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Council's Message

- We are excited to announce that Lof10 will be sponsoring HKPGS. Lof10 is a California-inspired coffee shop situated at 1 U-Lam Terrace, Sheung Wan. The location is secluded and away from the hustle and bustle, ideal for coffee lovers who like to enjoy their cups of joe quietly.
- The HKPGS app, designed and maintained by our sponsor Applicable Limited, is now up and running. It provides an ideal platform for HKPGS members to interact with each other, and to access news and information of the Society. Simply type "hkpgs" in your App Store and download the app for free.
- We are pleased to announce that our dear Mr. Sylvanus Edmund Lau has been invited to join HKPGS. Edmund is a golf enthusiast with a solid game. He plays to a respectable 12 handicap. He possesses an encyclopedic knowledge of golf. He recently took up the role as a volunteer coach of the "Path to the Green" program. We are grateful for his contribution. An initiation dinner in honor of Edmund will be held at the newly renovated dining room at the residence of fellow HKPGS member Mr. Ray Tsang. ♣

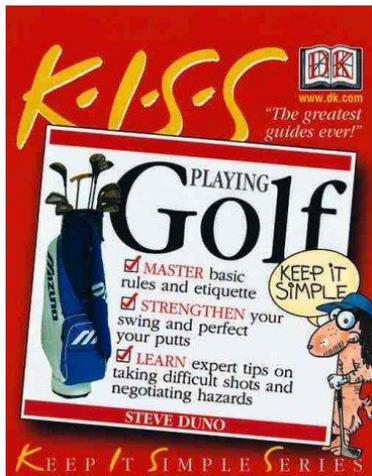


The HKPGS app is up and running.

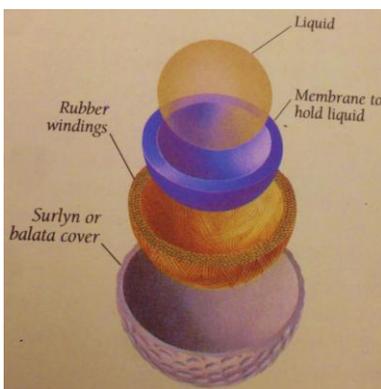
As I Please

-2000: A Golf Odyssey -

By Ray Tsang



A rattling good read



The anatomy of a liquid-filled golf ball

"In a split second, a gel-like substance squirted up to the ceiling with considerable force."

In 2000, my father introduced me to golf. I fell in love with the game instantly. I was so fascinated by the game I was eager to learn all about it. I began to read golf magazines, watch the Golf Channel, take golf lessons, and frequent golf shops. By the end of that year, my literacy in golf had improved a great deal.

My favorite golf book at that time was one called *K.I.S.S. Guide to Playing Golf*. (K.I.S.S. stands for Keep It Simple Series.) Written by an obscure author named Steve Duno, it was by no means a famous book. But I found it highly readable, informative, and entertaining. It was a comprehensive book with lots of interesting illustrations surveying the major aspects of golf. I read it from cover to cover, and thoroughly enjoyed it. It is a perfect introduction to golf. I would recommend it to anyone who is learning the game.

I learned from the book that there was a type of golf ball whose inside was made up of a liquid-filled core that was wound with a layer of rubber thread. I found it very intriguing. I decided I want to dissect a liquid-filled golf ball and see the 'liquid' for myself. So I bought a box of liquid-filled golf balls. (I got the Maxfli Elite.) I managed to peel off half of the outer layer using a screwdriver and a pair of pliers, exposing the tightly wound rubber thread. Then, I used a knife to cut through the rubber thread. My knife went too deep, puncturing the membrane that held the 'liquid'. In a split second, a gel-like substance squirted up to the ceiling with considerable force. It was amazing!

To gain a better understanding playing on courses, I hired a golf instructor to play a few holes with me so he could show me the ropes. The first thing he told me was that the word "golf" is a noun, not a verb. So I should say "I play golf every Sunday." or "I went to play golf yesterday.", and I should never say "I golf every Sunday." or "I went golfing yesterday.". I thought he was a bit of a linguistic snob. The single most important skill he taught me was the bump-and-run shot around the green. Before then, I had no notion of using a 6 or 7 or 8 iron to hit a low running shot around the green. I used to just hit high chip shots with my sand wedge, which allowed for a very little margin of error. The bump-and-run is a much safer shot.

