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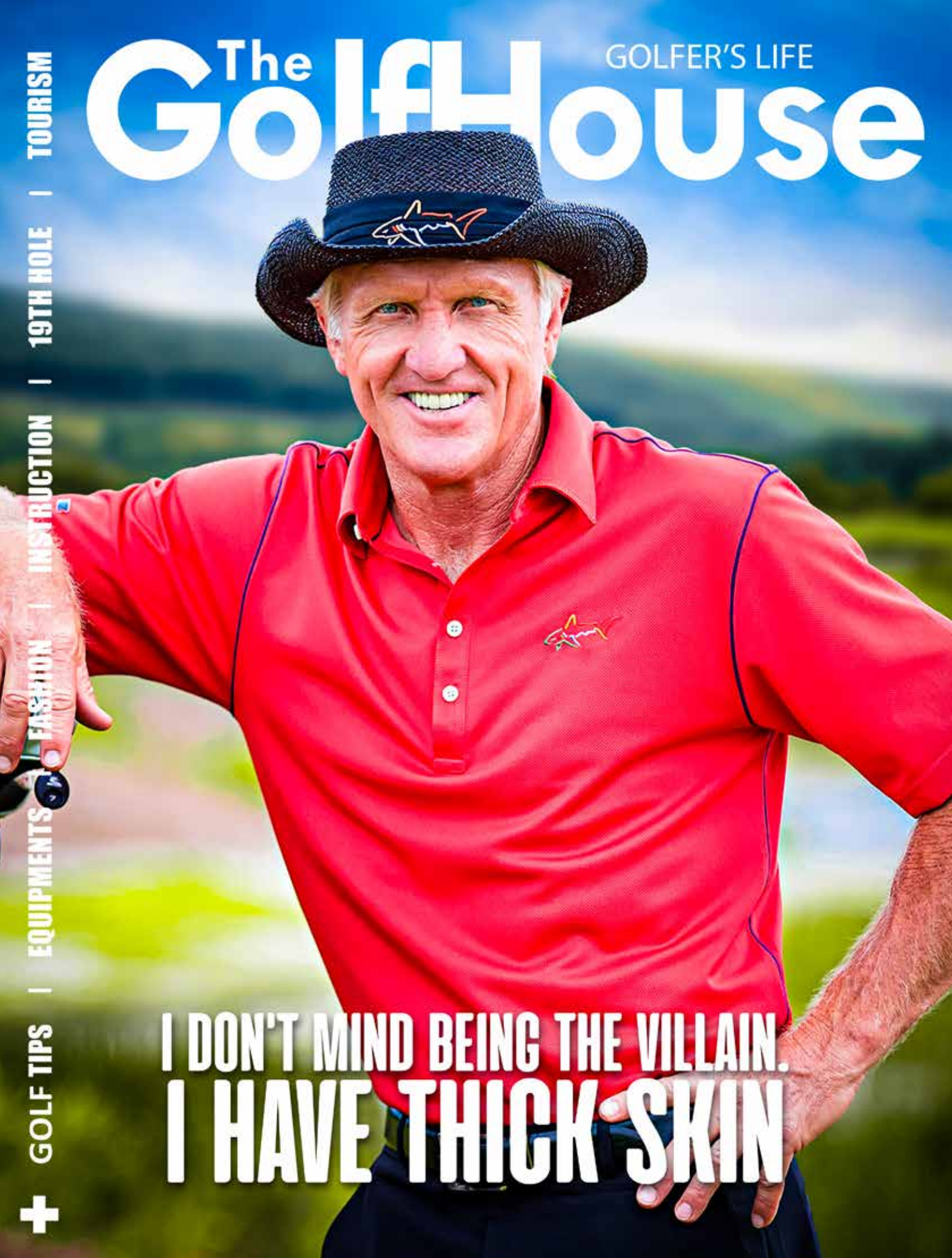

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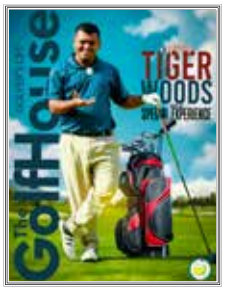

COVER CONCEPT & DESIGN
AMIRUL ISLAM

> Golf, as we know, is a strenuous sport as it can sip out a lot of energy from our body and weaken us both physically and mentally.



EDITOR'S CHOICE



"I have been working on my fitness, my technique, my mental training – so that's starting to pay off, I can hit any shot I want. It is all starting to work," Siddikur Rahman

Foreword

Dear readers,

Ramadan Kareem.

Hope you all are fine and healthy in this holy month of the Islamic calendar. The month of Ramadan coincides with April, historically the hottest month of the year. It is not only hot but also has very high humidity, which can easily make us sick unless we are guarded off well.

For the fasting golfers it is doubly important to abide by the health tips of specialists during this time. Golf, as we know, is a strenuous sport as it can sip out a lot of energy from our body and weaken us both physically and mentally. Hence we need to be extra cautious this time of the year if we want to enjoy a joyous Eid with our friends and families.

Happy Eid Ul Fitr in advance.

Nazrul Hosen Ayon
Editor

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The GolfHouse GOLFER'S LIFE

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As far as new golf-design projects go, few have been as eagerly anticipated in recent years as The Dunas Course at Terras da Comporta. Situated one hour south of Lisbon on the edge of Portugal's Sado Estuary Nature Reserve, one of Europe's most exciting new golf ventures will officially be unveiled to the golfing world this summer.

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SIDDIKUR STRUGGLING FOR CONSISTENCY

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MAJOR TALKING POINTS

All three belong among the elite known as Augusta specialists – when they weren't winning they were, more often than not, well in contention. What makes an Augusta specialist? These days – with faster and firmer putting surfaces – a left-to-right(for right-handers) shot-shape and high ball trajectory, combined with good course knowledge, are the common thread of all Augusta specialists. Hideki Matsuyama, the 2021 Masters Champion, finished T27 and was low amateur on debut in 2011 and since 2015 he hasn't missed a cut. He's a specialist.

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26TH CHALLENGE CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT 2023

26th Challenge Cup Golf Tournament 2023 concluded at Kurmitola Golf Club, Dhaka Cantonment recently which was held between Kurmitola Golf Club and Bhatiary Golf and Country Club. Major General Md Zahirul Islam, SGP, ndc, psc,

Portugal's rising star

As far as new golf-design projects go, few have been as eagerly anticipated in recent years as The Dunas Course at Terras da Comporta. Situated one hour south of Lisbon on the edge of Portugal's Sado Estuary Nature Reserve, one of Europe's most exciting new golf ventures will officially be unveiled to the golfing world this summer.

Created by acclaimed golf architect David McLay-Kidd across 84 hectares of natural, sandy terrain, the par-71 links-style layout has been built using the highest sustainable practices and is predicted to quickly become one of Europe's must-play golfing venues. The Dunas Course – at 7,168 yards – is the first to be designed in mainland Europe by McLay-Kidd, whose other famous creations include Bandon Dunes in Oregon, USA, and the Castle Course at St Andrews.

"Golfers yearn to play beautiful, natural, uncontrived courses – that's why links golf is golf at its best. Comporta is true links golf," McLay-Kidd said. "For those who know links, this will be a 'must play' golf course; for those who don't, it will be a new experience, an awakening of what golf is meant to be."

Terras da Comporta is easy to access and is a 70-minute drive from Lisbon airport. Direct flights to Lisbon run daily from airports around the UK and take around two hours and 40 minutes







SIDDIKUR STRUGGLING FOR CONSISTENCY

Consistency used to be the biggest strength for Siddikur Rahman in the early part of his professional career. From 2010 and 2013 when Siddikur won two Asian Tour events, he would invariably end among the top ten in almost every Asian Tour event.

But as time went by and injuries with lack of form crept in, Siddikur seems to have lost that great strength. He would often show glimpses of his old self, raising hopes of his fans and an entire nation regarding an elusive third tour title, but eventually he would end up making massive gaffes, so as to wash his hands off chances of winning another big title.

Although relatively subdued over the past four years he showed glimpses of his former self by finishing tied third in the Mercuries Taiwan Masters and joint fourth in the Bangladesh Open last year.

In the International Series Thailand, Siddikur put himself in pole position, shooting an eight-under-par 64, to share the third-round lead.
Despite being one of the shortest hitters on Tour, not suited to Black Mountain, which favours the long ball players, Siddikur countered that with a brilliant short stick display to take a share of the lead going into the final round.

However, like a recurring nightmare, Siddikur faltered on the final day again, with a two-over-par in the final round to settle for a 27th position finish.

The next event was at the Delhi Golf Club, where Siddikur had previously won a title and made 10 top-ten finishes in 12 appearances, started in style, firing an imperious seven-under-par 65.

"I have been working on my fitness, my technique, my mental training – so that's starting to pay off, I can hit any shot I want. It is all starting to work," Siddikur had said at the end of the day.

However, it all went downhill from that point as the ace Bangladeshi golfer carded three-over, four-over and par in the next three rounds to finish tied for 52nd.

The following event, in Hong Kong, didn't prove to be any better for Siddikur as he finished 67th with a score of three-over-par (213).

After having played five Asian Tour and International Series events this year, Siddikur's earnings are a mere 42,000 dollars which barely puts him in 93rd position on the Asian Tour's Order of Merit. And he is languishing in 874th position on the World Golf Ranking, a freefall which he has failed to stall over the past decade.

Maybe all he needs at this stage is a victory, which might boost his confidence to arrest the slide and take him back to the height he had enjoyed once upon a time.





TAICHI KHO NOTCHES HISTORIC VICTORY

Taichi Kho spent the week insisting he was too focused on his golf to be really nervous, yet he could barely swallow any water on the way to winning the World City Championship.

From struggling to stand over an eagle putt on 13, to just keeping it together as he walked down the 18th fairway with a two-shot lead, the Hongkonger went through a gamut of emotions on his way to making history as the first local golfer to win on the Asian Tour.

With a four-shot lead at the start of the day, Kho dropped one immediately when he resumed his third round by chipping his wayward drive out of the trees onto the fourth fairway, leaving him 174 yards over water back to the third green.

"The more I thought about [winning], the more nervous I felt, and the pressure, so all I focused on was chipping out on three and hit a good iron shot from there," Kho said.

Over the next 15 holes, Kho experienced everything from the elation of chipping in for birdie on nine, to the nerves of an eagle putt, the clear-headed conviction that driver on 18 was his only option, to a "sense of euphoria" at the end.

There was a moment after the birdie putt on 13, when his lead over playing partners Miguel Tabuena and Michael Hendry was a comfortable four shots, that he began to think about winning. But at the same time as Kho was pulling away in his group, Australian Travis Smyth was moving to within two shots.

"Walking up 14, I saw Travis had a good round going, and he got to 10 under and that almost helped me a little because it got me from worrying about my playing partners to [realising] I've got to play some good golf now," Kho said.

Operating on pure adrenaline, Kho's decision to take driver off the last tee surprised many, when an iron would have been safer. But the 22-year-old said he had wanted to stick to his plan and doing so was not just about the present but about the future as well.

"I pride myself in the confidence that I have in my game, but I will say this is something I didn't know I had in me," Kho said. "So, going forward, it gives me a lot of confidence."

