

Asian Golf Explorer

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DECEMBER 2007 / NUMBER 6

亞洲高爾夫

INTERVIEW
PETER THOMSON

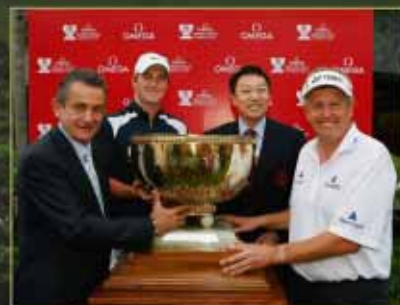
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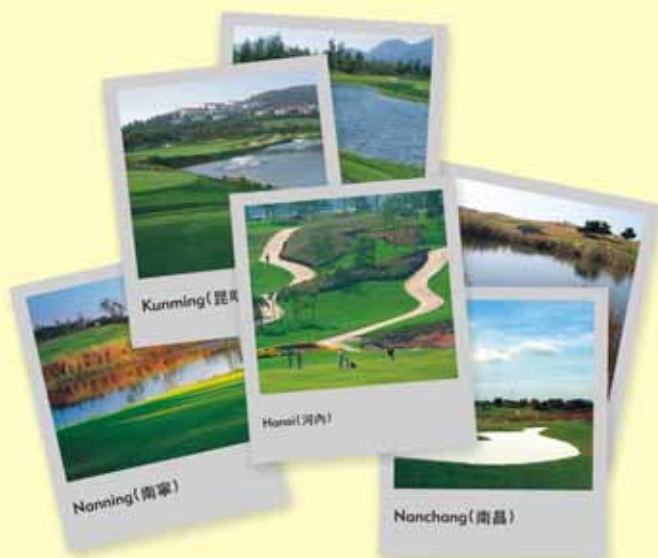
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A Fearsome Finish?

It had to happen: A UBS Hong Kong Open title contender coming to grief in spectacular fashion at the very last hole of the Championship. This time it was poor old Robert Karlsson who butchered the 18th at Fanling, double bogeying after a fluffed chip to gift the tournament to Miguel Angel Jimenez. Not that the Spaniard played the hole particularly well himself: on the green in regulation, the man from Malaga proceeded to three-putt from 30-feet after misjudging his first effort. And let's not forget crowd favourite K.J. Choi. The Korean, vying to become the first Asian winner of the event since Kang Wook-soon in 1998, hooked his tee shot into the trees from where he made a bogey when a par would have been good enough to get into a playoff.

Not that any of this was a surprise. We all remember James Kingston's shenanigans at the 18th in 2004 (when he surrendered the title to a grateful Jimenez – again, the lucky chap) and in 2005 (Monty was the benefactor that year), as well as countless other incidences over the years where players who had a chance of Hong Kong Open glory managed to make a hash of things at the time when it mattered most. The question is why. With the exception of the 18th at Carnoustie perhaps, no other closing hole in professional golf has yielded so many mistakes on the final day. It can't all be down to nerves, can it?

Well, yes it can, is the short answer to that one. For the first three days of the tournament, scoring average at the 18th was 4.05, a tiny fraction above par. At that stage it was ranked as the eighth hard-

est hole on the course. But by the end of the event – just 24 hours later – that figure had leapt to almost 4.2, making it the third toughest. (The par four 1st and 9th holes, which are normally played as par fives by the members, were the only holes to rank higher). These are staggering statistics when you come to think of it.

Don't get me wrong, the 18th is a tricky hole. Although not long (a shade over 400 yards, which is considered pretty short by today's standards), there's plenty of opportunity to stuff it up. A narrowish landing area flanked by trees (ask KJ, Kingston et al), a steep bank fronting the putting surface (ask Karlsson) and a sloping, tilted green (ask Jimenez). But if you went out and played it today, you probably wouldn't consider it particularly taxing – not easy, you understand, but hardly a monster.

