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Council's Message

This edition of *SCRATCH* marks the 1st year anniversary of our newsletter.

Time indeed does fly. It has already been two years since the inception of our Recreational Golf Outings (RGO) Meetup group. We have come a long way. RGO now has over 700 registered members, about 10 percent of whom actively participate in our events.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of the following members: Ray Tsang for editing our monthly newsletter and organizing our first two golf tournaments; Joyce Cheng and Amy Yau for organizing the monthly golf outings; Garrick Kong, Edmund Lau and Ben Lau for conducting the Path to the Green Program; Robin Lam for organizing the monthly driving range sessions; and Gilbert Joa for marketing and promoting our group, and handling its public relations.

Looking forward, we have many new and exciting things in the pipeline including our recent partnership with the Voyager Yacht Club in efforts to increase awareness of Hong Kong Prime Golf Society as well as to garner a group of new golf enthusiasts in their prime. We are also working to amplify our social media presence, starting with our Facebook page. To get updated news about our Society as well as information regarding our upcoming events, visit our Facebook page by looking up 'Hong Kong Prime Golf Society'.

In early December, we will be hosting our end of the year tournament called 'The Founders Championship'.

Looking forward to seeing everyone! ♣



The contributors

As I Please

- Joyce, our dear friend -

By Ray Tsang



*The elegant finish position of
Joyce's swing*



*Garrick & Joyce pigging out at
the buffet*

***"... Joyce is blessed with
a pair of long, shapely
legs, which I regard to be
her biggest assets..."***

I have known Joyce for two years now. I count myself very fortunate to be considered her friend, for she is a truly wonderful person with a bubbly personality and a good heart. At 5'8", Joyce is blessed with a pair of long, shapely legs, which I regard to be her biggest assets besides her lovely personality and high intelligence. Joyce has impeccable taste in golf attire. She has a penchant to wear shorts that show off her incredible legs when she plays golf, making her a real head turner on the course. Among her golf buddies, Joyce is affectionately known as "J-dawg", which is Ebonics meaning "Joyce, our dear friend". (By the way, this endearing nickname was invented by our mutual friend Garrick Kong, who is well-versed in African American vernacular English due to his years of listening to rap and reggae music.)

Joyce likes to say that she learnt golf under my tutelage, and that I am her golf mentor. Whenever I hear her say such grand things about me, I blush and feel awkward as I am merely a weekend golfer with an "over-the-top" swing who struggles to break 100 on a regular basis. When I first met Joyce, she was a complete beginner. I was impressed with her physique, athleticism (Joyce has played competitive basketball for many years), and eagerness to learn the game, so I was happy to give her a few simple lessons on golf. I taught her how to hold a golf club, how to hit a chip shot, and, just for kicks, I also taught her how to hit a flop shot. As for the full swing, I left her to figure it out on her own. All I told her was to swing freely without inhibitions. I also played a few times with her on the course in order to explain some golf etiquette. Soon, all on her own, Joyce developed an enviable golf swing that is smooth, effortless, effective, graceful, and enables her to become a legitimate contender in long drive contests.

Not long after I co-founded the Hong Kong Prime Golf Society about a year and a half ago, I persuaded the other founders to recruit Joyce. With her pleasant personality, her good looks, her natural interpersonal skills, and her passion for golf, I knew Joyce would be an ideal member for our Society. I knew she would be a great ambassador for our Society, and that she would be able to help us in many ways. Joyce gladly accepted our invitation, and she was formally initiated into our Society. Since then, Joyce has been a regular organizer of golf events and a valuable contributor of our newsletter. An enlarged photograph of Joyce in the finish position in her shorts is displayed in all of our promotional flyers and posters. This measure, of course, was taken with the view to attract male golfers to our events. We are happy to say that since we distributed our flyers and posters throughout Hong Kong, we have seen a significant increase in number of males signing up for our events. They all want to meet J-dawg. ♣

Past Events



Event: Monthly golf outing

Date: 14 / 9 / 2014

Venue: Palm Island Resort

Event: Monthly happy hour drinks gathering

Date: 5 / 9 / 2014

Venue: The Canny Man in Wan Chai



Event: Monthly driving range session

Date: 27 / 9 / 2014

Venue: South China Athletic Association

Among the many members in our Meetup group, only a handful of them can be considered real hardcore golf addicts. Mr. Edmund Lau is definitely one of them. A year and a half ago Ed was a new joiner to the group but he very quickly established himself as a golf guru. Really, he knows so much about golf! His knowledge of golf gear amazes me - I'm not even sure what he is on about half the time! My personal golf set, from irons to driver to the choice of putter to even the color of my bag, had been selected by Ed. So, if you're also a golf addict then Ed's the man to share your golf wisdom with – especially if you're talking about golf gear.

MEET & GREET

By Joyce Cheng



Ed can drive the ball 270 yards with ease.

"I have a putting mat in front of the TV and I do little chip shots without trying to break everything around the living room."

