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Council's Message

- We are excited to announce that Lynx, a premium Japanese golf brand, has agreed to collaborate with the Hong Kong Prime Golf Society. Lynx has been a major force in the golf equipment industry for decades. During the 1990s, many PGA Tour professionals (most notably golf superstar Ernie Els and Hall of Famer Fred Couples) played and endorsed Lynx equipment. We look forward to a long and fruitful partnership with Lynx.
- Ms. Polly Yuen, a longtime member of our golf Meetup group, has kindly accepted our invitation to join the *SCRATCH* editorial team. She will assume the role of Art Director, responsible for improving the overall appearance of our newsletter. Polly and Mr. Ray Tsang, the Editor-in-chief, are working closely together and brainstorming ideas. They are hoping to launch a newly designed newsletter in August.
- The membership of our golf Meetup group has reached 600. From December to April, we saw over 100 new members join our group. We are one of the fastest growing Meetup groups in Hong Kong. Also, we have recently held our 100th event, proving that we are one of the most active social groups. We owe this achievement to our dedicated team of organizers. ♣



As I Please

- Hustling the Old Folks -

By Ray Tsang



Ray receiving his very first golf trophy.



The old folks that Ray defeated.

“... I cannot help but suspect there is some sort of neo-colonialism going on at the Club...”

Recently, I participated in a Stableford competition. There were sixteen contestants, all of whom belong to the Hong Kong North chapter of the Lions Club. My opponents were all semi-retired gentlemen with an average age of 60. At half their age, I was by far the youngest player in the field.

We had arranged to play the Old Course at the Hong Kong Golf Club in Fanling. Truth be told, the Hong Kong Golf Club, an enclave of the rich and the powerful, is the most snobbish place in town. Sometimes, I cannot help but suspect there is some sort of neo-colonialism going on at the Club, what with the omnipresence of Anglo-Saxons there, and the fact that half of the General Committee of the Club are *gweilos*.

That day, I had the honor of playing in the same group with the founding president (1982-83), Matthew, of the Hong Kong North chapter. For some reason, the organizer assigned me with a 26 handicap, which was kind of low considering I had been regularly shooting in the 100s lately. My true handicap was more like 33 at the time. I did fancy winning the tournament, but I knew I had to play an exceptional round to have a chance.

I was not at all confident that day. In fact, I was bothered by three things. First, Matthew's stellar short game was threatening my chances of winning. In each of the first few holes, Matthew was able to chip the ball to within inches of the cup and save par. Second, my caddie, a middle aged woman, was aloof and inattentive and surprisingly snooty (quite like those waiters at the posh Luk Yu Tea House). Perhaps, she was used to serving tycoons and big shots, and was unimpressed by a commoner like me. Third, I was very inconsistent with my driver. My tee shot was liable to go left or right but never straight!

Fortunately for me, Matthew faltered in the back nine. Also, I managed to block that unpleasant caddie out of my mind and focus on my game. While my driver failed me, I was able to hit some crucial recovery shots. One particularly stands out in my mind. My ball was lying in the rough and there were some low-hanging branches interfering with my path. Instead of chipping the ball back to the fairway, I decided to hit a running punch shot. The ball flew underneath the branches and chased onto the green. I seldom practice this novelty shot, but somehow I pulled it off that day.

I ended up shooting 44 on the front nine and 48 on the back nine. My total score of 92 along with my 26 handicap translated to 42 points in the Stableford system, just good enough to win the tournament. I was absolutely thrilled. It was my first ever win. It was extremely satisfying. I sent a long text message to my good friend Garrick recounting my victory. I was expecting some congratulatory words from him, such as "Good job!", "Well done!", or "You da man!". But Garrick's reply was rather cheeky. He wrote: "Haha! You hustled the old folks, Ray." ♣

Past Events

18 Holes at Mission Hills (Faldo Course) 14 / 4 / 2014



Hearty breakfast before teeing off



Ashley, Ray, Tee, & Tony



warming up at the range



John & Tee



Anthony & Tim, two very good players

Mentors took "Path to the Green" students out on a field trip

29 / 3 / 2014



"Path to the Green" is one big, happy family.