The reason it causes so much despair was summed up best by one senior Hong Kong Golf Association figure who told me, "People don't make a mess of the 18th. They make a mess of the 72nd – there's a big difference."

He's right, of course, so we're all looking forward to next year – the event's 50th birthday – when the same thing will doubtless happen again.



Alex Jenkins
Editor

ANTIGUA



Enquiries: swu@supertangint.com

Enter the Dragon

It's a game of two halves at Dragon Lake – one of the most ambitious projects to have opened in recent times.

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Dragon Lake Explorer

Prime Real Estate: Dragon Lake is much more than just a golf course.

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Taxi from Baiyun International Airport – Club: Journey Length: 20mins; Approx RMB50

By Train from Hong Kong:
Hung Hom – Guangzhou East Railway Station: 12 trains daily
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Weekday HK\$810,
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Opened for play in 2003, this intriguing Dick Davidson-designed course might not be the easiest to reach from Hong Kong, but it's certainly worth a side trip if you find yourself stuck in Guangzhou with five hours to spare. Supplemented by a rather bizarre 'Scottish' themed clubhouse, an equally intriguing 'European-style' village – comprising a hotel and a large retail area – and an excellent 3-hole practice facility, the club already provides a fairly decent array of amenities. But according to the club's management, this is only the start. Plans for a further 18 holes (the club has just opened a third nine), more hotels, two clubhouses and upwards of a thousand residences are in the pipeline. If realized, this will undoubtedly make Dragon Lake one of the most ambitious 'golfing' projects since Mission Hills.

Although 'a game of two halves' is better known as a footballing cliché, it could also apply to Dragon Lake's original 18 holes. The front nine has an agreeable parkland feel to it and lies on generally flat to gently rolling terrain, interspersed by some fine mature trees and man-made water hazards. It's nice golf, taxing at times, but manageable enough

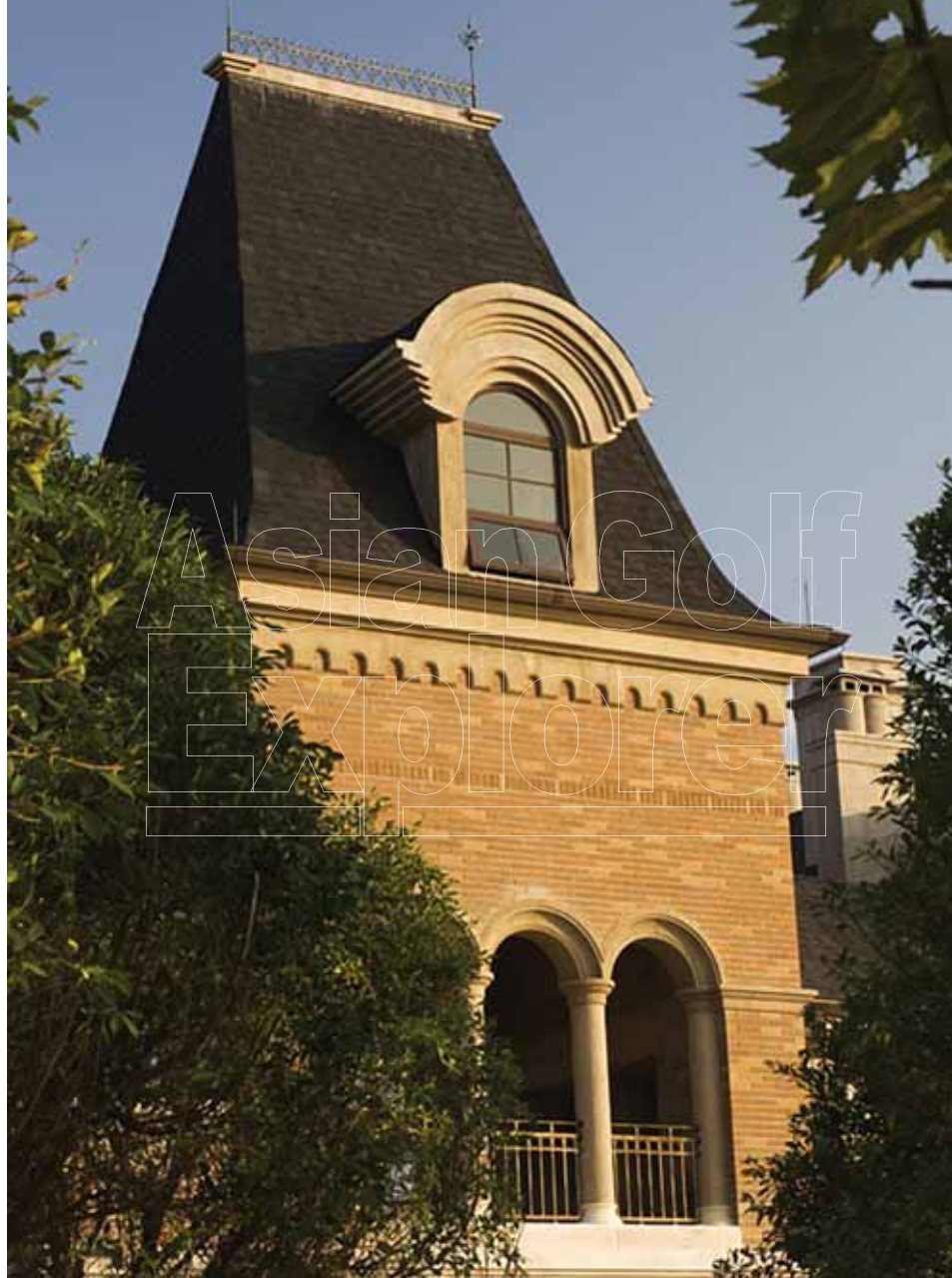
for players of average ability. Watch out for the greens, though. They're strongly contoured and can cause more than a little embarrassment for overly bold putters.