Growing up Edmund lived in Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia. For him home is where his family is. He studied at University of NSW specializing in industrial engineering and relocated back to HKG towards the end of 2012 for a job offer, a move he was glad he made otherwise he wouldn't have met his fiancé today.

So, what were you doing prior to HK?

I was working in the golf industry back in Sydney and I must say it was pretty fun going in to work and finding out (trying too!) about the latest equipment before the mass does.

What about now (work)?

I am now in the finance sector working for a retail bank. I am enjoying the pace and the challenges, so far so good!

I know there is a big chapter about to unfold for you. Are you excited?!

Absolutely! We're expecting our first child in November and we're very thrilled



Ed & Joyce catching a coffee

about being parents. We're hoping to engage him right into golf as soon as he can walk so we can have family golf trips as soon as possible! ☺

What are some of your hobbies, apart from golf of course?

I'm crazy about fight sports. I love watching boxing, kickboxing, Muay Thai and MMA (*mixed martial arts*). I practiced Tae Kwon Do when I was a child and started Muay Thai a few years ago. Grappling (*a type of wrestling*) is a totally different animal and I'm starting to learn more about it.

What about golf? How did you start playing?

I was introduced to golf by my father



Ed with his mate at Jiu Jitsu training classes in Sydney

“Grind it out, when you have a tough stretch. You will fix it and love the game again.”



Ed met his fiancée Amy on the golf course

when I was quite young. He used to take me to the course quite a bit and I would watch him play but I didn't pick up the game until I was in university when I had a lot more mates who were interested in the game too.

I played my first round at Laguna Golf Course and I used to play a lot of golf in East Lake Golf Club in NSW where I would only pay AU\$5 for a round and AU\$10 for club competitions!

Where do you practice most?

My living room! I have a putting mat in front of the TV and I do little chip shots without trying to break everything around the living room.

How would you rate your game?

My form comes in stretches - I could be striping it down the middle and hitting greens in regulations but totally losing the plot on another day. I definitely need to improve my GIR percentage, sink more putts and just get better from the 150 yards-in so I don't always have to scramble to save pars! There really is no point crushing a tee shot but missing the green, not make putt and to walk away with a bogey or a double par.

What's been your most memorable round of golf?

The round where I met Amy (Ed's fiancé) was pretty special ☺

What drives you mad on the golf course?

I am definitely not the most patient person around [laughs]. So things like slow play and bad golf etiquette really gets to me. Also, selfish golfers who are oblivious to other golfers on the course should not be

allowed to play. I cannot comprehend how some golfers need to take 6 practice swings and want to play a round for 5 hours.

Do you have a favourite brand?

Anyone who knows me, knows I am one of the biggest “club ho's” around. I don't have a favourite brand as I use anything shiny and new!

And your golf hero is?

Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods. Jack is such an inspiration and Tiger's fighting spirit is admirable.

If you had to describe golf...

Grind it out, when u have a tough stretch. You will fix it and love the game again.

How did you become one of the key organizers of HKPGS?

I was introduced by a friend to the group, then started joining a lot of the practice and golfing events they held. Not long after I was invited from the founders to help out. I guess it was my passion and interest in the game that scored my invite!

There is a lot of diversity and always a lot of new players in the group so it would be really good for us to improve our presence in the golfing world and to obtain more benefits for our members!

What do you like about golf most?

With golf, you form precious friendships and can get to know someone real quick when you spend 4 hours on course with them. You also learn of someone's personality from the way they play. Oh and needless to say, when I hit one solid shot it makes me come back for more! ♣

What's in My Bag

By Yvonne Chan



Driver

Honma Beres ML511, 13°

Wood 3 & 5

Honma Beres E-01, I name my 3-wood "Meow Meow" because it is covered by a lovely cat clubhead cover which is a gift from my Korean teacher back in 2006.

Irons

Honma Beres ML502

Hybrid & Putter

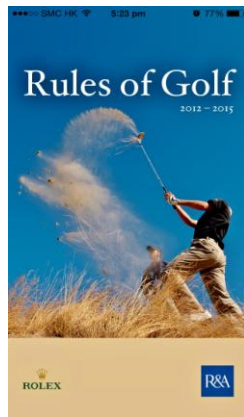
Honma Beres series (I am a big fan of Honma)

Sand Wedge

Callaway Legacy forged

Rules of Golf

always look up the Rules whenever I got any queries.



Mobil App

a very useful gadget for GPS tracking that tells me how far I'm standing from the pin. I also use this App to keep all my scorecards.



Glove & Accessories

Fit 39 glove, tee, marker, spike wrench, divot repairer, oil pen, sun screen lotion, sun glasses, umbrella, UV sleeves, wide visor



Golf Shoes

Addidas, I got them from the Pro shop at Asia Golf Club before it shut down. They are very cheap but yet very comfortable.

Golf Balls

Like to use yellow balls which are so easy to identify. Since using these balls, I rarely have to ask "is this my ball?"

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|  | <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

- Alignment Revisited -

By Garrick Kong

After 12 amazing issues of the golfing garage, hopefully you have taken away some useful tips and implemented them into your game and lowered your score on the course.

