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Council's Message

- Palm Island Resort has kindly offered to support our upcoming golf tournament "Lynx Summer Invitational" by sponsoring 4 weekday green fee coupons as additional prizes for the Champion, 1st Runner-up, 2nd Runner-up, and Winner of Best Gross Score. We are deeply grateful for their generosity.
- The Council has held a series of meetings with the mentors in charge of the "Path to the Green Program" to review the Program's operation and progress. A decision was made to host the Program on a monthly basis, as opposed to a weekly basis, so as not to cause the mentors and mentees to get burnt-out. The mentors will strive to design an activity every month that is suitable for beginner golfers.
- To encourage members of Recreational Golf Outings Meetup Group to get to know each other, a monthly happy hour gathering will be held on the first Friday of every month at our new watering hole The Canny Man, which is a stylish pub conveniently located at the Wharney Guang Dong Hotel in Wan Chai. The gathering will start from 7 pm and last till 10:30 pm. There is no cover charge. Members are welcome to bring their friends along. ♣

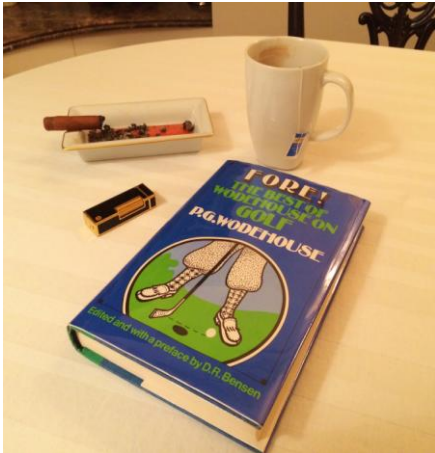


*Palm Island Resort is one of the
ideal golf destinations in
Guangdong.*

As I Please

- Review of *FORE!* by P.G. Wodehouse -

By Ray Tsang



*Nothing like a cigar, a cup of tea,
and a good read*



Mr. Carson, the dignified butler

"Most divorces, as you know, spring from the fact that the husband is too markedly superior to his wife at golf."

I spent two afternoons over the weekend reading *FORE!*, an anthology of twelve humorous golf tales penned by P.G. Wodehouse. It is an out-of-print book that I purchased from a secondhand bookseller through Amazon.com some months ago.

The stories take place in the early 20th Century when hickory shafts were still prevalent and it was fashionable to wear plus-fours. As the book contains numerous golf slangs throughout, some of which quite archaic, a reader with only a cursory knowledge of golf vocabulary is bound to scratch their head at times.

The stories (except for the first one) are all narrated by a character known as the "Oldest Member", a nosy and lonely man of advanced age who loiters around the golf club all day every day. According to him, golf is the most noble pursuit. Whoever plays golf must be a decent citizen. And one must always be wary of anyone who does not play the game. At the golf club, the Oldest Member often encounters young members who are experiencing relationship problems, and he would gladly assume the role of an agony uncle and offer encouragement by telling them golf anecdotes whose protagonists had overcome similar woes.

Most of the characters in the stories seem to be well-educated and belong to the upper-middle class, as they converse in a highly cultivated manner. Many of them hold strong opinions about golf. Let me quote a few instances:

"The talking golfer is undeniably the most pronounced pest of our complex modern civilization and the most difficult to deal with. It is a melancholy thought that the noblest of games should have produced such a scourge."

"Most divorces, as you know, spring from the fact that the husband is too markedly superior to his wife at golf."

"There are three things in the world that he holds in the smallest esteem - slugs, poets, and caddies with hiccups."

Meanwhile, the non-opinionated and uncultivated characters are the anonymous Scotsmen who are occasionally mentioned throughout the stories. They are portrayed as uncouth, as speaking an unintelligible dialect, and as extremely talented at golf.