Mentor Ben showing his students how to hit a flop shot.

Anthony Kim is a Korean American born in Los Angeles, California. Although not knowing any more about Californians than what I've seen on 'The OC', I found Anthony possessing similar laid-back traits as us Australians have! A truly chilled and down-to-earth golfer, in my opinion. You'd be jealous to hear how he has been enjoying his 'exciting' life the past 18 months – at least I know I am! Anthony has been a fantastic addition to our Meetup group with his experience, tips and, of course, his competitive game. Being on course with Anthony is certainly value-adding as he is so knowledgeable of the game!

MEET & GREET

By Joyce Cheng



"I'm into lots of stuff. Golf & tennis are sports that I participate in regularly..."

Now, how many of you thought "Is this Anthony Kim, the PGA pro!"? I bet it crossed some of your minds, didn't it? Well yes, this Anthony is a Korean American, also born in LA and no doubt, good at golf. But he's not the one we see on Golf Channel! He's just a typical father of a charming daughter, another family guy... with a childhood golf story of his own to share.

A little background about yourself

I studied Civil Engineering at California State Polytechnic University and then worked for a construction company for a few years after graduating. But I hated it so I decided to change career and I've now been in IT for the past 15 years working as a Technology Consultant specializing in Microsoft products. I would advise business units how certain technology can be used to automate repetitive processes and improve collaboration.

What prompted the move to HK?

We moved here Dec 2012 when my wife had a chance to work in Asia so we



Anthony treated Joyce to high tea.

thought it was a great opportunity to experience HK and the rest of Asia. Although I had to give up a very comfortable job with a healthcare company in California, it's been great fun living here!

I think we get a pretty good picture that you're extremely active. What are you into?

I'm into lots of stuff. Golf and tennis are sports that I participate in regularly but I also enjoy hiking, SCUBA diving, and surfing. Surfing at Big Wave Bay is actually great! I can rent everything I need (board and wetsuit) so I don't need to bring anything. Just the other day, I found out that there is SCUBA diving in HK so I'm eager to find out about that now!





“My most memorable was definitely a hole-in-one at a charity tournament in Oakland”



“I think we all have the responsibility to educate less experienced players”

What started you in golf?

I started playing golf when I was 14. My dad played golf and I would go with him to driving ranges. One day I decided to pick up a club and give it a swing. But I didn't start playing regularly until I was in college. Sometimes my friends and I would cut class just to play 2 rounds at a nearby public course!

Where do you practice most?

I haven't practiced much since moving to Hong Kong. Driving ranges are very inconvenient to get to and also expensive.

After sending my girl off to school, I would occasionally go to KSC to practice. It's a nice facility and the ferry ride makes me think I'm going off on a holiday ☺

How would you rate your game?

I'm satisfied with my game overall but I think I need more work on my chipping. Since I don't get to practice much I haven't been scoring well. I did fairly well last round having been to the practice range few times prior.

And what's your handicap?

My last official handicap was 8.3 but it was from more than a year ago. At one time, my handicap was at 7.8 but that was when I was playing at least once a week and practicing just about every single day!

What is your lowest score?

My best score was 76 at Presidio course in San Francisco. It's a bit of a hilly course built inside a former army base and it's always windy and foggy but somehow I managed to shoot 38/38 that day.

What about your most memorable game?

Most memorable was definitely a hole-in-one at a charity tournament in Oakland. The tournament director somehow missed mentioning it at the awards ceremony though. But it was okay as he saved me a lot of money from having to buy drinks for everyone at the clubhouse!

What drives you mad on the golf course?

Inconsiderate golfers. I don't think they are trying to be inconsiderate but more so their ignorance because nobody explains to them some of the basic etiquettes of the game.

Players talking or fumbling with their bags when someone is teeing off, walking on another player's putting line, and not picking up the pin after holing-out first... these all make me cringe.

I used to just shake my head and move on but now I would take the time to gently point them out. I figured if nobody tells them about these things they would never learn and I think we all have the responsibility to educate less experienced players.

Do you have a favorite brand?