The final nine holes are a wild stretch and really do separate the men from the boys. Characterized by constant elevation change, this part of the course rambles through dense jungle, and unerring accuracy, rather than great length, will win the day. Not everyone will agree with the hidden landing area on the fourteenth – an extremely tight dogleg right par four – or the blind lay-up required on the monstrously tough par-five seventeenth, but at least these holes can't be accused of being bland. Far from it. This being China, the obligatory island green makes an appearance on the downhill par-three, sixteenth.

Interestingly, Aaron Baddeley – the talented young Aussie pro – brought his International Junior Championship to the club in early 2006 where the winning score over four rounds was 3 over par. Baddely, himself, fared a mite better in the pro-am shooting a stellar round of 62 which included a hole-in-one on the sixteenth.



Attention to Detail:
(clockwise from right):
European-influenced
architecture abounds
at Dragon Lake; the
Scottish-themed
clubhouse; fine dining;
the new nine holes are
floodlit for night golf.





九龍湖球會於2003年啓用，這個讓人驚喜，富趣味性的球場是由 Dick Davidson 設計，對香港人而言距離可能比較遠，而且交通亦不算是很方便，但如果你身在廣州有5小時以上的空閒時間，它就是你必须打的球場。

獨特而富濃厚蘇格蘭味道的會所、剛落成不久的公主酒店更是非試不可，以歐洲小鎮為藍本，大街小巷都充滿著浪漫氣息，在國內非常罕有。2006年7月開始，球會更請來國際頂級管理公司 IMG 為其打理球會，可謂如虎添翼，根據球會管理層透露，這些只是個開始，計畫將增加另3家酒店、2座會所、以及一片可容納上千人入住的“歐洲村”房地產項目，區中還將有新穎的大型超市和數家特色餐廳。如果這些計畫全部落實，九龍湖將是繼觀瀾湖之後另一個雄心壯志的“高爾夫天地”。