Wodehouse's humor is of a farcical kind. For instance, in one story a character works at a law firm called "Peabody, Peabody, Peabody, Peabody, Cootes, Toots, and Peabody." In another story, two American rivals, both *nouveau riche*, compete on the golf course in order to decide who gets to employ a highly sought-after model English butler, one who in many ways resembles Mr. Carson from the popular British television show *Downton Abbey*.

Although Wodehouse is heralded by many critics, most notably Stephen Fry, as the funniest writer of the last century, I only find his golf stories faintly amusing. They are innocent stories, too innocent for my taste. They are 'funny' only in an infantile sense. They are, to quote my literary hero George Orwell, "too genteel, too kindhearted and too consciously lowbrow." All in all, *FORE!* is an average collection of mildly humorous golf stories. It is good enough reading material for, say, passing time on a plane ride, or whiling away a lazy afternoon. ♣

Past Events



Event: Monthly Golf Outing

Date: 5 / 7 / 2014

Venue: Kau Sai Chau (East Course)

Event: Happy Hour Gathering

Date: 4 / 7 / 2014

Venue: The Canny Man in Wan Chai



Event: Monthly Golf Outing

Date: 27 / 7 / 2014

Venue: Kau Sai Chau (South Course)

There are many unsung heroes in the RGO Meetup Group who make important contributions behind the scenes. One of them is young Mr. Logan Hairgrove, our newsletter's invaluable proofreader. For the past year, he has been diligently proofreading our rough-and-ready drafts littered with grammatical errors. Logan has been a member of our group since the early days. Within our circle, he is universally regarded as an all-around nice guy. He had just got back to Hong Kong after a long vacation. I finally caught up with him for an interview. Now, read on to get to know more about Logan!

MEET & GREET

By Joyce Cheng

A Little Background

Logan grew up in Texas and went to the University of Texas in Austin. He had been previously working at Google specializing in phone and email technical support for large businesses and schools that were using the Google Applications.

Logan moved to HK in 2012 and was one of the first few members of our RGO Meetup group. I met him at SCAA during one of those early practice sessions. He has been contributing greatly to the group, volunteering to be our newsletter's proof reader and fixing up some of our embarrassing English mistakes to ensure all our readers enjoy a smooth reading. So a Big Thanks to Logan from all of us!

Being a westerner you must get asked this question so much! So why did you move to Hong Kong?

Well I moved to be with my now wife, Mira. I had a great job in Texas, but I left anyway to pursue a new life in Hong Kong. Simply put I moved to Hong Kong for a girl.

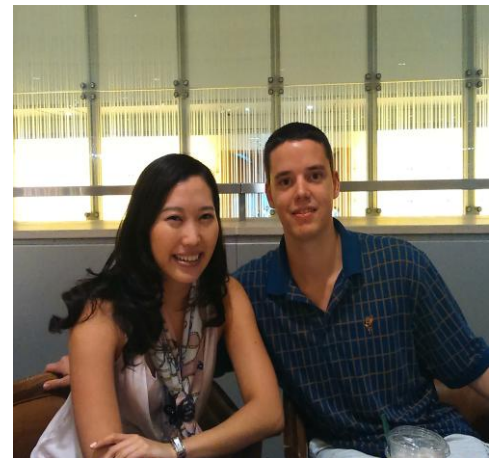


Logan about to devour all the dim sum

"A minimalistic golf approach has worked fairly well for me."



Logan is one of the longest hitters in our group



Joyce & Logan catching up

That's an admirable move! Are you still working in IT then?

Not anymore. I've been privately tutoring students of all ages to help them improve their English for over a year. Additionally, I've worked at education centers teaching playgroups and small classes. I'll be taking my next step towards furthering my new career in education by being a full-time Oral English Teacher at Rosary Hill School's Primary Section starting September 1st.

That's quite a big change in career. Will you continue with teaching going forward?



Standing at the edge of the magnificent & breathtaking Grand Canyon

“... a nice straight drive, a great 3-iron shot, and a solid putt were great icing on the cake to a great hole.”



Logan's Footjoy is completely toast!