As you can see from what's in my bag and my choice of golf clothes, I like Taylor Made and Adidas. At the end of the day I think performance of all clubs is the same regardless of brand. It's a matter of personal preference and the style you're trying to portray.

Which is your favorite club?

I love my 3 wood. It's a Taylormade RocketBallz 15 degrees. It makes a



Anthony's favorite club in the bag

"It's a game that I will never be able to master but I will spend my lifetime to try and master it."



"... nothing matters other than chasing a little ball into a cup..."

distinctive "SMACK" sound when I hit the ball every time and it's very forgiving. Sometimes I can hit the ball farther than my driver!

Do you have a golf hero?

I've always been a fan of Freddie Couples. His loose tempo and beautiful finish inspired me to pay attention to my swing. I always say that "It's not how well you do it but how well you look doing it" (about golf).

You have a PGA golfer's name! Does that inspire you?

Haha! I haven't seen him play in a while but yes. If I played as well as he did, I can quit my day job!

What attracts you to golf so much?

I love the outdoors! Being away from everything is what attracts me to golf. When I'm playing golf, I kind of get into a tunnel vision and nothing matters other than chasing a little ball into a cup regardless of what kind of issues I have going on in my life. It's also a game that I will never be able to master but I will spend my lifetime to try and master it.

In what way would you describe golf?

Greatest game.

How did you come across our Meetup group?

I was looking for golf associations in Hong Kong and somehow the group came up on Google search.

Your 2 cents about our group? We're always looking for ways to improve!

What I like about the group is that it's casual and everyone is friendly. I like the clinics that key members organize to help beginner players get into the game.

I'd like to see more of RGO Cup type of tournaments on a regular basis. I was impressed to see so much interest and it would be great fun to play in tournaments like that more often! It's a shame that I will be moving back to California shortly. I really enjoyed playing with the group.

What are your upcoming plans?

I'll be heading back to California in a couple of months and looking to go back to work and take a rest from being a Mr. Mom! Since moving here I've been a stay-at-home dad and only realized staying at home to look after family is rewarding but incredibly mundane!

So my immediate plan is to get a job. I'm starting to get streams of emails and calls from recruiters so I'm anxious to get back into the game!

The Interviewer's Impression:

Cool. I thought Anthony was really cool indeed! He was fun to talk to, humble and would be happy to give you tips on your swing. You can tell he is a man filled with tremendous experience when you talk with this guy; you never get bored talking to him!

He's a popular golfing buddy for many of our members so I'm sure he will be missed dearly! Make sure you visit us again, otherwise we'll make sure we plan a trip for you to host over in LA!

For now, take care & all the best. ♣

What's in My Bag

By Popy Suthiwan



A fan of vintage PING bags

Current Occupation: Landscape Designer
Dream Occupation: Pro Golfer + Golf Course Designer
Golf Philosophy: KISS – “Keep it Simple, Stupid!”



Cap + Ball Marker

I wear a black cap with a ball marker on the left side. Having the marker readily available on the cap help me get focused before a putt.

Glove + Sports Tape

Titleist Perma-soft glove. Usually keep two available gloves, one for the driving range and one for the course. Also, I'll wrap sports tape around some of my fingers on my right hand to prevent blistering.

Sunblock

Neutrogena Ultra Sheer Dry-Touch Sunscreen. SPF 100+. Helps keep the UV rays off my skin so I don't get burnt and look like a tomato later. Has a non-oily and light feel, which is very important to me since I really hate the sticky feeling of greasy

Divot Tool

Has a big Kansas Jayhawk logo on the magnetic ball marker. Reminds me of my days back in college - Rock Chalk Jayhawk. KU!

Bag

Ping Hoofer2 – Love this bag! It's the oldest golf equipment I have!

Driver

TaylorMade R9 SuperTri 8.5°w/ an R-flex Fujikura Motore F1 Shaft, which was fitted for me by Cool Clubs. (<http://coolclubs.com/>)

Grip

Golf Pride DD2 grips in Carolina Blue. These 'undersize' grips help give me a better feel for each golf shot.