The most exciting thing for me in 2000 was watching Tiger Woods on television. I had followed him closely that season. I witnessed all his heroic moments live on television, such as his spectacular shot from the fairway bunker on the 18th hole at the Bell Canadian Open, and his head-to-head battle with Bob May at the PGA Championship. He went on to win 9 tournaments including 3 majors that year!

I always look back to the year 2000 with fondness. It was a defining year in my golf development. I wish I could travel back in time to experience that feeling again - that blissful feeling of a young man discovering his new passion. ♣

Past Events

Showdown at Firestone Golf Club 14 - 15 / 12 / 2013



Lingering on the first tee.



20 members took part in this event. All in high spirits.



Team Australia. "Aussie Aussie Aussie Oi Oi Oi..."



Our coach broke down and we had to wait at the garage.

1st HKPGS Initiation Dinner at KEE Club 5 / 8 / 2013



Fine dining at KEE Club



Certificates of Acceptance



HKPGS inductees holding their certificates



Celebrating Joyce's birthday

Kung Hei Fat Choy! I'd like to wish my readers a prosperous Year of the Horse. In this edition, I bring to you Mr. Ray Tsang, co-founder of HKPGS and Editor-in-Chief of "SCRATCH". Ray was my golf mentor. He taught me everything about golf, from the full swing to the short game, and from golf etiquette to being a golf event organizer. Last week, he invited me to his office for an interview, during which he talked about himself, about golf, and about the golf society that he co-founded.

MEET & GREET

By Joyce Cheng



What is your background?

I was born and raised in Hong Kong, and educated in Vancouver, Canada. I hold a Bachelor of Arts and a Juris Doctor degree. I'm a litigation lawyer.

Do you play any sport other than golf?

Yes. I like swimming, biking, skiing, playing soccer and basketball. I'm very athletic. I can pick up a sport quickly.

What other pastimes do you enjoy?

I enjoy reading a lot. I love books, Chinese or English. I'm somewhat of a bookworm.

What are you reading at the moment?

I'm currently reading Mike Tyson's autobiography and a book of short stories by P.G. Wodehouse.

Do you read golf books?

Oh sure. I have a shelf full of golf books in my home library.

How did you start playing golf?

My father introduced me to golf in 2000. I learned to play golf in Vancouver, Canada. There are a lot of fabulous courses there.

How often do you practice?

You see, I don't go to the range much. I'm too lazy. I like to play on the course.

What is your best score?

My best score is 88 on the South Course at Kau Sai Chau. But I'm more proud of my 92 at Wind Valley Golf Club last year. It was a much tougher course.

What's your goal in golf?

My goal is to break 90 consistently. And I also want to fix my 'over-the-top' swing. It's dreadful!

"I'm somewhat of a bookworm."



Ray's golf book collection



Joyce & Ray teaming up



“Rude marshals. I can't stand them. ...They can all go to hell.”



Ray's favorite lady golfers

What's been your most memorable round of golf?

I'd say the round at Firestone Golf Club a couple months ago, where you and I teamed up against Garrick and Jessica in a 'High Ball-Low Ball' competition. We both performed well that day in cold and wet conditions. We beat them by 16 points. That was great!

What drives you mad on the golf course?

Rude marshals. I can't stand them. They think they are the police patrolling the golf course. They can all go to hell.

Do you have a favorite brand for attire?

I like to wear Bossini polo shirts. 12 shirts for under HK\$1,000. Can't beat that.

Which is your favorite club?

My putter. I used to find putting boring. But this past year, I've come to enjoy putting and take it seriously. And on the green, I like to lean on my putter with my legs crossed and one hand on my hip. I think I look good doing that.

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

Difficult. Golf is so freaking difficult!

How did you come across this golf Meetup group?

I was tired of playing golf by myself. So one day I typed in some key words in the search engine and stumbled upon this wonderful Meetup Group. You have no idea how happy I was.

You are a key figure in Hong Kong Prime Golf Society (HKPGS). Why are you so passionate about it?

The idea of founding an exclusive golf society is very appealing. It's like you are building a legacy.

What's your vision for HKPGS?

I hope HKPGS will one day become an institution of stature and reputation, like the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

What kind of members do you hope to recruit?

We want to recruit golf lovers. But they must be kind and polite and friendly. We don't want petty and mean and sinister people in our society.

What goals does HKPGS have for this golf Meetup group in 2014?

First, we want to look after the beginners. That's why we've initiated the "Path to the Green" program. Its aim is to nurture and mentor novice golfers. Second, we want to organize one social event and two golf events every month.