The US$180,000 winner's cheque was only part of the reward. Kho has also earned himself a two-year exemption on the Asian Tour, and a spot at this year's Open Championship at Royal Liverpool Golf Club.

Kho came close to reaching the oldest major two years ago, when he lost the Asia-Pacific Amateur in a play-off to Japan's Keita Nakajima.

"Everything happens for a reason and the lessons I learned then I used this week to close out the tournament," Kho said. "It hasn't sunk in yet, but I'm just looking forward to whatever is ahead."



BROOKS KOEPKA BECOMES LIV'S 1ST MULTI-WINNER

Brooks Koepka warmed up for the Masters with the second LIV Golf title of his career after clinching a two-shot victory in the upstart circuit's Orlando event.

Four-time major champion Koepka, one of the biggest names to defect from the PGA Tour to the Saudi Arabia-backed circuit last year, fired a closing three-under 68 to claim the win at Orlando`s Orange County National Course.

The 32-year-old American rattled in four birdies and one bogey to finish on 15 under and pocket the $4 million winner's prize – $1.3 million more than the winner of next week's first major of 2023 at Augusta will receive.

"I'm finally healthy and it's good to play some good golf," said Koepka, who has struggled with a litany of injuries in recent seasons.

"It gives me chills thinking of the capabilities of what I can do when I'm healthy. Going into next week that's what you want to see."
Koepka is the first player on the LIV Golf circuit to win two events, with his Orlando victory following on from his win at the inaugural season finale in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia last October.

He now heads to Augusta looking to add to his collection of major victories in buoyant mood.

"This was a good test for Augusta – the green speeds are quite fast, quite similar. If I had hit a few putts a bit harder it might have been a bit easier, but I'm just glad to get the win," Koepka said.
Koepka looked to be in control after leading by two shots with three holes to play. But



Colombia's Sebastian Munoz chipped in brilliantly for birdie on the 16th to close the gap to one shot with two holes remaining.

Munoz almost stumbled fatally on the 17th after a wild bunker shot flew through the back of the green.

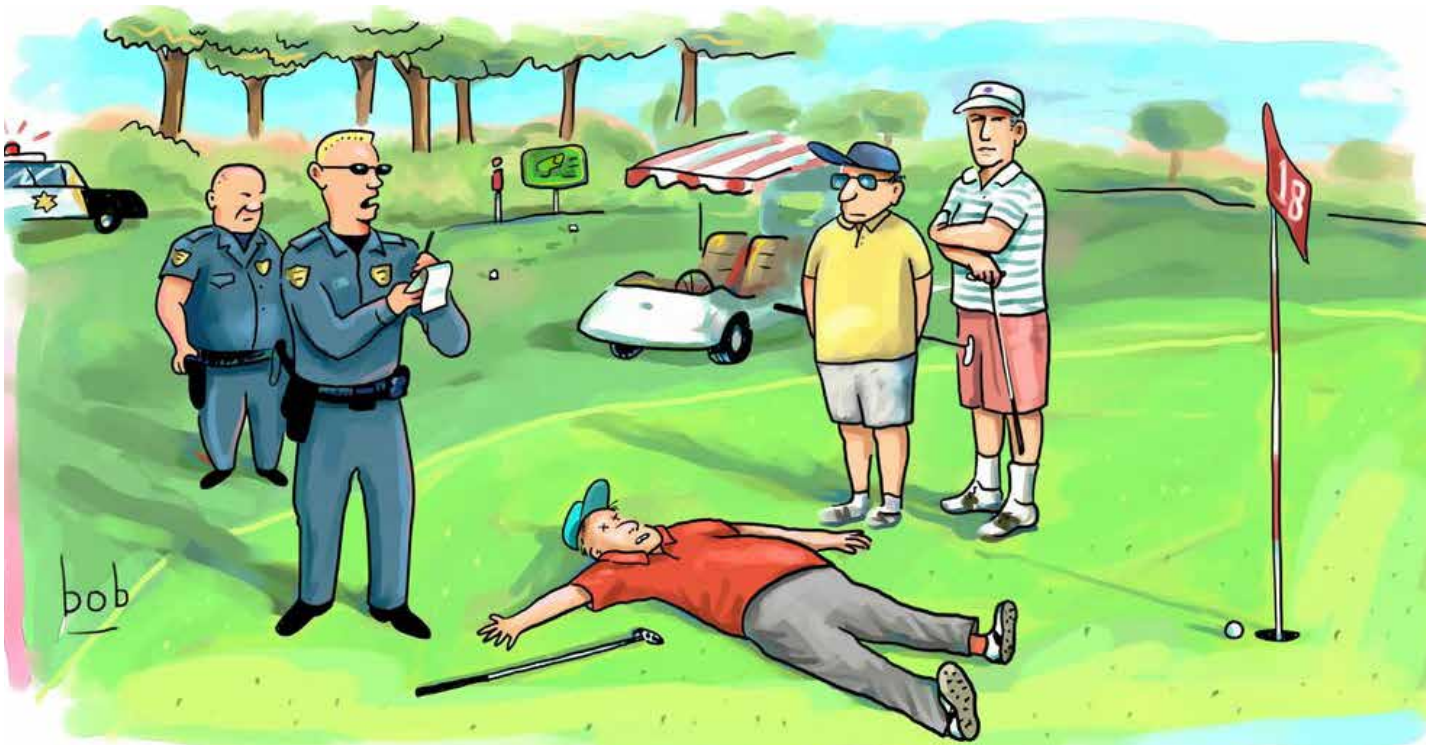
But the South American rolled in a nerveless 10-foot putt after chipping on to the green with his fourth to save par.

Koepka could have all but guaranteed victory on the 17th, but missed the chance to re-establish a two-shot lead when his 10-foot birdie putt rolled just wide.

That left the American defending a one-shot lead as they headed to the 18th and he duly parred to seal his multi-million-dollar payday.

Munoz finished alone in second on 14 under, while 2018 Masters champion Patrick Reed tied for third with South Africa's Dean Burmester on 12 under after a closing 67.

WHAT HAPPENS
If You Hit Someone with A Golf Ball?



Golf is supposed to be fun, right? And hell yeah it is! But the game also requires you to be careful about your surroundings. Being well-aware on the golf course can go a long way you know – you can prevent accidentally hitting someone or being hit yourself.

The most common injuries in golf, however, have nothing to do with golf balls. These are mainly caused by golfing too much or over-swinging.
You should be physically strong enough to play an 18-hole round of golf. And when playing, scan your environment – never take a shot when someone is standing in front of you and even you mustn't stand in front of a golfer shooting his/her ball.
Death by a golf ball – not the most common accident indeed, not even on the list of rare incidents or mishaps that occur on the golf course. But then being hit by one is not completely unavoidable or impossible.
Golf balls, for sure, move very, very speedily, which amps up the combined mass of the ball. Meaning that rapid speed increases the weight of the ball. And when the golf ball is in fast motion like this and, by chance, ends up hitting someone's head, nose, eye, etc., it certainly can cause some serious trouble.
But then has anyone been killed by a golf ball? And how common are such accidents on the golf course? Time to find out!

The Truth About 'Can A Golf Ball Kill You?'
Loud and clear – golf balls DO NOT carry huge amounts of kinetic energy and then there's the compression effect as well that takes place on impact. And just this much should suffice when it comes to stating the fact that a fatal accident caused by a golf ball is highly, highly unlikely, and rare.
There may be OTHER kinds of fatal incidents on the golf course but these, more often than not, don't involve golf balls. Although just in 2018, a man in New Zealand playing golf with his buddies was struck by a ball in the face (the temple) and then died a few days later because of that particular injury.
Even so, hardly any humans actually die after being hit by a golf ball. A threat like that is very, very low. To be honest, people (including those playing golf on the course) do get struck by golf balls. It happens all the time but such an everyday occurrence leading to a freakish death is almost statistically impossible.

What Needs to Be Done If You're Hit In the Head By A Golf Ball?
Getting hit in the head with a golf ball definitely should not be taken lightly. You could get a concussion, which is most likely to temporarily disrupt your normal brain functioning. So after getting struck, if there's any nausea, headache, dizziness, or feelings of withdrawal or confusion, please see a doctor as soon as possible and get an MRI done.

Suppose the golf ball comes in contact with your hand or any other part of the body (except for the head of course) and, at the same time, if that blow isn't severe, you should be alright.
How to Avoid this kind of Golfing accident?
Golf-equipment-related injuries are very few. And even when you think you can avoid getting hurt, there's not much you can do to achieve that.
- Just don't stand in front of golfers taking their shots.
- When whoever is swinging, stand behind that person.
- Always know who the next golfer is for hitting the shot.
- And you, as a golfer yourself, should never swing your club when someone or a group of people is standing in front of you.

How Likely Are You to Get Struck By A Golf Ball?
The exact odds, obviously, cannot be stated because every situation/exposure is different. Meaning not every person is hit by a golf ball in the same manner and/or with the same speed or intensity.
But then if you play golf every single day or live or work on a golf course, certainly those odds of getting struck by a ball become higher. Otherwise, the chances are quite slim (less than even 1-percent).
And the same can be said for those who aren't careful when on the course. For instance, if you just stand in front of a group of golfers hitting shots expecting them to be skilled or careful enough to shoot the ball around or over you, you're then only welcoming unnecessary trouble



ORION AMATEUR GOLF: NEPAL, BANGLADESH WIN TEAM EVENTS

Coming from behind, Nepal won the men's team event of the Orion 36th Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championship 2023 after carding a four-over-par 292 on the second day of the competition at the Kurmitola Golf Club recently.

Nepal's Subash Tamang and Sadbhav Acharya clinched the team crown after carding 292, just two strokes ahead of Bangladesh B team. Liton Modal's dismal six-over-par 78 after his one-under-par 71 in the first round led Bangladesh to defeat in the team event.

Subash, who was in the fourth spot after the first round carding 72, strongly came back in the second round with a six-under-par 66 to guide Nepal to the victory after carding a six-under par (138). Sadbhav carded 10-over-par (154).
Bangladesh B, comprising Shafiqul Islam and Liton Mondal, dominated the first round after carding 143. They finished runners-up after carding 294.

Shafiqul carded 145 and Liton Mondal carded 149 to be the runners-up with 294.

Two other Bangladesh sides – A and C teams – finished third after carding 297 each.
Aarav D Shah of Australia won in the men's singles event.

His score in four rounds were 70, 74, 70, and 70 – for an aggregate of four-under-par (284).

Subash Tamang of Nepal was the runner-up with a score of two-under-par (286) while Bangladesh's Shafiqul Islam finished third with a score of two-over-par (290).

Meanwhile, Sonya Akhter of Bangladesh won the ladies' singles event with a score of eight-over-par (152).

Suneyah Osama of Pakistan finished as the runner-up with a score of 12-over-par (156) while Bangladesh's Nasima Akhter finished third with at 19-over-par (163).

It was the duo of Sonya and Nasima that won more silverware as they helped Bangladesh win in the ladies team event as well

They aggregated 27-over-par (315) for the title while Pakistan's Abiha Hamin Syed and Suneyah finished as the runners-up with 36-over-par (324).

On a night of celebration, the Orion 36th Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championship 2023 prize-giving ceremony was held where the winners received their medals and awards.

The event, held at the banquet hall in Kurmitola Golf Club began sharp at 7:30 pm.