從設計上看，九龍湖18洞球場感覺就像兩個神韻各異的球場。前9洞地勢較平，少許起伏，有點像在廣闊的公園內揮桿，佈滿成熟的樹影和人工水障礙。對一般球手來說，難度適中，可以讓他們大展身手。不過，還是小心果嶺過邊的陷阱，以及高低起伏的果嶺坡度，可以令人非常沮喪。

後9洞地勢變化多端，適合技術較高的球手。連串的起伏和連綿的灌木叢要求你打出落點準確的一桿，長打型的球手在這裡並沒有優勢。第14洞 Par 4 急轉右狗腿洞，落球點極為隱蔽；險峻上坡的第17洞——Par 5，向上坡度之大令人乍舌，縱使有些球手認為非常苛刻，但一定不會否定其高趣味性；在中國甚受歡迎的三杆島型果嶺也可以在第16洞找到。

2006年11月，全新的燈光九洞C場正式啓用，雖然很多球友認為，新九洞趣味性及景觀都及不上前18洞，但其實對比很多其它球場，已經非常不錯。

有趣的是，球場難度之高，即使天才型的澳洲年輕職業球員 Aaron Baddeley 在2006年初於九龍湖贏得國際青少年錦標賽時，奪冠成績也僅是高標準3桿而已，反而在 Pro-Am 賽中，他打出62桿的驚人成績，其中包括第16洞的一桿進洞。AGE

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Sweet Sixteen: An island green at this par-three.





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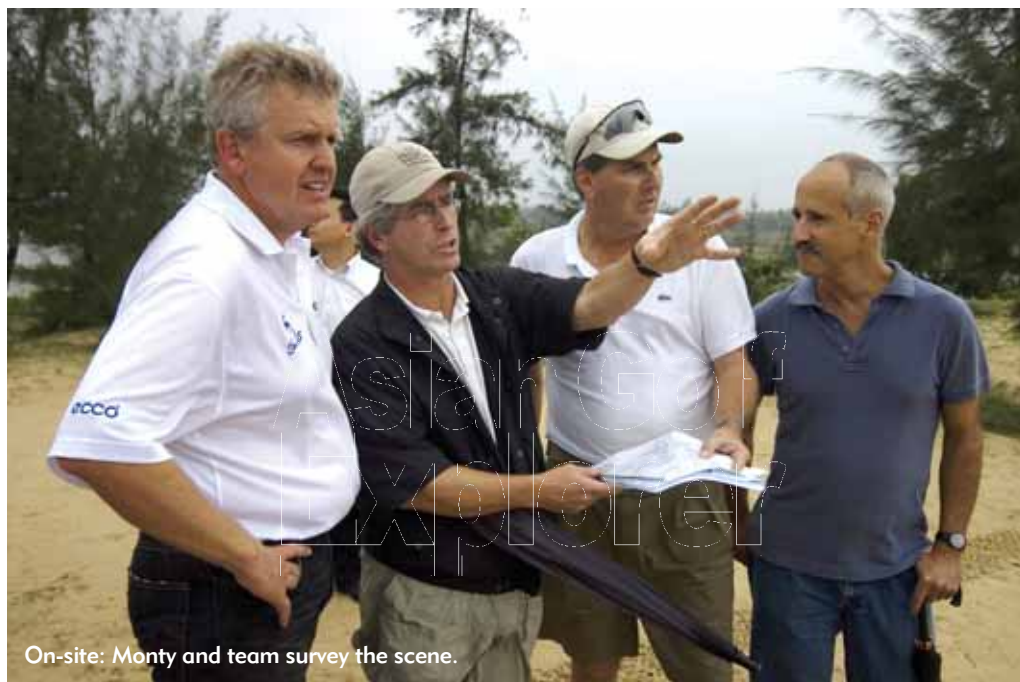
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Monty's Vietnamese Jewel



On-site: Monty and team survey the scene.