Bobo + Odie

They are my headcovers and friends on the golf course. They help put a smile on my face, especially when I'm not playing too well ;)

Nutrition

Gatorade and at least a banana while playing on the course to keep the energy up and keep Bobo happy :P

3-wood + 3-hybrid

TaylorMade Burner 15° 3-wood and 19° 3-hybrid, both have TaylorMade factory stock shafts.

Putter

Scotty Cameron Studio Style Newport 2, 33" Length, w/ a 'Yellow Neon' Iomic grip. Just love the smooth feel of the ball coming off the putter face. Will be Scotty Cameron putter for life!

Ball

Titleist Pro-V1. Tried switching to other brands, but always go back to Pro-V1. Truly believe it has the best feel & control of any ball on the market. I use a #1 and mark it with a zero on the side, since my lucky number is 10.

Irons

Mizuno MP-63, Standard True Temper Dynamic Gold shafts w/ S300 flex. I only carry 4-PW since I gave up trying to hit a 3-iron.

Wedges

I carry a 52° (gap), 56° (sand), and 60° (low bounce lob) Cleveland black satin wedges. Each is a different model but all have a similar feel since they have the same material finish. Really like the feel of black satin on the wedges because it's soft, but not too soft like copper.

Training Aids

I use a David Leadbetter Swing Setter + alignment sticks while practicing on the range or at home to work on my tempo and alignment respectively.

	<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>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

- Conquering the Chip -

By Garrick Kong

When I started playing golf, my love for the game drove me to chip 100+ balls into a golf umbrella after school or when I've finished my homework so that I can get my daily fix of hitting golf balls. However unknowingly being able to practice chip shots on a constant basis I was able to experiment with different techniques to chip (i.e. bump and run, flop shots, different stance and ball alignment etc) and to develop the feel and soft hands that is required when hitting delicate shots around the green. This ultimately provided me with the confidence in chipping around the greens under different conditions while playing a round.

In the big 852 (Hong Kong), it is unrealistic to think about hitting 100+ chip shots every day, since most of us mere mortals do not have the luxury of practicing chip shots in a backyard or even visiting a chipping area. Therefore in this edition of the Golfing Garage I would like to give you three of my fundamental techniques that I have developed during my journey in 'Conquering the Chip' in order to get a consistent chip shot.

Choke down on the grip

Choking down on the club during a chip shot allows you to get your body closer to the ball to hit a delicate stroke. Choking down on the club will also help add weight above your hands so that it will stop you from flipping the club. As for your body remember as you choke down do not hunch your back over the ball; instead, simply add more flex to your knees when choking down on the club.



Stay open and narrow

When chipping how we want to position ourselves is to ensure that our stance is open and narrow i.e. the left foot slightly behind the right with legs closer together. During a chip shot, the hands are going to be released later compared to a full swing, therefore when setting up for the chip shot we want to promote rotation of the body to ensure we do not have the hands take over by preventing the body from rotating during the chip shot i.e. flipping the club.



Weight on your forward side and ball back in your stance

Keeping your weight predominantly on your forward side with the ball back in the stand will help to ensure a steeper downward blow into the ball. This will prevent fat shots and help you make a consistent contact with the ball. Also by keeping your weight leaning towards the target will help maintain a consistent impact position, which will help you better control your shots and gauge different distances. As for the ball position I like to play my chips just inside of my back toe, but it is ok to be flexible with this ball position but try and be consistent. If you move the ball too far forward then you will need to be ready to hit a flop or lob shot.



Now that you got some of the fundamentals in conquering the chip shot, bring it out to the range sometime and practice chips by maintaining the form highlighted in this article and practice hitting chips with different ball flights and distances.

Happy Golfing. ♣

This Month's Celebrity Golfer

Bill Clinton

Mr. Clinton was the President of the United States from 1993-2001.

He has done great things for his country. But he is best known for his steadfast denial of having any sexual relations with his former intern, Monica Lewinsky.

His handicap is about 10.

"Golf is like life in a lot of ways: The most important competition is the one against yourself. All the biggest wounds are self-inflicted. And you get a lot of breaks you don't deserve, both ways. So it's important not to get too upset when you're having a bad day."



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


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