At first, the sponsors of the event, Managing Director of Orion Group Zareen Karim gave a speech thanking all the participants and promising to promote and develop sports in the country.

"I thank all the participating countries and participants and express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone for organising this event successfully," Karim said.

Once the winners received their trophies and prizes, the Senior Vice President of Bangladesh Golf Federation Major General Md Zahirul Islam came on to give a wonderful speech on golf and how the sport has a way of helping people in their lives.

"Golf has an interesting way of imitating life and vice versa. I have always acknowledged the impact of golf on my life. The way it teaches us to remain calm under pressure situations is truly invaluable," he said.







Sheikh Russel 6th federation Golf Championship 2022

Galleries






LONG LIVE
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Be sure to buy or borrow a sturdy travel cover that offers complete padding and protection. At particular risk are the longer clubs – the driver and woods, which stick up highest out of the bag. Use clothing, towels or even a plastic bucket to place around the clubheads, keeping them in place within the flight bag. Utilise any internal straps and try to keep total weight down, which will make it easier for the baggage handlers.



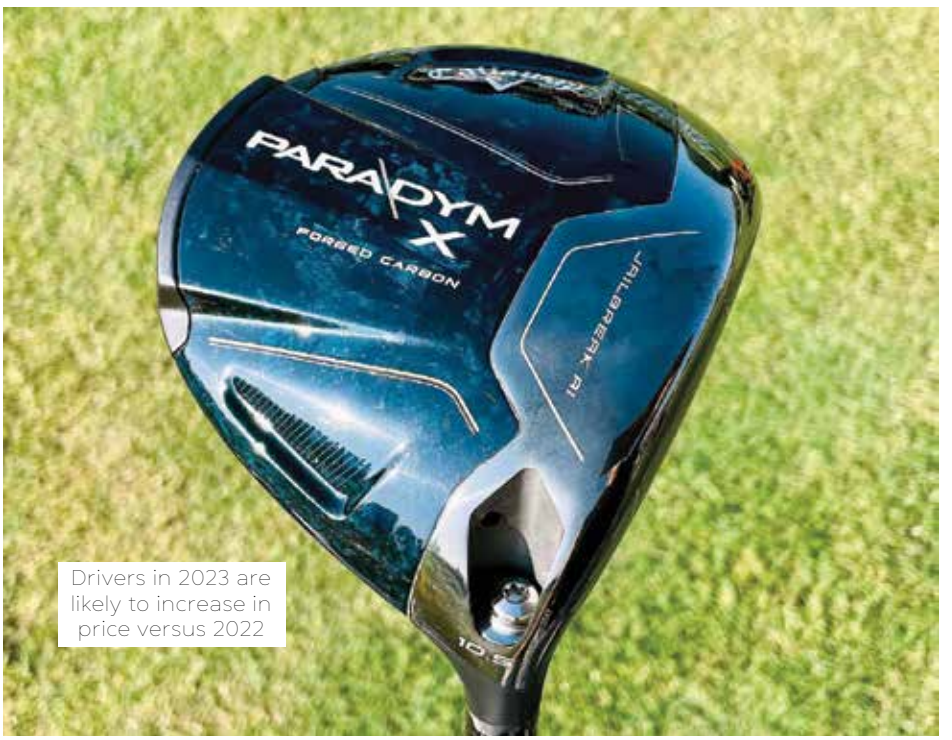
Why do some brands offer two hybrid models?

Mason Hayes, via email

Hybrid designs are aimed at different ability and skill levels. The traditional choice of better players is a hybrid with a compact profile and iron-like appearance, usually favoured for its shotmaking prowess and workability. The larger hybrids are typically called OS (oversize) or Max and are built for more forgiveness, higher launch and green-holding spin. Some brands will provide adjustability in one model, like on the Titleist TSR3, for example, which allows the golfer to alter shot shape By the time you read this, the market will be full of brand new driver models vying for your attention. The higher prices may cause your jaw to lower, however, which will get you questioning whether you can justify such a significant outlay in the turbulent financial times we're living in. The

Should you buy a new driver in 2023 ?

driver is the club that gets us started on most holes. If you lack confidence with yours, bad shots will ensue and you'll immediately be on the back foot before you've even got close to the green. When it comes to taking the plunge or not, consider a few things... Firstly, how old is your driver? If it's five years old or more, technology has evolved enough for you to likely experience a tangible improvement in performance, be it extra distance, feel, control or a combination of all. Reflect also on your ball flight. Is it frustratingly high or annoyingly low? Does it veer off to the right even when you strike it well? If your current choice is guilty of these faults and has limited adjustability to rectify them, a new, well-fitted driver could provide the solution. Have you replaced other areas of your bag recently? If so, perhaps now is the time to upgrade. The pool of great drivers is also so much deeper now, with brands like Srixon, Mizuno and Wilson really upping their games in recent times to provide alternatives to the main brands, often at a slighter lower price point to boot. Consider the second-hand market, too, if price is more of a stumbling block and you can find a newer model than yours in a closely matching spec.



Drivers in 2023 are likely to increase in price versus 2022



HEAD TO HEAD



Mizuno M.Craft Omoi 3

Loft: 3°
Head weight: 383g

Ping 2023 DS72

Loft: 3°
Head weight: 365g

Looks

The alignment assistance is more subtle – just a single black line that doesn't contrast overly sharply against the flange. The blue ion finish is very cool, although it could be more durable. It also comes in a silver or black finish for a stealthy loo

8~9

The chrome topline provides excellent alignment contrast with the black trailing edge, helped by the long, white sightline that extends away from the target. The DS72 is better at pointing you in the right direction and looks just as premium in the bag.

Feel/sound

The Omoi head does feel heavier with the standard weights included (you can change them for lighter or heavier weights via a weight kit). The balance is different as a result, but the Lamkin Sink Fit Pistol grip certainly enhances both the feel and control.

9~8

This putter weighs 18g less and does feel a little lighter than the Mizuno, but it's very well balanced and produces a firm, solid sensation at impact. The Ping PP58 Mid pistol-shape grip fits your hands perfectly, which helps with clubface awareness.

Roll

We experienced more speed from the heavier Mizuno head, which allowed us to impart a slightly shorter, controlled stroke. The roll was good and notably consistent on longer putts when our strike pattern tended to deviate away from the sweetspot.

9~9

You could make a case for the horizontal grooves on the face helping the ball hug the ground a little earlier than the Mizuno, although the difference was marginal. The speed seemed easy to gauge early on from all distances, which boosted our comfort levels.

Forgiveness

For its modest mid-mallet size, this putter is very stable. The face naturally wants to remain square and resists twisting when mishit. Stability levels increase further with the heavier weights, something those with slower tempos should certainly consider.

9~8

From the middle, the feel was excellent and it seemed to maintain good ball speed on off-centre hits, although the sound changes and can make it feel like you haven't quite hit it correctly. It's not quite as stable overall as the Mizuno.

Overall appeal

The Omoi 3 putter offers the rare option of adjustability and additional finishes for those who prefer a different look or feel. The compact nature of the mallet head will suit better players, as it combines forgiveness with the feel of forged steel.

9~9

Visually, this putter offers more help, which golfers of all levels and stroke types will appreciate. While you can't alter the weight, there is an adjustable shaft option available. It feels like a very well balanced, smooth and consistent putter.

Totals/50

44 **43**



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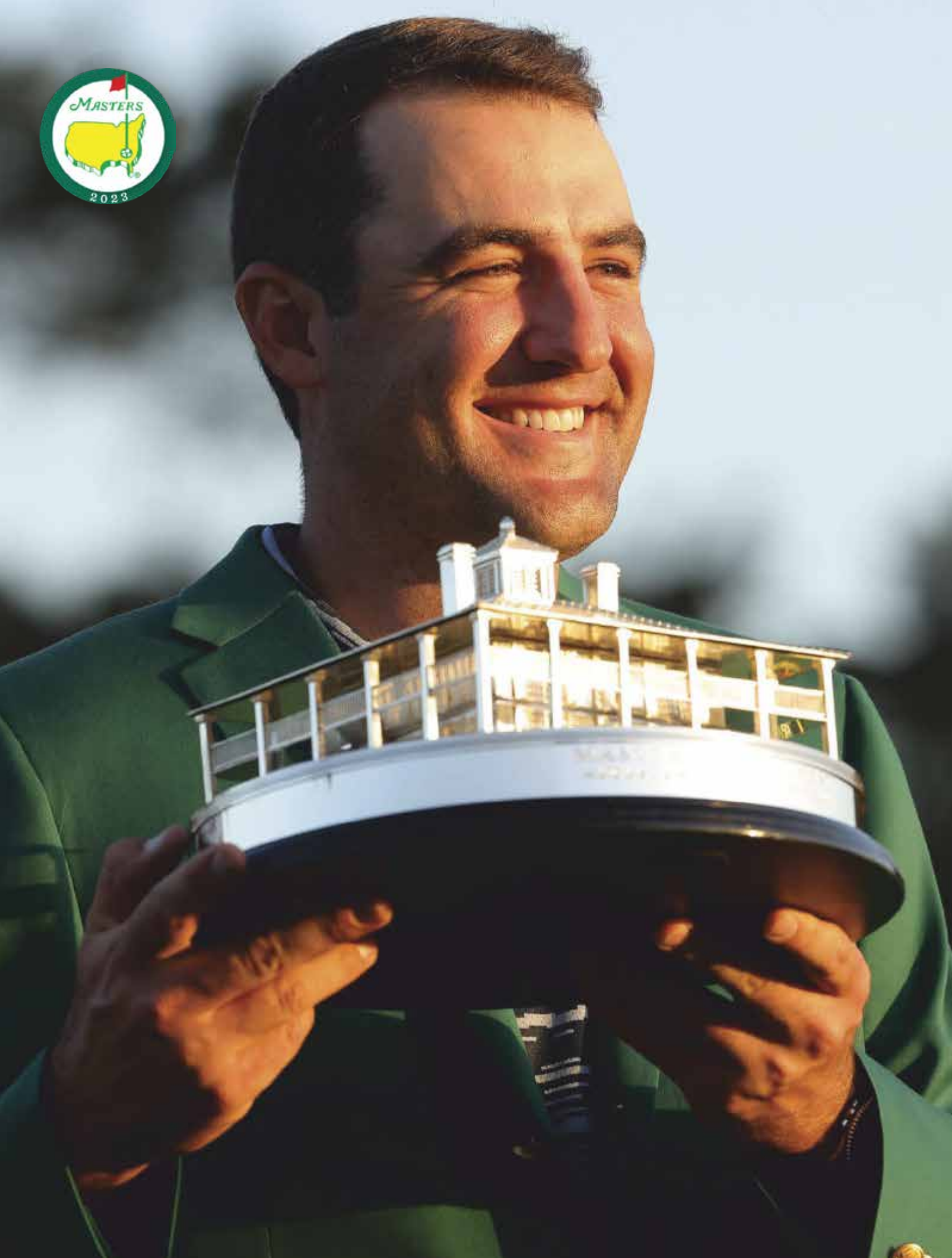
MAJOR TALKING POINTS

From Tiger Woods' appearance to the Aussie most likelyto slip into the Green Jacket, these are the nine key talking points ahead of the 87th edition of the Masters.