Well I'll see if I can handle a full classroom of students, and if I like it I'll get a PGDE (Post Graduate Diploma of Education) from HKU or another university in HK to further pursue a career as an English teacher in Hong Kong. After 3 years of working, and studying part-time for the PGDE I'll be able to teach at any local primary school in HK and potentially international schools as well.

Apart from Golf, do you play any other sport?

Of course! I love playing lots of sports, but since I started tutoring I don't exercise much these days. When I lived in Park Island I played a lot of basketball, and I'd go to some table tennis Meetups as well. I also like tennis, and I'm open to playing most sports.

When did you start playing?

I started playing before I was 10 at courses in California on vacations or occasionally at a course around my house with my Dad.

What got you started in the game?

I played with my parents and my brother on family vacations a couple of times a year. I didn't get serious until the summer I was 15 when I loved playing golf at a public course not too far from where I lived. I just loved being outdoors, and getting to play was a treat for me.

Where do you practice most?

These days I really don't practice much, but I have gone to SCAA, Whitehead, and the Tuen Mun driving range in HK.

How would you rate your game?

My short game has plenty of room for improvement, and 3 putting really kills my chances of lowering my handicap.

What is your handicap?

My handicap is probably around 30. My best score was 89 when I was 18, and on the back 9 I only used a 3-iron, a pitching wedge, and a putter. A minimalistic golf approach has worked fairly well for me.

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

I've had many memorable rounds. I'd say one of the most memorable holes was when I was with my uncle in Dallas, Texas and I managed to get my first eagle. Hitting a nice straight drive, a great 3-iron shot, and a solid putt were great icing on the cake to a great hole.

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

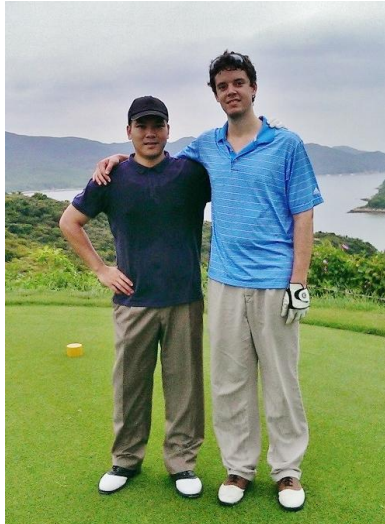
At Kau Sai Chau I sure don't like the pushy marshals, but it's a popular course so I guess it must be done. I also do like it if people try to observe golf etiquette like waiting for your group to all finish putting before leaving the green.

Do you have a favourite brand?

Not really, I like my Cleveland irons, but I'd probably be perfectly happy with another brand.

What about your favourite club?

It used to be my 7-iron, but then I broke it. On my last round my 3-iron was probably my favorite club.



With his good pal Ray on the South Course at KSC

“One of the problems when I was younger was I never made a friend playing golf, but now that I've moved to Hong Kong that has definitely changed.”

Right: Mira and I sitting with Macau Picchu in the background

Far right: Mira and I standing in the beautiful crystal clear waters of Bora Bora

Do you have any golf hero?

I still remember when I was a kid and I saw 18-year old Tiger Woods win the Masters. That was unforgettable, and I got a book about Tiger Woods when I was young and read all about him. He'd be the only reason I'd watch golf when I was growing up. I only bought Nike tennis shoes from when I can remember till I was 15 because Tiger endorsed Nike. Nowadays I don't watch or follow the pros, but I still have tremendous respect for how much they had to work to get to where they are today.

What do you love about golf most?

I love being outdoors with lots of green and trees, and walking the course is great exercise. When I was 15 it was a great way to get out of the house for 4+ hours. Now it's something that I enjoy and I'm always happy when I hit a nice shot or make par or something nice like that.

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

Wow what a difficult game.



How did you come across our Meetup group?

I knew Meetup.com so I was searching around on it and just saw this group.

What do you like or dislike about the group?