Who would be in your dream fourball?

Grace Park, Shi Hyun Ahn and Michelle Wie. They are the most attractive Korean golfers on the LPGA Tour. I'd be the luckiest SOB if I could play a round of golf with them. ♣

“Golf is so freaking difficult!”

What's in My Bag

By Greg Hides



Golfing Philosophy

I'm somewhat of a golfing traditionalist, started playing when woods were actually made of wood, irons were mostly blades, and balls were either balata or rocks! After living in Tokyo I'm also now a JDM (Japan Domestic market) nut and love tinkering with new gear in search of the perfect bag.

3 Wood

Romaro Ray Forged Type R, w/ Quadra Fire Express 65 Stiff shaft
Quite a deep face so works well as a driver replacement off the tee, this Quadra shaft is incredibly soft and stable and gives me lots of confidence to get through the ball.

5 Wood

Royal Collection BBD's 304T, w/ Tour AD BBD Stiff My first 'JDM' club, getting old now but aging like a fine Medoc!

Hybrid

21° Titleist 909H, w/ Matrix Ozik Altus Stiff

Irons

ONOFF Forged (2013), w/ NS Pro 950 Stiff, 4~PW. Endo forged S20C steel for a crisp feel, with a classic head shape and thin topline, these irons have a perfect balance between playability and forgiveness.

Putter

I change putters a LOT, as when I putt badly it's the putters fault ☺, so I'm amassing quite a collection... Currently in the bag is a Yamada milled Emperor II, hand milled from S25C steel, classic Answer style and quite heavy at 360 grams.

Ball

I like to experiment with balls and frequently mix it up, my current gamer is the TourStage X01z, sits somewhere between a Pro V1 and V1x but has a softer almost tacky feel.

Divot tool

I always carry a pitch mark fork too, one of my pet hates is seeing a cratered green full of pitch marks...

Tees

I'm a traditionalist at heart, only just wooden tees and only white or natural colour.

Driver

M.I.A. After years of inconsistency I no longer carry a driver!

Wedges

Yururi Tour 50°
Vega VW04
54° & 60°
All Kyohei forged from S25C steel for super soft feel, and all have very aggressive heel grinds to help get through rough or open the face on tight lies.

Visor

I always wear a visor these days, even if it's not sunny!

Snack

Energy drink, either Pocari or Gatorade and usually a banana.



Ball marker

Unique one from a golf day at Shek O.



The Golfing Garage

- Getting a Grip on Golf -

By Garrick Kong

As part of the 'Path to the green program' one of the apparent aspects of golf that is overlooked is the importance of having the correct golf grip. Ben Hogan once said "Good golf begins with a good grip". The golf grip is the only physical connection between you and the golf club, so the grip can ultimately determine the outcome of your swing. The correct golf grip will allow you to shoot straighter, more solid shots as the grip controls the face position of the club at impact. In this issue of the golfing garage we are going to take a deep dive into the golf grip so that you can get a grip on your golf game.

The golf grip can be distilled to the following 6 steps:

Step 1 – Sit the club across the fingers on the left hand

Starting with the left hand, and continuing with that same hand position with your arm by your side, take the handle of the golf club, with the face of the club positioned square to the target. The butt end of the club should rest just below the heel pad of your hand, extending the club diagonally across the fingers. The club should touch the base of the pinkie finger and just above the first joint of the index finger. Most people make the mistake of holding the club in the palm of the hand. In fact, the club should sit across the fingers of the left hand. As seen below:



Step 2 – Thumb slightly left of 12 o'clock

Imagine as you hold the golf club with your left hand, that you are facing a clock, with the shaft of the club at 12 o'clock. Place the thumb of the left hand on the grip of the club at one o'clock. You should be able to see the knuckles of the index and middle fingers of the left hand. You now have the correct left hand grip of your golf club.



Step 3 – Positioning the right hand

Now position your right hand with the pad of your right thumb resting over the left thumb. The club should rest diagonally across the fingers of the right hand as well, not in the palm.



Step 4 – The 'V'

Using the clock analogy again, place your right thumb at 11 o'clock. You now have the correct right hand grip of your golf club. To confirm that your hands are in their proper position, the "V" that is formed by the thumb and forefinger of each hand should point just inside your right shoulder.