MASTERS
2023

11

CAN SCHEFFLER GO BACK-TO-BACK ?

In the 86 editions of the Masters played since 1934, only three defending champions – Jack Nicklaus (1965-66), Nick Faldo (1989-90) and TigerWoods (2001-02) – have won back-to-back Masters titles.

All three belong among the elite known as Augusta specialists – when they weren't winning they were, more often than not, well in contention.

What makes an Augusta specialist? These days – with faster and firmer putting surfaces – a left-to-right(for right-handers) shot-shape and high ball trajectory, combined with good course knowledge, are the common thread of all Augusta specialists.

Hideki Matsuyama, the 2021 Masters Champion, finished T27 and was low amateur on debut in 2011 and since 2015 he hasn't missed a cut. He's a specialist. As is the man he slipped a green jacket onto in 2022 – Scottie Scheffler, who broke through at Augusta in just his third Masters start.

Scheffler's three-stroke victory came at the end of a phenomenal run of form, which began with his first PGA Tour win at the Phoenix Open in mid-February and followed with two more victories in March and ended with his maiden major win at Augusta. The 26-year-old, with his natural high fading shot shape will see him contend at Augusta for many years to come, but he will have to overcome history to join the likes of Nicklaus, Faldo and Woods.

Defending at Augusta National is tough, as four of the past seven defending champions will testify as they missed the cut.In fact, only four of the past 21 winners have finished in the top-10 the following year



12

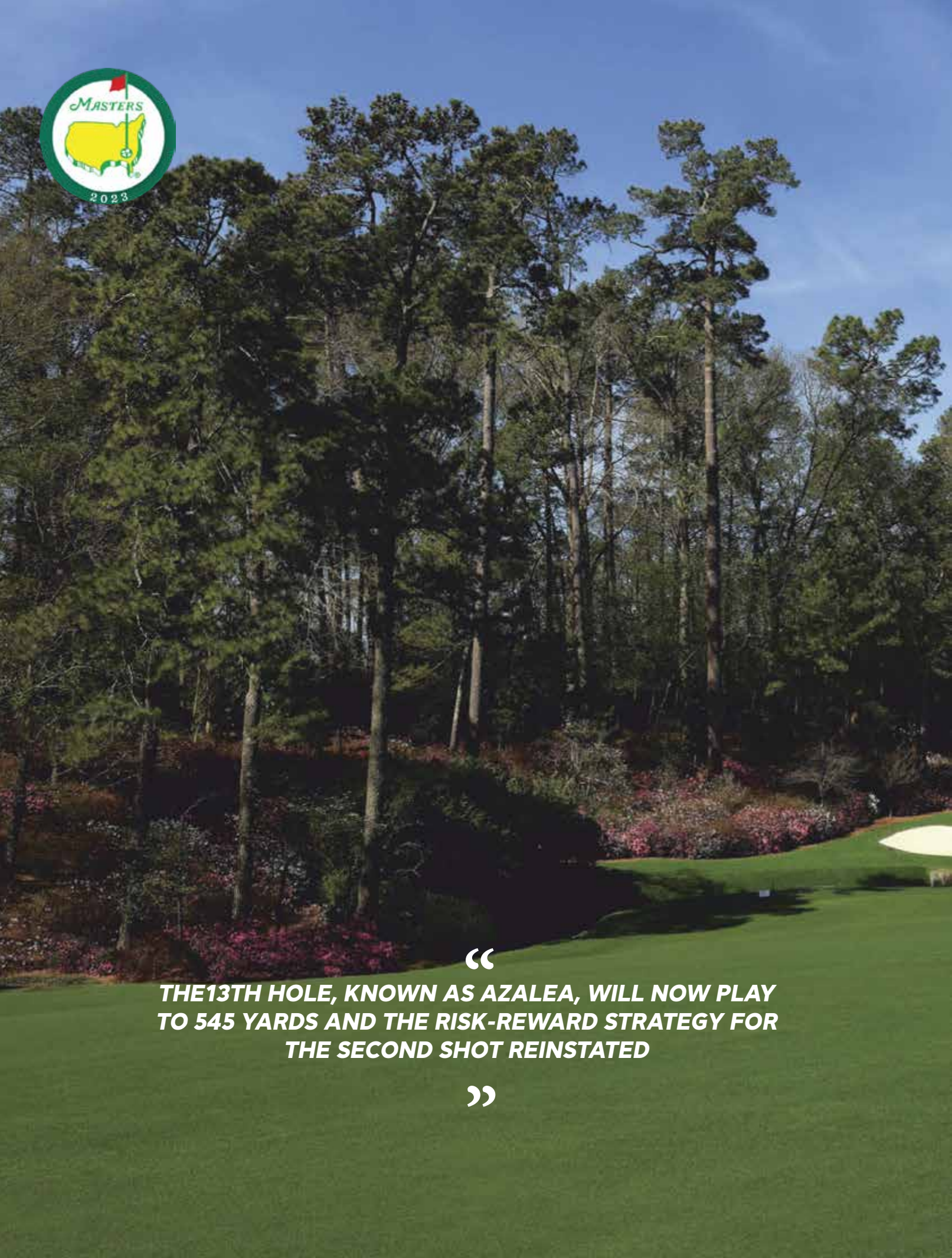
WILL TIGER MAKE AN IMPACT?

In short, yes.

His return to the PGA Tour at the Genesis Invitational in February was more a training run than a serious bid to win at Riviera, where he has never won.If he could walk that golf course six times in as many days and make the cut, he would be on track for the Masters.

In his first competitive start since The Open last July, he finished T45 after a final round 73. But the real story was he didn't appear to be in pain as he played and his ballstriking, for the most part, was very good. But, as was the case in his three major appearances in 2022, he struggled with his putting. "My game is fine," Woods said after the final round at Riviera."Yeah, it is rusty.I made some silly mistakes here and there and I didn't quite pick up the speed of the greens."

It will be a different story at Augusta.



“THE13TH HOLE, KNOWN AS AZALEA, WILL NOW PLAY TO 545 YARDS AND THE RISK-REWARD STRATEGY FOR THE SECOND SHOT REINSTATED”



3

WILL AUGUSTA PLAY ANY DIFFERENT?

Course changes at Augusta National have become part of the tradition of the Masters each year, and this year will be no different.

Last year, the club revealed new tees on the par-4 11th and par-5 15th which increased the overall length of the fabled layout. The 11th was stretched to 520 yards, while the 15th was lengthened to 550 yards, which resulted in more players not being tempted to go for the waterside green in two blows.In fact, for the first time since 1966, there were no eagles recorded on the 15th at the 2022 Masters.

This year, a new tee has been added at the iconic par-5 13th hole – a move mooted by Augusta National Chairman Fred Ridley last year to restore some of the design integrity to the hole. The decision to lengthen the hole was not taken lightly.

"The 13th hole does not have the same challenges thatit has historically,"Ridley said lastApril."I can just remember as a young guy watching theMasters, some ofthe triumphs and tragedies.Andwhilewe still have those,the fact that players are hitting middle to shortirons into that hole is not really howitwas designed.

"My reluctance to date has been that it's such an iconic hole ... So that probably, you know, has been sort of a counter to doing anything. At some point in time, it's something that we likely will do."

By the end of 2022 that"something" had been done. Augusta National purchased a parcel of land from the adjacent Augusta Country Club and a new tee, some 35 yards further back up the hill behind the 12th green, was levelled and turfed. The 13th hole, known as Azalea, will now play to 545 yards and the risk-reward strategy for the second shot reinstated.

With Rae's Creek running in front of the putting surface, historically, those golfers who were bold enough to take on the second shot from an uneven lie in the fairway were often rewarded with an eagle opportunity late in their round. But in recent years, players have been able to cut the corner of the dogleg left with their drive, leaving a mid-to short-iron into the green.

This extra yardage will make the Augusta National layout, at 7, 545 yards (6,899 metres) the longest in the history of the Masters and 640 yards longer than the layout Bernhard Langer won on in 1993.



4

CAN AN AUSSIE WIN?

Ten years on from Adam Scott's Masters breakthrough and we're eagerly anticipating a second Australian victory.

Just six weeks out from the Masters, only three Australians – Asia-Pacific Amateur Champion, Harrison Crowe, 2013 Masters Champion, Adam Scott, and reigning Open Champion, Cameron Smith – had received invitations.But Jason Day, Min Woo Lee and Lucas Herbert could play their way into the field by cracking a spot in the top-50 in the Official World Golf Ranking during the week prior to the Masters starting. At the time of writing Day was No.47, Lee No.50 and Herbert No.51. Smith (pictured left) is the obvious pick of the Aussies given his performances at Augusta in recent years.In his past five Masters starts, he has finished in the top-10 four times including a T2 in 2020 and T3 last year. But the star LIV Golf recruit will be, in racing parlance, lightly raced when he arrives at Augusta having played just nine competitive rounds of golf in 2023, which might see him a little underdone for a genuine shot at the title.

Can Scott conjure the feels and thoughts that saw him triumph a decade ago? Perhaps. But his big concern heading to Augusta is his driving, which has been a strength for all of his career but in 2023 he has struggled to get the ball in the fairway. That could prove problematic at Augusta where simply finding the fairway is only half the job done. To score well, your ball needs to be precisely placed on the best side of the fairway to have an easier approach shot into the complex greens. If the resurgent Day (pictured below) can play his way into the Masters field he could be a genuine threat. He has seemingly overcome his back injury issues of recent years and under new swing coach, Chris Como, he has regained the belief he can compete alongside the world's best players again.



5

WHAT ARE THE MASTERS WINNING TRENDS?

AUGUSTA REWARDS FORM

Forget about the Masters producing a surprise winner this year. The last 13 winners were all ranked inside the world's top-30 heading into the tournament. Since the inception of the Official World Golf Ranking in 1986, more Masters champions have been No.1 in the world (five) than ranked outside the top-40 (two) at the time of their victory. Focusing on the world's top-25 in the past ten years, Dustin Johnson (2020) and Scottie Scheffler (2022) were ranked No.1 in the world and Hideki Matsuyama was the lowest ranked at No.25 in 2021, the average world ranking of the last 10 Masters winners is 10.9.

EXPERIENCE COUNTS

Only three Masters rookies have won the tournament, with Fuzzy Zoeller in 1979 being the most recent. What's more, in the past 25 years only two players under the age of 25 have won at Augusta: Tiger Woods in 1997 and Jordan Spieth (pictured right)in 2015. Fun fact: The average age of all Masters winners is 32 years and 223 days, while the average age of first-time victors is 31 years and 10 days.

COURSE KNOWLEDGE

The history of the Masters reveals players usually require a few years playing at Augusta before winning their first green jacket. In fact, 23 ofthe past 31 Masters champions had previously made atleastfour appearances atAugusta National before they won.The most recent exception is defending champion Scottie Scheffler who won in his third Masters start. The record for the longest wait between Masters debut and victory belongs to Sergio Garcia, who had 19 starts before his 2017 win.

HOMETOWN HEROES

An American has won 60 percent of the last ten Masters tournaments. There have been 86 Masters tournaments played and 63 (73 percent) have been won by an American.





WILL HARRISON CROW FLY AT AUGUSTA?

Absolutely. Harrison Crowe has the all-round game to be very competitive at the Masters.