I like the regular practice sessions, and I like meeting lots of other golf enthusiasts.

One of the problems when I was younger was I never made a friend playing golf, but now that I've moved to Hong Kong that has definitely changed.

What are your plans ahead?

I plan to make HK my permanent home. I'm married to a lovely woman, and as far as starting a family we'll just take one step at a time.

Let us know what you want to strive for next!

I strive to be a better English teacher. ♣



“Simply put, I moved to Hong Kong for a girl.”

Carry (yards)

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| 1D (10.5) | 275 |
| 3H (20) | 215 |
| 5I (26) | 195 |
| 6I (29) | 180 |
| 7I (33) | 170 |
| 8I (37) | 160 |
| 9I (41) | 145 |
| P (45) | 135 |
| W(50) | 125 |
| GW (52) | 105 |
| SW (56) | 95 |
| LW(60) | 80 |

What's in My Bag

By Jeffrey Lai


3 hybrid: Maruman M-sole 3U 20deg/ UST Attas4u 75g R-flex

I purchased 4 of the M-sole hybrids (2x3U and 2x4U) from a Japanese site after I tested one from my friend's bag. If you have yet to hit a club with "the Butter feel". This is it! Extremely forgiving and that priceless smooth feel! I am still matching different shafts to squeeze the full potential out of these hybrids. (My friend stocks 3 of the M-sole too...)

Other stuff:

Oakley standbag/ Bushnell Tour V3 rangefinder/ used Titleist balls marked with orange sailboat(Sailing is my 2nd fav sport)/ Masters golf towel / Vokey wedge-works bag tag/ 2-3 spare FJ gloves & a FJ Rain glove/ Spare hat/ spare shirt when playing in summer/ Taz driver headcover/ white plastic tee/ Drink carry bag

**Wedges: Callaway MackDaddy 2 (52.12) 2up,
Titleist SM5 M-grind (56.08) 2up/+0.5.
Cobra BIG Trusty Rusty (60)**

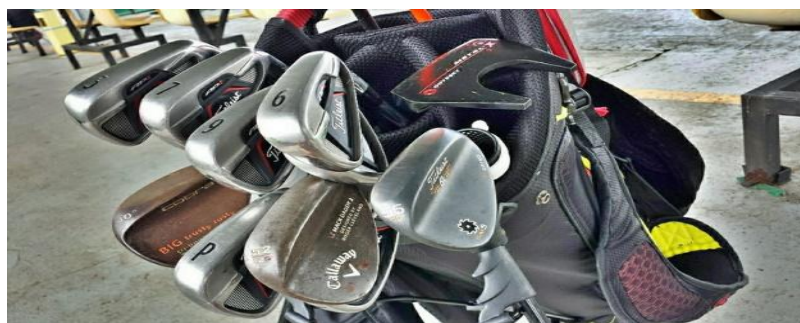
I suggest the BIG Trusty Rusty if you have problem to getting the ball out from a bunker. It has a large oversized clubface and gives you lots of confidence in a bunker.

**Irons: Titleist 712 AP1 5-P,W/ NSPro950 Stiff
(2deg upright/+0.5")**

I am a Titleist fan, I love the look of these irons and they are really looong too. Forgiving and straight. All my clubs except putter are with Golf Pride Multi-compound.

**Driver: Cobra AMP offset (10.5 degrees)
Aldila RIP 50g R-Flex 44.5"(tipped)**

This is an offset driver head and with the light weight low kick shaft combo, which give me an overall high trajectory. This is my favorite club in the bag, with some imagination and creativity, I step up and feel like I can RIP my drive and carry it over anything. My longest drive is about 350 yards in one of those downhill dogleg par 5 in phoenix hill (downwind maybe? lol). To me, nothing feels better in golf than to hit a rocket drive off the tee. I am going to re-shaft it with the Tour-ad BB 5R1 to help to bring some evil spin down. Can't wait to go loooong with the new setup.