In this issue of the Golfing Garage I would like to revisit what I had taught in the very first issue, which was to ensure proper alignment before hitting the golf shot.

Poor Alignment leads to swing problems.

Without proper alignment, your body receives mixed signals from your brain, with regards to your body position and your intended target. If your eyes are looking towards the target but your body and club face are actually aligned to the right or left of it, you'll need to make adjustments in your swing, which affects its plane and path. This could result in any number of problems. E.g. If your body is aimed to the left of your intended target line, then without intentionally doing so you'll swing across the proper swing path (out to in) resulting in a pull or slice.

One degree can mean a miss of 15 yards

To put alignment into perspective, if the clubface is even a degree open or closed to the intended ball to target line at impact it can cause a miss of 10-15 yards or more (which equates to several shots lost per round).

So what is the best way to make correct alignment to your intended target?

It's important to mention here that your body (shoulders, hips, knees and feet) needs to be aligned parallel-left of the ball to target line, like a train track, with the right rail being the ball to target line and the left rail being the alignment of your body.



1. Stand 4-5 feet away from the ball, directly behind it, and trace an imaginary line from the target back to the ball. It's imperative that you stand behind the ball to see this line. Trying to do it while standing in the address position will create an optical illusion and almost always result in poor alignment. I stand behind the ball and close my non-dominant left eye and hold my club up, so the ball to target line is along the shaft.

2. With the club still held up on the ball to target line, pick a spot about 6-12 inches in front of the ball along that line (still with your dominant eye only). This can be a blade of grass or discoloration. It's a lot easier to align to something close to you than 200 yards in the distance.

3. Step into the ball and align the clubface (the leading edge of the club) to that spot.

4. Now draw an imaginary line in your mind which is inside and parallel to the ball to target line (the one your club-face is now pointing on), that your body will align to.

5. Set your feet in position so they are square to this line and make sure your knees, hips and shoulders follow suit. If, like me, you flare your left foot out at address, make sure you turn your foot out after you've aligned your feet.

Now work on this – every time you practice! Get yourself alignment sticks (or just use a club) and make sure good alignment becomes a habit, which will save you several shots per round. ♣



This Month's Celebrity Golfer

Mark Wahlberg

Mr. Wahlberg is a talented American actor.

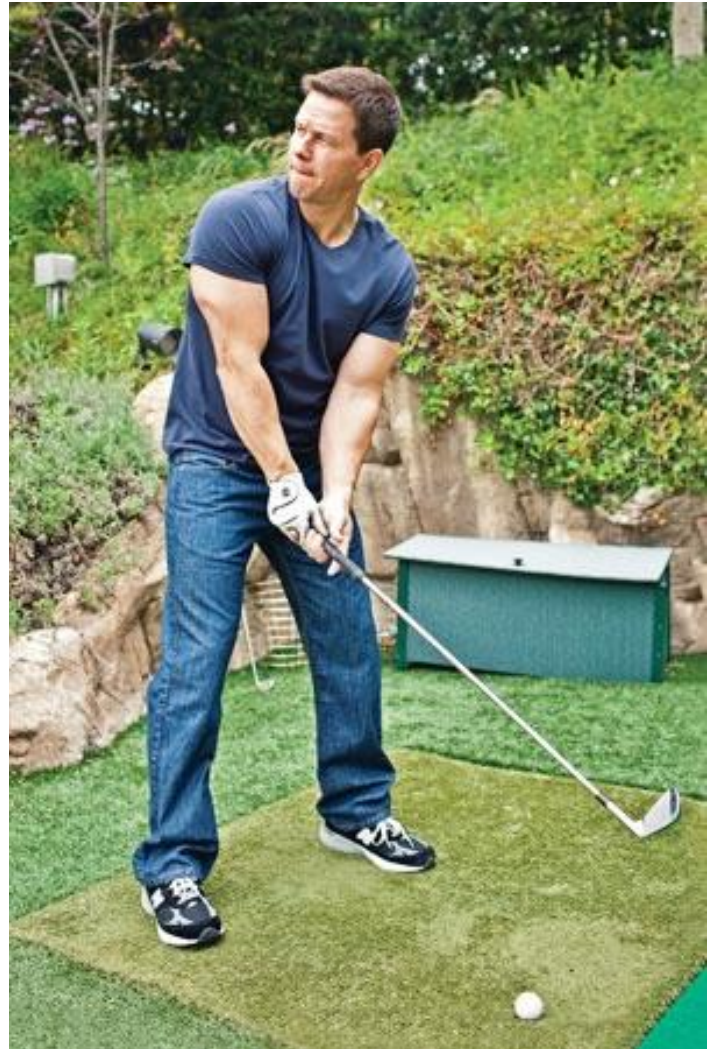
He has been bulking up and working out in the gym. He has become as big and strong as a gorilla.

He is known for hitting 300-yard drives.

His handicap is 7.

"It's the most difficult game in the world to play, but it's very relaxing and challenging. It's a good way to get away from stress and problems, and spend quality time with people."

"All the guys in Hollywood stink. They've all got fake handicaps."



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