The reigning Asia-Pacific Amateur Champion by-passed some events at home to make a reconnaissance visit to Augusta National in February. While the course would have been set-up nothing like it will be Masters week, it would have been beneficial to get all the excitement and sight-seeing of a first visit out of the way well before the start of the big show. Can he win it? Probably not. Despite the tournament committee's willingness to host the best male amateurs in the game every year, no amateur has ever won the Masters. The closest any amateur has come to a green jacket was back in 1956 when Ken Venturi blew a lead on Sunday afternoon and ultimately finished runner-up. Crowe can certainly make the cut and vie for low amateur honours, which is no mean feat in itself given that since 2001 no amateur has made the cut on nine occasions.If he does claim the low amateur medal, he will be only the third Australian to do so behind Jim Ferrier (1940) and Oliver Goss (2014)."It's pretty surreal knowing I'm playing in the Masters," said Crowe, whose earliest memory of the Masters was watching Adam Scot win in 2013. "I've never really been a fanatic watching golf on TV a whole lot. But when it comes to the Masters and the majors,I'm pretty glued to it." Crowe is expected to play practice rounds with Scott, his childhood idol, in the days leading into the opening round

CAN RORY FINALLY COMPLETE THE CAREER GRAND SLAM?

At the conclusion oflast year's Masters, Rory McIlroy declared that it was the happiest he has ever been leaving Augusta National. McIlroy shot a scintillating final round 64, closing his tournament with a work of art from the greenside bunker at the 18th hole that found the bottom of the cup.

"I don't think I've ever walked away from this tournament as happy as I am today ... I've played a really good round of golf, and it's my best ever finish at Augusta.It's not quite enough, butI'll certainly look back on this day with fond memories," McIlroy said.

That final round was a turning point in McIlroy's season, a missed cutthe week before at the Valero Texas Open left him asking questions. McIlroy was struggling with his consistency and distance control in the wind, sighting the ball he had been playing being the catalyst for his struggles.

His next stop was the TaylorMade tour van to tellthem he was done with the ball,the 2022 TP5. They suggested that he startto use the 2019TP5x that ScotsmanRobert MacIntyre had been using. The then 32-year-old deciding to trialthe ball with immediate positive results and a place in his bag atAugusta.

The change helped McIlroy find some consistency, especially with his wedges and eventually led McIlroy back to World No.1, put him in contention at every major ofthe season, helped his successful bid for a third FedExCup and delivered his best result at The Masters.

McIlroy's relationshipwithAugustaNational is a complicated one,with theNorthern Irishman's seven top-10s comingwithout genuinely contending on a Sunday afternoon, despite theAlisterMacKenzie course seemingly being a perfect fitfor his game.

Rory's most famous moment from his 14 trips down Magnolia Lane came in 2011, before he had captured a major title, when having led or co-led for a majority of the tournament. Arriving at the 10th tee on Sunday with a one-shot lead, McIlroy saw the green jacket slip off his shoulders with a triple-bogey on 10, bogey at 11 and doublebogey at the 12th.

It was a heartbreaking finish for McIlroy, who went on to sign for 80 and plummet down the leaderboard as South Africa's Charl Schwartzel claimed his first and only major. Despite the disappointment, McIlroy believes the capitulation shaped his career and his eight-shot U.S Open win at Congressional just months later. "Losing the Masters sets up everything to follow; it changed me ... It will always stand me in good stead.I needed to learn how to play at the end of a major championship," he said at the time. Since winning The Open in 2014, when McIlroy also won the PGA Championship for his most recent major win, the World No.3 has had eight attempts to join Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods in winning each of the four men's majors. Arguably in career best form, a rejuvenated McIlroy believes his game is in no better place to join the elite career grand slam club than in 2023. "I said at the end of last year Ifeel as complete a player as I ever have.If you look at my statistical categories there's no real glaring weaknesses there and I worked really hard on that to try to become a more wellrounded player.





8

WHO ARE THE GENUINE CONTENDERS?

GREENS IN REGULATION

Distance is, of course, a big plus at Augusta but precision iron play separates the contenders from the pretenders, with the stats supporting that argument. In five of the past eight Masters, the champion has ranked in the top-five for strokes gained approach. Going back even further, 17 of the past 23 winners have ranked inside the top-six for greens hit in regulatio.

SCRAMBLING

Augusta's dramatic sloping greens and run-off areas create small landing spots that can be difficult to hit. That's why serious contenders need a deft short game. Fourteen of the past 16 winners have ranked in the top-10 in 'scrambling' (getting up and down from off the green) during the four rounds.

THREE-PUTT AVOIDANCE

Any player can climb the Masters leaderboard by avoiding three-putts. Sounds simple but consider this. The PGA Tour average for three putts at regular Tour stops is three percent. At Augusta National that percentage surges to almost six percent. When Dustin Johnson and Danny Willett won, they only had a single three-putt across the four rounds. Last year's champion, Scottie cheffler, had three three-putts in 72 holes, while no player who made the cut in 2022 escaped without at least one three-putt

PAR-5 SCORING

Making birdies, or eagles, onthe 2nd, 8th, 13th and 15th holes is vitally important in pursuit of victory at Augusta. These long holes are usually ranked among the easiest for scoring, so birdies are essential to keep up with the field. The past five Masters winners – Scottie Scheffler, Hideki Matsuyama, Dustin Johnson, Tiger Woods and Patrick Reed – played the par-5s in a combined 52-under-par



9

WHO ARE THE SO-CALLED EXPERTS TIPPING?

ADAM SCOTT

I backed Adam Scott when he won the 2013 Masters and for old times' sake,I'll be doing it again this year.I watched mesmerised at him hitting balls when he was home at the end of last year and it will take some convincing that he's not among the best ball-strikers on Tour. That said, he needs to address issues with his driver and if he can do that, he will be in the mix come Sunday afternoon. –BrendanJames.

RORY MCILROY

Like Greg Norman, Ernie Els and Tom Weiskopf in decades pastI can't help butfeel — deep down — thatRory McIIroy mightjust be theAugusta 'Nearly Man' of his generation. Butitis for that very reason (and because I'd love to be wrong)that he's my pick to win and complete the career Grand Slam. When McIlroy's good he's always been better than everyone else but these days even when he's less than his best he's good enough. – Rod Morri.

RORY MCILROY

The light on LIV Golf schedule suggests the players from the newest Tour in golf will have the chance to get in some extra work at Augusta National, but there is such a thing as overpreparing for a specific event and Ithink that will be the case this year for Greg's men. So, it is to the PGA Tour crew for me, and while Jon Rahm will be there or thereabouts during the week, 2023 is the year Rory McIlroy finally gets the Augusta National tailor to take his measurements for a green jacket. – Jimmy Emanuel.

JON RAHM

Back-to-back wins are unlikely at Augusta so Scottie Scheffler is out.Inconsistent putters can win at Augusta but it's not likely so Adam Scott, Rory McIlroy, Justin Thomas, Collin Morikawa and Will Zalatoris are out. Augusta favours longer hitters so Patrick Cantlay, Xander Schauffele and Jordan Spieth are out. Cam Smith and DJ will have too much to prove representing LIV so they're out.I have



therefore statistically proven that Jon Rahm will win the 2023 Masters. –Adrian Logue

CAM SMITH

I normally admit to bias in such matters, butI'm firmly of the belief that the Penguin Sunday maroon will look excellent framed by the green jacket. Cam Smith, now the Open champion with the absolute belief he can get things done on major Sunday afternoons, returns to a place that suits him just perfectly. He has four top-10s in five starts here including a fifth, a third and a second that will leave with a Bob Beamon-style record that will last generations – imagine shooting four rounds in the 60s at Augusta National and not winning the Masters? Suffice to say, this is a putter's paradise and a place where your wedge will be required to extricate you from impending calamity more than once. Enter the mighty mullet – he won't give a XXXX gold about LIV commentary during the week and will be Australia's second Masters champ.



GREG NORMAN

‘I DON’T MIND BEING THE VILLAIN. I HAVE THICK SKIN’

In a wide-ranging interview, LIV Golf CEO Greg Norman hits back at Tiger and Rory, and reveals why his leadership has the PGA Tour “running scared”

If Greg Norman is feeling the pressure as the face of LIV Golf, he doesn’t appear to be showing it. A broad grin has already formed less than 30 seconds into our Zoom call as he leans back to survey the view from LIV’s plush offices in West Palm Beach, Florida. “It is pretty damn good, I can tell you that,” he says, before eventually turning his attention to a pile of notes in front of him.This will be his home for much of this week. He has a three-day summit lined up with the principal players of every franchise team, as well as discussions with his executive team about the structure of the new LIV Golf League.
Ordinarily he would have been at the QBE Shootout, the same tournament he founded and has hosted since 1989. His fingerprints are all over it; except the PGA Tour don’t want him to be there. Not now. And probably not in the future.
The 67-year-old Aussie has lost a lot of friends because of his involvement with LIV Golf. He’s also managed to incur the wrath of Tiger Woods and



Rory McIlroy, who have led calls for him to step aside for the good of the game.
The two-time Open champion has stayed relatively silent until now. But in his first big interview since rumours started circulating that former TaylorMade CEO Mark King has been lined up as his successor, Norman insists he is going nowhere.
He also pushed back against "the agenda" being driven by Tiger and Rory, and pulled no punches as he spoke about the weaknesses of the Official World Golf Ranking, how his leadership has Jay Monahan running scared, and why the
PGA Tour should be thankful for everything he and LIV have done...

Let's start with a reflection on a crazy year. How would you sum up LIV's success and the impact you've had on the world of golf?

Yeah, look, I wouldn't call it crazy. I would say it was fantastic, to be honest with you. If I had to scale it from one to 10, I'd give us a 9.5. The impact and the deliverables we've done in an eight-month time period this year is nothing short of phenomenal.
But it's also a testament that the market in the golfing world was looking for something like us and LIV can work within the system. So I was very, very proud of what we did.
Of course, you're going to have naysayers, right? When the monopolists' territory is getting threatened, they're going to rear their ugly head up and do what they do. But from my whole perspective, I've always taken the high road this year. I will continue to take the high road because I believe in our business model. I believe in our people, I believe in the players' independent rights, and we've already seen a dramatic shift in our audience.
Here's an interesting stat: 71% of all those who attended LIV events this year had never been to a golf event before. It's just an eye opener. I think 55% were under 44. We're reaching a younger audience. This was the goal we always wanted. This is where we knew golf was stuck in a really old box with the demographics. This was our mission, to reach down and expand the game of golf to a broader footprint and get to the younger generation.

Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy have both said you need to step aside. What do you make of their comments?

I don't pay attention to them because they don't know the details. I just focus on my business. I focus on what LIV is. When I went down to Australia, I stood at the podium to announce LIV going to Adelaide. To see that we did 37,000 ticket sales in 48 hours, that's a testament to the power of LIV. That's a testament to what the people and golf have been dying for. They've been



starving for. For me to come out of my home country, knowing that the announcement was received so emphatically, that tells you again that what you're doing is right No matter where I go in the world, nobody – not one person – has said what I'm doing is stupid or wrong. I pay zero attention to McIlroy and Woods, right? They have their agenda for whatever reason. They're saying whatever they want to say. It has no bearing or effect on me. I'm going to be with LIV for a long, long period of time. I've got the support of our investors. Our ambitions going forward, I can tell you, are pretty significant and elevated from where we are in 2022

Does it not bother you, hearing this stuff and being cast as the villain? Why do you think they are so against you?