**Putters: Odyssey Metal-X #7, 34"**

I actually bought this from a HKPGS member around 2 years ago. I love the mallet shape and the alignment line on this #7. Luke Donald and my Ryder cup hero Ian Poulter are playing #7 too. Scotty Cameron will have the same mallet shape come out in next year I think? Gonna be in my bag for sure ☺

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <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>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!</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

- Putting Clinic Part 2: Don't listen to the caddies -

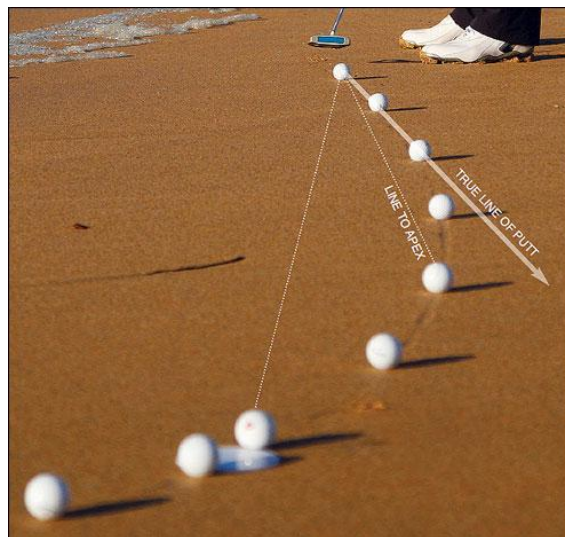
By Garrick Kong

Hopefully you have had time to practice your putting and remove the dreaded deceleration in your putting game. For part 2 of the Golfing Garage Putting Clinic we are going to provide some tips on how to read greens and also some aiming strategies when putting.

Playing in Asia we have the luxury of using caddies to read greens for us. **DON'T DO IT.** I am a firm believer that reading greens is part of the putting process, it helps you think about how hard you should hit the ball, about the break and slope of the green, and lastly it helps you develop confidence and certainty in where you should be aiming and putting the ball. Reading your own greens will allow you to build a mental knowledge bank of what 'fast' and 'slow' greens mean to you.

Reading greens is difficult to master, but like most things in life, the more you do it, the more experience and knowledge you accumulate to assess how you should putt. Here are some of the thought processes I go through when I read greens:

1) Dissect the green and find the apex. Bend down and try to imagine a grid placed over the green. Where are the low points? The high points? What happens to the slope of the green right around the cup? Walk all around the green and analyze the slope from all different perspectives. Try to locate the lowest point on the green, most often the ball will tend to roll down from the high point to that point.



2) Make sure your speed is honed. Again this goes back to the practice green and what kind of condition the greens are in. It's easier to control your speed than it is to control the direction of the ball once it leaves the putter.

3) If you are farther than 10 feet away, it might be better to imagine you are going for a hole on the green more the size of a basketball. If the putt seems too difficult or you don't have the confidence to get the ball in the cup, you're better off being one or two feet away on your next shot rather than 8 feet past the hole.

4) Make sure you watch when other golfers approach the green. Watch how their balls react when chipping to see how they bounce and what direction they roll in. If others putt before you try to gauge how hard they are striking the ball and how far the ball rolls, and in which direction. Best case scenario is if someone else is along your putting line but goes before you. There is no reason after watching that putt that you should not do better!

Now that you are armed with the technique in reading greens, go out there and practice and also do remember **DO NOT GET THE CADDIES TO READ THE GREENS FOR YOU!** ♣

This Month's Celebrity Golfer

P.G. Wodehouse

Mr. Wodehouse was a British writer of humorous stories. He was acknowledged as a master of English prose. He published more than 90 books during his life.

He was a golf enthusiast and wrote many golf stories.

His handicap was 18.

"Whenever you see me with a furrowed brow you can be sure that what is on my mind is the thought that if only I had taken up golf earlier and devoted my whole time to it instead of fooling about writing stories and things, I might have got my handicap down to under eighteen."



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