Step 5 – Overlap, Interlock or the baseball grip

Your right pinkie finger can overlap or interlock with the left index finger depending on the style of grip that you prefer. As explained below:

Overlap grip: This is the most popular grip. In the overlap grip the pinkie finger of the right hand rests in the space between the index finger and the middle finger.



Interlock grip: With the interlock grip the pinkie finger of the right hand hooks under the index finger of the left hand, resting between the index and middle fingers.



Baseball or 10-finger grip: is a grip used mostly by beginner and junior golfers, and those with small hands. For this style of grip, the left hand is placed first at the end of the club, with the right hand immediately below it, as you would if you were holding a baseball bat.



Step 6 – Grip pressure

Finally, the grip pressure is also an important factor to perfecting your grip and producing a good golf shot. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the strongest, use a grip pressure of about a 3 or 4.

The golf grip is that simple! It can be quite difficult to self-diagnose a bad grip. Therefore I would recommend asking your mates, local professional or an HKPGS member to have a look at your grip. In addition there are training aides out in the market such as the Golf-Grip© (golf-grip.com) device which will allow you to put the correct golf grip into muscle memory.

Hope you all have a safe and wonderful Chinese New Year.
Happy Golfing. ♣

	<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 & 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>

This Month's Celebrity Golfer

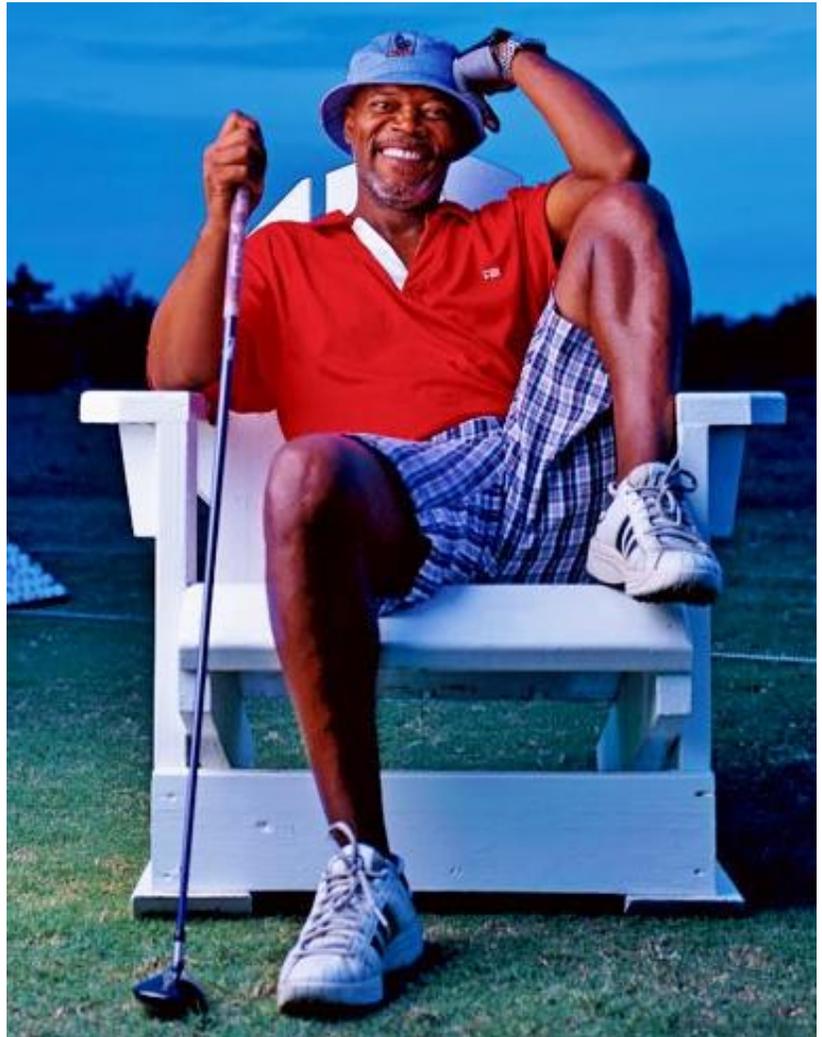
Samuel L. Jackson

Mr. Jackson is one of America's highest-grossing actors at the box office.

He's appeared in over seven thousand films. He's become an institution unto himself, playing diverse roles that range from Bad Ass to Totally Bad Ass.

His handicap index is 4.9.

"I move it out there pretty good, 270 to 280. Not super long, but definitely longer than average."



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