You have to ask them that question; I really don't care. I knew when I came into this position that I needed to have thick skin. I went through it in 1994, I've been through this scenario before. It wasn't Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy in those days; it was Arnold Palmer. For me, the experience and knowledge and understanding of the playbook just allows you to keep looking forward. So, I really don't care what they say.



Tiger wants the two tours to talk. Do you believe this can happen under your leadership?

Of course it can happen under my leadership. I mean, Tiger might be a messenger, right? Who knows. All I know is we are going to keep doing what we're doing with LIV and we are just going to keep moving forward.





If it was for the greater good of the game, though, would you consider stepping aside?

I'm not going anywhere. I don't care what anybody says. I'm not going anywhere. I am so proud of the position I am in and maybe maybe, it's my leadership that has them scared. Maybe...

What did you make of Jon Rahm's comments, crediting LIV for forcing through some pretty big changes for the players on the PGA Tour?

He's 100% right. LIV was the leader in 2022. Everything that happened on the PGA Tour was because they reacted to what LIV did. That's pure and simple, it is factual, right? So Jon Rahm is 100% right. And God bless him for his honesty. You know, he's got friendships on both sides of the ledger. And he wants everybody to understand that competition is a wonderful thing for everybody.At the end of the day, the players on the PGA Tour should thank LIV, to a degree, for what we did to open up the pocket books and dive into the reserves of the PGA Tour. I feel sorry for the PGA Tour players from a couple of years earlier, from five years earlier. Where was this money? Sitting in the coffers. It should have been used for the players. It's their tour, their money. So,there's a lot of questions you can sit back and ask and Jon Rahm is making the right statement. I completely applaud him.

How do you see the two tours working together, if at all, in the future?

Let's just see how time plays out. We're doing what we're doing. We've got a lot of incredible stories to build this year. And we've got an incredible amount of enthusiasm from our principal players. It's all revolving around the team, the franchise, and that is the virgin space that nobody has ever capitalised on or even identified in golf. Every other sport has had equity injected into it. Whether it's soccer, NFL, cricket, you go down the list, they've had equity invested in them. Look what happened to their franchises. In cricket, they're worth a billion dollars. In NFL, look what happened with the Dallas Cowboys. I think they went from an acquisition of $300 million to $4.5 billion. There's the value in the franchise. It's never been done before in golf, but why not? The players are embracing it. I'm so glad that I've had the opportunity to give them this chance in life to go on this journey, as well as having the opportunity to do whatever else they want to do.

'BEING CAST AS THE VILLAIN DOESN'T HURT ME. I REALLY DON'T CARE WHAT RORY OR TIGER SAY. I KNOW I'M RIGHT'

The players regularly say that they're golfers, not politicians. But when your career is being funded by a controversial regime – one that you've chosen to join rather than being taken over by – don't you have a responsibility to understand where the money is coming from and answer those questions?

Have you ever flown on a Boeing aircraft? Have you ever taken an Uber? There you go. You answer that question. From a sports perspective, all I care about is the value of what we're bringing to the game. And we are a force for good for the game of golf.

The majority of the 9/11 hijackers were from Saudi Arabia. What do you say to the 9/11 survivors and their families who have described LIV as 'death golf'?

Look, everyone has got their own opinion. I'm here for the good of the game of golf.



I'm just going to stay focused on the job that I've been asked to do. And I'm doing that. Eventually, the facts will identify certain things. So, I'm not going to be talking about any of this. This has been beaten to death for the last eight months. Everybody still wants to do it. It has no bearing or influence on us.

So you have no regrets?
No. Everybody has got their own opinion.You brought up Tiger. He's got his own opinion. I hope they respect my opinion and what I'm doing for LIV, and all the players and their families. I'm very, very proud of what we've done with LIV and in expanding the game of golf.

You talk about growing the game. Why do this for the men and not the women? Is a LIV Golf women's league next on the agenda?
Of course, it's a discussion point. We have got an incredible business platform which we are able to shift in many different directions. And there are opportunities to get elevated and go beyond (where we're at) because our platform is so adaptable.

How are you looking to go beyond that?
First of all, we're launching the league this year. We're going to have 12 teams and franchises. We're going to launch those and the world is going to see exactly what building out a franchise model from zero is all about.

Are there any plans to sell ownership of the franchises to recoup some of the investment?
We are very happy with what we've got.

But is the existing model really sustainable in the long term? How are you planning to turn in a profit?
You'll see.

No clues?
You'll see.

What about TV rights? Are you any closer to striking a broadcast deal?
We're having discussions all the time. And we have very active discussions with more than one entity.

What happens if you don't get World Ranking points? Do the futures of certain players hinge on that decision?
No, not at all. Quite honestly, we deserve to be within the OWGR (Official World Golf Ranking) system. We've exposed the weaknesses of the OWGR system because of the strength of our field right now. And because our players don't have OWGR points, how detrimental is this to other tournaments like the Majors? The people want to see the best players play. People want to see the best competition. And competition is the best thing for your life, for my life, for golf, for business, for anything. Our players deserve OGWR points and it shows you the weakness of what OWGR is. At the end of the day, we'll keep doing the right things. We've applied for OWGR. As a matter of fact, I just got an email from them today.

'I'M EXPANDING THE GAME OF GOLF. TO SEE THE IMPACT MY PLAYERS HAVE HAD ON THE GAME IS JUST ASTOUNDING'

What did it say?
I've given you enough information (smiles).

But if you are unsuccessful, would you consider changing LIV's format to get OWGR status. Bring in a cut, perhaps?
No, not at all.

So you're sticking to what you've got?
Absolutely, we have checked the box of the technical committees

Four new venues have been announced for 2023, including two long-term PGA Tour and DP World Tour venues. Does it feel like a bit of a coup to get venues like





recognised and invested in. We will get a return on investment because we see the opportunities from the franchise value

Are you confident that your players will be eligible for the Majors and the Ryder Cup next year? Have there been any more conversations around that?

From my players' perspective, I hope they do because the Majors and the Ryder Cup and the Presidents Cup should be for the betterment of their production and sponsors. They need the best players in the world in those events, and I would hope they sit back in their annual meetings and realise that. The R&A have and I compliment Martin Slumbers for coming out as early as he did. What I know is that our players deserve to be in it. If they've qualified, they deserve to play.



Can you update us on new players for 2023?

We are in discussions with a couple right now, yes.

How will the promotion and relegation system work? Can you give us some insight into what you've got planned?

We're always looking at our rules and regulations and seeing what the best structure is. We're always going to have a pathway for other tours and other players to get onto the LIV Tour. I'll give you an example. Eight weeks ago, I was asked to drop into a golf course because a friend of mine owned it. Coincidentally, he hosts university golf teams, male and female. He asked me to do an impromptu Q&A and so I did. I stood on the driving range with probably 15 to 24 kids. I would say a third on them said, "My ambition is to go and play the LIV League". You're talking about college kids. They're watching it, seeing the James Piots out there and feeling inspired. And that's what excites me, that I give them that opportunity. And I'm talking to the girls as well. They're asking the same questions, How can the ladies do this? Canwe do that? Of course, I'm encouraged by that and it just tells you so much about the value of what we've delivered in the minds of the younger generation. We've reached all the way down to collegiate level. Their ambition is to come play for LIV, not the PGA Tour. I'm not manufacturing one word of this. I'm telling you the facts. I'm expanding the game of golf. What we've done with the Asian Tour, and what we're doing with the MENA Tour and through the Middle East, it is so liberating. To see the impact my players, my boys, have created in the world of golf is nothing short of astounding.

How are you going to be putting those pathways in place moving forward?

We have them in place today. There are pathways for players to come in. There is relegation in place. So in 2023 and onwards, players will drop off because of their performance and other players will come in. There is a criteria. So, we are always making sure that we give that opportunity to those who want to come. It's an open pathway system.

Fast forward to this time next year, where do you envisage things will be for LIV?

I think it's going to be way more successful than it was in 2022. I think the audience and our acceptance will have expanded. Our runway is extremely broad and flexible to make sure that where we take LIV events in the future is the most valuable and viable place not just for LIV, but for the game of golf. So, to answer your question, I would expect us to be in a far better position because we're active, we're up and running as a franchise, and we're not a beta season anymore.

Mayakoba and Valderrama?

It's not a coup, it's just a recognition that people are embracing what we have. They love it. They love the opportunity of bringing another competition in the world of golf to the platform. Just yesterday, I had three separate countries reach out to me. The PGA Tour is not the be all and the end all. The PGA Tour does not own golf. Golf is a space where you can move in with the right business model because it's a virgin space. They never recognised the space that we

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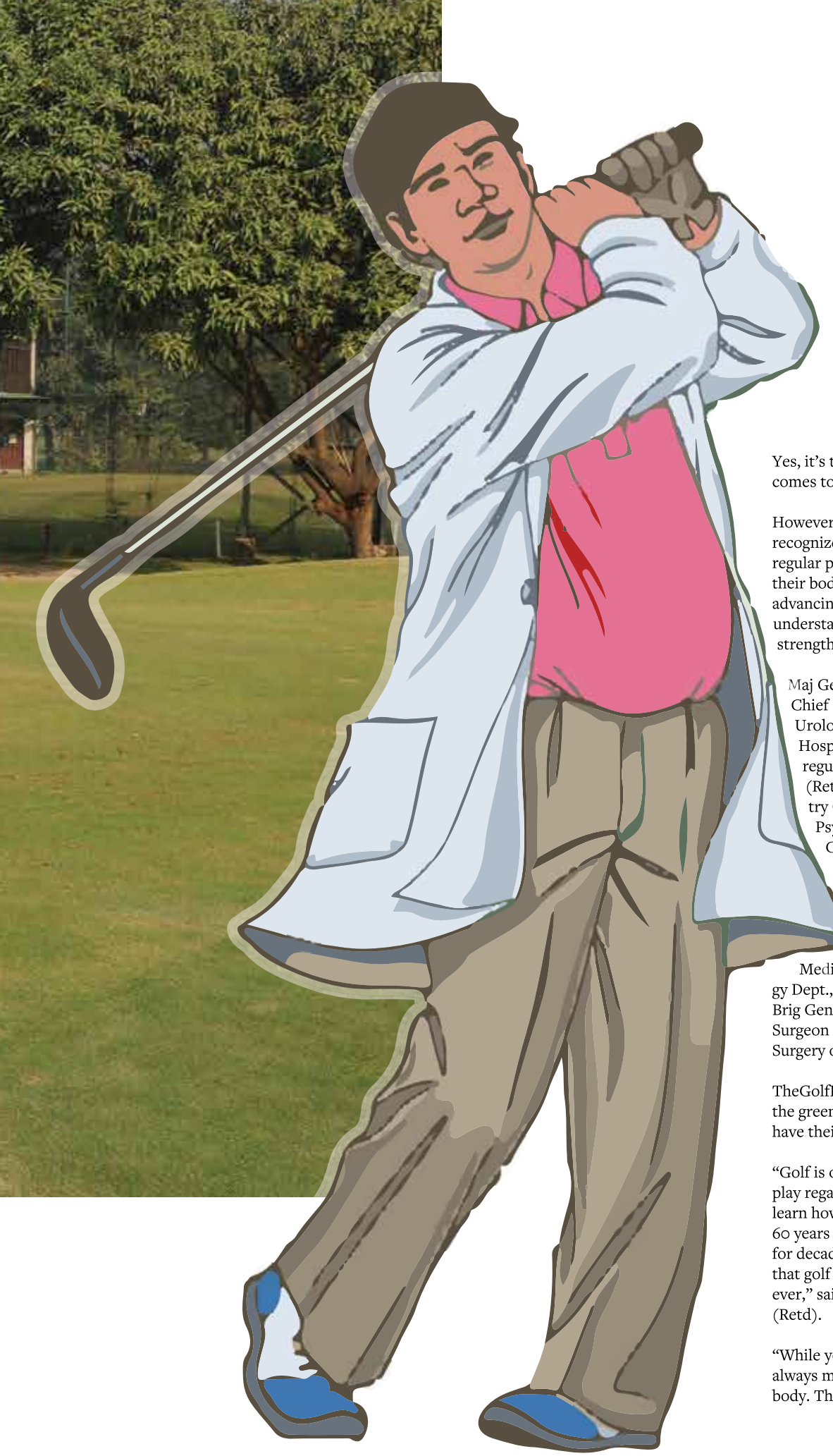
DOCTORS

on the Green





Yes, it's true that age is just a number when it comes to playing golf.

