You have to use hand and brain."*



For information on our upcoming events,  
please visit:

[www.meetup.com/HKqolf/](http://www.meetup.com/HKqolf/)

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

[info@hkpgs.com](mailto:info@hkpgs.com)