However, senior golfers, who already recognize the physical and mental benefits of regular play, may not relish the changes in their body they encounter as they age. With advancing age, comes more knowledge and understanding of golf, but less physical strength and endurance.

Maj Gen Md Shahidul Islam (Retd), Ex Chief Surgeon, CMH Dhaka, Consultant Urologist, Ayesha Memorial and United Hospital, Dhaka has been playing golf regularly with Brig Gen Md Azizul Islam (Retd), Ex Adviser Specialist in Psychiatry CMH Dhaka and Professor of Psychiatry, Armed Forces Medical College, Principal US Bangla Medical College and Senior Consultant Psychiatry, Square hospital ltd, Dhaka and Brig Gen Md Rahimgir (Retd), Ex Professor of Microbiology, Armed Forces Medical College, Consultant Microbiology Dept., Lab Aid Hospital Dhaka along with Brig Gen Md Rezaul Karim (Retd), Ex Chief Surgeon CMH Dhaka, Consultant Orthopedic Surgery of United Hospital Dhaka.

TheGolfHouse team caught up with them on the green of Kurmitola Golf Club recently to have their opinion and tips on the game.

"Golf is one of the few sports that you can play regardless of age. Some golfers don't learn how to play game until they are 50 or 60 years old while others have been playing for decades.This is just one of the reasons that golf is, in my opinion, the best sports ever," said Maj Gen Md Shahidul Islam (Retd).

"While you can play golf forever, it doesn't always mean that it is an easy sport on your body. There is a lot happening in the golf

swing that just isn't a natural movement for the body. From swinging, walking, and constant movement, golf can get harder on your body as you age. But, golf is also a great form of exercise an amazing way to spend time with family and friends. You can enjoy the game with your kids, grandkids, friends, and even strangers," he added.

"As players age and lose some of their power and flexibility, it is important to make modifications, focusing on strengths and mitigating weaknesses. This often means players need to shift their emphasis from hitting the long shots down the fairway to improving their short game, honing chip shot skills," said Brig Gen Md Azizul Islam (Retd).

"Since strength and flexibility often deteriorate with age, a solid warm-up routine is critical to preserving physical ability and preventing injuries on the golf course. Whether from old sports wounds or arthritis, there are some common problem areas for seniors such as ankles, hips, necks and shoulders," said Brig Gen Md Rezaul (Retd).

"Maintaining muscle strength helps players achieve proper posture, stance and balance, increasing their endurance on the course and reducing aches and pains of the course, I recommend 10-12 minutes of practice swings and stretching exercises pregame," he added.

"Since the mechanics of a senior player's game has changed, it is important to reexamine golf equipment and accessories. Toss those long irons and replace them with easier-to-hit hybrids, and exchange their low-lofted 3-woods with much user-friendly high-launch 3-woods," said Brig Gen Md Rahimgir (Retd).

"The shafts in their clubs need to match their strength and ability, older golfers shouldn't be afraid to change their grips to a larger size. Superior grips help increase a player's





strength and power, allowing them to grip the club better," he added.
"The practice is still the key to achieving and maintaining a lower score. I recommend that people spend the bulk of their practice sessions making 3 to 4-foot putts. Even a 50 per cent conversion of those putts results in a significant decrease in overall score. After all, the end goal is to get the ball into the hole in as few strokes as possible," said Maj Gen Md Shahidul Islam (Retd).

"Golf is mainly played on a five-and-a-half-inch course, the space between your ears. That's because golf is filled with precise mental calculations such as ball location, grass depth, wind direction, green speeds, slope, and much more. It is a great way to help keep the mind strong," said Brig Gen Md Azizul Islam (Retd).

"As seniors age in retirement, they rarely come across the level of strategic thinking they did in the workplace, and golf is a great way continue to keep your brain fit. It is also proven that golf releases endorphins (the 'feel good' hormones), which help to boost your mood and well-being. With the release of these endorphins, it can help relieve your overall stress. The sport also teaches the importance of patience and controlling emotions to prevent sending the mental aspect of the game into a tailspin," he added.

Filially, as we continue to age in our home, it can be harder to stay connected with friends. Regular golf outings can help build and maintain relationships with friends as well as provide you with a recurring event to look forward to. Mental stimulation outside of the home with other like-minded individuals is very important to your personal health. TheGolfHouse team salute these four senior golfers that they are continuing their game after the official retirement from the govt. job and this stage of age.

MIND GAMES

THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING A CLEAR HEAD

Bob Rotella is the world's foremost sports psychologist and author of the best-selling sports psychology book of all time; Golf Is Not A Game Of Perfect. He has worked with the likes of Darren Clarke, Padraig Harrington, and Rory McIlroy to deliver more than 300 PGA Tour titles and more than 70 Majors.

The key to better performances, he says, is to control your fears and doubts and quieten the mind. "I believe that it's impossible to overestimate the importance of the mind in golf," he explains. "Despite what you will have heard, there is no such thing as 'muscle memory', because your muscles have no capacity to remember anything. Memory resides in your head, so no matter how long you practise and no matter how skilled you become, your muscles alone can't remember it and execute it when the need arises out on the golf course.

"Your mind controls everything and if your head is filled with bad thoughts, your scorecard will be full of bad strokes.

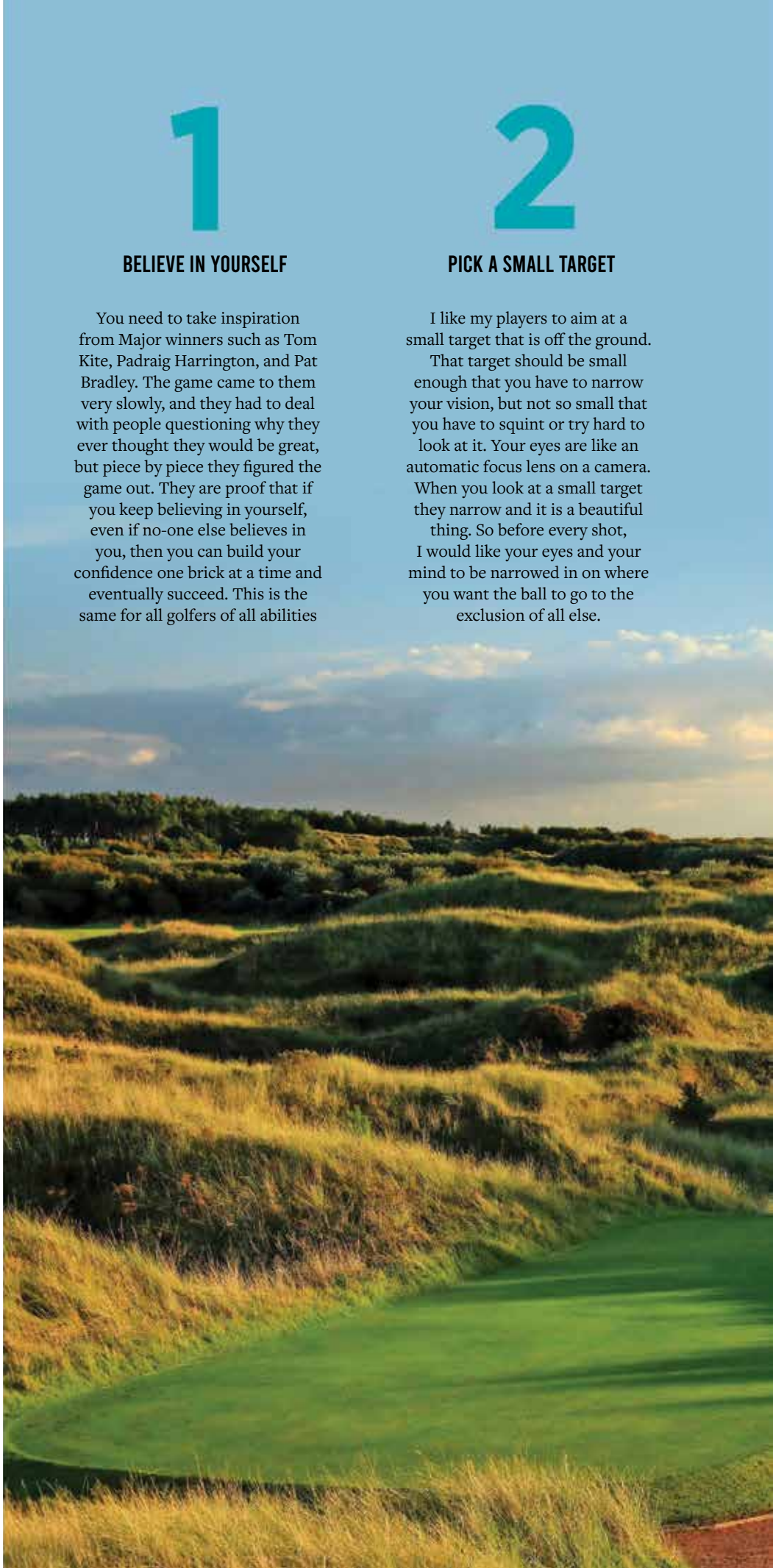
People play well when they have their head in a very quiet, very clear place. Here are five key ways you can quieten your mind and find better focus.

1 BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

You need to take inspiration from Major winners such as Tom Kite, Padraig Harrington, and Pat Bradley. The game came to them very slowly, and they had to deal with people questioning why they ever thought they would be great, but piece by piece they figured the game out. They are proof that if you keep believing in yourself, even if no-one else believes in you, then you can build your confidence one brick at a time and eventually succeed. This is the same for all golfers of all abilities

2 PICK A SMALL TARGET

I like my players to aim at a small target that is off the ground. That target should be small enough that you have to narrow your vision, but not so small that you have to squint or try hard to look at it. Your eyes are like an automatic focus lens on a camera. When you look at a small target they narrow and it is a beautiful thing. So before every shot, I would like your eyes and your mind to be narrowed in on where you want the ball to go to the exclusion of all else.



3

ACCEPT YOUR MISTAKES

Accepting mistakes is a big part of the puzzle, because if you dwell on your errors and get upset about them, eventually you are going to start fearing them. This is a big problem because knowing how bad each mistake makes you feel leads you to start trying harder, which in turn leads to you messing everything up. Overcoming this is a heck of a challenge, but improving your short game and studying the top professionals will help. I tell people to get really good at the short game, because it means you can make all kind of mistakes and still score. And I tell them to watch the top players, because they miss their fair share of shots, fairways and greens, but they still manage to get the ball in the hole. No matter where you end up, you have to have confidence in your ability to get the ball in the hole.

4

BE HONEST

When it comes to the mental side of the game, golfing dishonesty comes in two forms. The first sees people lie to themselves about their ability to hit the shot and is easy to fix. If you can't hit a pitch shot, your mind cannot help you. You have to go and develop that skill. The second sees people lie to themselves about their inability to hit a shot and is a little more complicated. A lot of golfers lie to themselves in the negative when they don't have confidence. I see this happening all the time on tour. A player will hit a shot 15 times in a row on the practice range and then pretend they can't hit it on the course. It is a fascinating mental position, and the only way to overcome it is to think positively, then let go of conscious control and surrender to your subconscious. Which means look at where you want the ball to go and then just let it happen.

5

LET YOUR MIND GO

To really get to the point where golfers want to be, mentally, you need to be so lost in your own little world that you are unconscious about what you are doing. It's very much like playing a musical instrument. Yes, you can be competent while thinking consciously, but to really make beautiful music or perform your best on the golf course you need to let go of conscious control and just look and do. This is not easy to achieve, but if you can get comfortable with a quiet mind, it will give you a huge advantage on the golf course.



'THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS MUSCLE MEMORY. YOUR MIND CONTROLS YOUR MUSCLES AND IS THE KEY TO EVERYTHIN'



‘MEETING TIGER WOODS WAS A SPECIAL EXPERIENCE’



Tasvir Hasan Majumder, the current club champion of Kurmitola Golf Club, shares his experience of meeting Tiger Woods and talks about his experiences as an amateur golfer for a decade and a half, during a chat with TheGolfHouse.

You won the Club Championship at Kurmitola Golf Club this year. Could you give us more details into the tournament?

Basically my experience helped me a lot. Even though I didn't do too well in the other events, the experience here got me through. The early stages were not that challenging, but from the quarterfinal stage, it got a bit difficult. In the final, I beat my friend, Mohammad Rafi, who is the current player of the year.

So how did golf start for you?

It all started with my father. I used to go with him to the golf course in 2005-06 when he was posted in Chattogram. By 2007, I started playing competitive golf and by 2008, I got into the junior national team.

So the transition was pretty quick?

Well, it was. Around that time I was selected by the BGF and KGC to play in World Junior Golf Championship in Thailand because of my good form. And that worked as a big motivation for me.

So you've been playing for a decade and a half. You're a pretty experienced golfer now.

Indeed, I started early which is what you need to do well in golf. The earlier you start the better it is for getting into the groove and getting your body synced with the game.

You said your father took you to golf, but you must have had some mentor too, right?

I was fortunate to be part of an R&A course here in 2007-08, but for a mentor, I must mention two names: Professional golfer Shakhawat Hossain Sohel and my caddie, Awlad Hossain Rana, who is also a professional.

Since your father was posted to many cantonments, didn't you face trouble coping with new people and new courses?

I always love challenges. For example, when my dad was posted in Ghatail, I used to come to Savar. People said it would be tough for me. It indeed was tough in the beginning, but once I mastered it, I won seven consecutive events there. And I was always hooked into the atmosphere of the golf courses and made many friends there. So adopting was not a big challenge for me.

Were you into other sports too?
Mostly basketball and golf. I was in my school basketball team.

So how long did you represent the junior national team?

From 2008 to 2012. During this time, I played in Junior World Golf Championship in Thailand four times, played in Team World Golf Championship, played in the Asia Pacific World Golf Championship in India, and of course, the Junior British Open in Manchester.

The last one must have been a special experience for you?

It was. It's difficult to express in words, different from anything else. There were so many spectators that it felt like a top-level professional event. And then the weather and the atmosphere. It was cold and rainy plus windy and then I had to be my own caddy. In fact, we were trained on the weather and on carrying kits before we went there.







Since you are doing a job now, is turning professional on your agenda?

To be honest, I don't have any plans like that yet. My family has always been supportive on golf but I also want to establish myself in my career. When I will feel I have nothing more left to achieve as an amateur, I may turn pro. RT Porosh, in this regard, is my role model. He has played in all sorts of amateur events and won everything as an amateur. He became a pro only sven he hit a constant level of performance to sustain as a pro. Since I have a full-time job, I only play on weekends and it's not easy to turn a pro when you can't commit completely. But I have this desire that I want to play at least one event as a pro, no matter when it comes, once I've achieved all as an amateur.

What is your plan for the next season?

I have three target. 1. If I can, I want to repeat my club championship. 2. I will try to compete for the player of the year. 3. If I can play in the Asian Tour event that will be held here. Last time the Player of the Year and the Club Champion were selected for the Asian Tour. So If I get the chance, it will be a dream come true for me.

You must have had many special or fond memories related with golf.

If you say fond memories, it would be the friendships I have forged on golf courses. We helped out each other and lot and still stay in touch. Now if you ask about the most memorable experience, that is undoubtedly being in the Junior British Open and meeting Tiger Woods.

Did you have the opportunity to talk to him?

We were given access to the British Open Pro event after our tour tournament. Some of us were introduced to Woods when he was leaving the practice range. He asked me where I was from and asked me how big golf is in Bangladesh. He said he was looking forward to seeing more players from the country. Seeing an idol like Tiger Woods from close and getting to talk to him was a big inspiration for me.



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54 **RANCON Arcade**
In the bustling port city of Chittagong, five distinguished and diversified establishments have come together under one roof, promising a unique experience like no other.

64 **Healthy chicken and chips**
Mix the soy sauce, lime juice, garlic, seasongin and some black pepper in a shallow dish. Add the drumsticks and coat well.



RANCON Arcade





In the bustling port city of Chittagong, five distinguished and diversified establishments have come together under one roof, promising a unique experience like no other.

The architects are behind the design of the establishment demonstrated exceptional attention to detail, successfully meeting the challenge of maintaining each brand's distinctiveness and unique identity while ensuring coherence throughout the space.

The lofty entrance, interesting play of lights, subtle use of brand colors, placing of contemporary furniture all while keeping the whole focus on the products in display itself, is what makes the architecture stand out.The structure's form is characterized by a minimalist approach, with its elongated shape extending towards both ends, creating a dynamic perspective that is striking and unparalleled in appearance. Despite the apparent challenge of reconciling the unique features of each brand, the architects have seamlessly integrated them under one roof, resulting in an impression of exuberant celebration. The structure's design exhibits a terrain-like motion in relation to the city's landscape, achieved through the masterful use of minimal materials and intricate attention to detail. The bare shell composition is sure to captivate passersby, offering a clear view of the interior and inviting them inside. The design expresses the corporate identity of the brands, skillfully integrating lounge spaces with the showroom area, constructed with premium quality materials, and adhering to the design guidelines provided by the brands to maintain their international identity.

The modern linear building situated on an urban scale serves as a remarkable demonstration of how to delicately incorporate the geological features of a particular area in a contemporary design. The development of technology and the economy, along with the revolutionized industry and rising consumer demands, have greatly influenced the design, resulting in a highly sophisticated and subtle aesthetic.







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- Tomato- 1 pc
- Lemon Juice- 1 tbsp
- White Pepper- 1 pinch
- Carrot
- Cucumber

Grilled Chicken



Procedure

1. Marinate the chicken breast pieces with mustard paste, salt, white pepper, lemon juice, olive oil.
2. Take a whole tomato, cut one side and keep it with the marination.
3. Heat up the olive oil and cook the chicken. Turn each side by 1 minute in medium heat.
4. Cover and let it cook for 2 minutes.
5. Grill the tomato beside the chicken and cook for another 3 minutes.
6. For décor purpose, take some ribbon cut cucumber and carrot slices. Cut them into julienne and soak them in water.
7. Serve the grilled chicken and tomato into a dish with the soaked salad and sauce of your choice.

Recipe Courtesy: Chef Jewel Rozario





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*Serves 4

2 tbsp soy sauce
6 tbsp lime juice
1 garlic clove, crushed
1 tbps Bart Blends
chicken seasoning
700 g l 24.5 oz chicken drumsticks
3 medium sweet potatoes, cut into wedges
3 tbsp olive oil
for the chimichurri dressing

1 tsp dried chilli flakes
1 shallot, finely chopped
1 green chilli, deseeded
and finely chopped
2 tbsp each fresh chopped parsley
and coriander

1 Mix the soy sauce, lime juice, garlic, seasongin and some black pepper in a shallow dish. Add the drumsticks and coat well. Cover and leave in a cool place for 20-30 mins.
2 Heat the oven to 200°C, Gas 6 , Toss the potato wedges with 1 tbsp oil, spread them out on a large baking tray and roast for 45-510 mins.
3 Transfer the drumsticks and marinade to a roasting tin and cook in the oven for about 35-40 mins, brushign every so often with marinade until browned and cooked through.
4 To make a chimichurri dressing (not pictured) . mix the chilli flakes, shollot, chilli, remaining oil, vinegar and herbs. serve with the drumsticks and wedges.



26TH CHALLENGE CUP
GOLF TOURNAMENT 2023




26th CHALLENGE CUP-2
: 24 FEBRUARY 2023


CHALLENGE
DATE : 24 FEBRUARY



26th Challenge Cup Golf Tournament 2023 concluded at Kurmitola Golf Club, Dhaka Cantonment recently which was held between Kurmitola Golf Club and Bhatiary Golf and Country Club. Major General Md Zahirul Islam, SGP, ndc, psc, Master General of the Ordnance, Bangladesh Army and Vice President, Kurmitola Golf Club gave away the prize to the winner Club of the tournament as the chief guest on 24 February 2023 at 4:00 pm at Club House Loby of Kurmitola Golf Club'.

Kurmitola Golf Club became champion and Bhatiary Golf & Country Club became runner-up in this tournament. It may be mentioned that total 10 team from each club (20 players from each club) participated in this existing tournament.

Besides this under the Sponsorship of Kurmitola Golf Club a first ever "Caddie & Ball Boy Tournament-1" has been organized where 60 golfer participated during the tournament.

Brigadier General Md Shawkat Osman, afwc, psc, Club Captain, Kurmitola Golf Club, Brigadier General Abidur Reza Khan (Retd), Chairman, Tournament Committee, Kurmitola Golf Club, all the executive Committee members, Colonel Md Shahidul Haque (Retd), Chief Executive Officer, Kurmitola Golf Club, Lieutenant Colonel Abu Md Sayedur Rahman (Retd), General Manager, Club Affairs, Kurmitola Golf Club, Lieutenant Colonel Md Anwar Hossain (Retd), General Manager, Golf Operations, Kurmitola Golf Club were also present in the prize giving ceremony.


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A Product of East Coast Group

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