Buoyed by a two-day site inspection of his new design near the storied sands of China Beach, Colin Montgomerie predicts great things for The Montgomerie Links Vietnam.

"I think this site, this golf course, will become world renowned," Montgomerie said of Central Vietnam's first layout. "We have to build a course that challenges myself — my standard of play — and challenges a beginning standard, and we've got that dead right on this course."

Montgomerie addressed a horde of Southeast Asian media during a press conference held at the nearby Nam Hai Resort on Nov. 17. Though torrential rains the previous week had caused widespread damage throughout Central

A week before his World Cup triumph, the big Scot visited the site of his latest course design — the Montgomerie Links Vietnam.

Vietnam, The Montgomerie Links Vietnam is on track to open its driving range next month. Its first nine holes will open for play next spring.

Under Montgomerie's direction, more than 150 local labourers are coaxing a world-class links-style track from this tropical dunescape. The routing moves boldly over a striking landscape of wispy casuarinas pines, a fitting-but-more-exotic stand-in for Scottish gorse. The site's towering sand dunes afford long views

of the Marble Mountains and South China Sea.

Montgomerie, the winner of 40 professional tournaments worldwide, grew up at Royal Troon on Scotland's west coast, to which he favorably compares this stretch of Vietnamese linksland.

"The weather's warmer here," said Montgomerie. "In regards to design though, we found land that is hugely similar to what we find at home. Actually, it's surprisingly similar to Scotland and the rugged nature of the Scottish coastline."

Sure to be talked about is The Montgomerie Links Vietnam's 11th hole, an uphill, false-fronted par-3 heavily fortified by bunkers. It's reminiscent of No. 5 at Australia's Royal Melbourne, one of

Montgomerie's all-time favorite courses. "This is an exciting area, Vietnam, especially this particular region, China Beach, the historical nature of it and what we can do here," Montgomerie said. "It's a beautiful beach, a beautiful golf course site. To find a course site like this, these days, is very rare. To have this opportunity — to build a course here that carries my name — is something that couldn't be resisted."

Course developer Indochina Capital

has committed US\$45 million to The Montgomerie Links Vietnam project, breaking new leisure ground in the most promising resort region yet developed in Vietnam.

Last December, another Indochina property, a posh super-resort and spa dubbed The Nam Hai, opened to worldwide acclaim on a site just five kilometers south of the Montgomerie Links. The most prestigious hotel groups in the world, including Raffles, Banyan Tree, Kor and Hyatt, are now developing resorts in the region.

While 15 golf courses are now open for play in Vietnam, mainly around Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, the first in this central region, The Montgomerie Links Vietnam, will open to instant demand.

"We have more than a dozen ongoing projects totaling more than \$1 billion in development cost throughout Vietnam,"

said Peter Ryder, CEO of Indochina Capital, "but what's special about this one is that we, with the help of Colin's expertise, are creating something that will take golf to a whole new level in this country."

In addition to the clubhouse and range, the 70-plus-hectare development will include 60 spectacularly designed villas for sale on 38,000 square meters called The Montgomerie Links Estates.

Montgomerie's two-day November visit included a private dinner with some of Vietnam's highest-ranking government officials. It was to have included a "construction commencement" ceremony at the course site. However, out of respect and concern for those who experienced loss in the central coast floods the previous week, Indochina Capital cancelled the event and instead donated the allotted funds to aid victims of the disaster.

Montgomerie and his agent IMG – which is also providing the course design and construction support for The Montgomerie Links project – made donations of their own.

"I think the warmth of the Vietnamese people, which I felt today on site, I will take with me and mention when I travel home and other places around the world," Montgomerie said. "The people of Vietnam have a warmth, and I feel very much at home."

Montgomerie currently has seven original course designs open for play worldwide. He has more than 10 courses in some stage of construction or design. The other four courses to bear Montgomerie's name – an honor reserved for layouts where the site and development partners were personally chosen by the golfer himself – are located in Dubai, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. **AGE**

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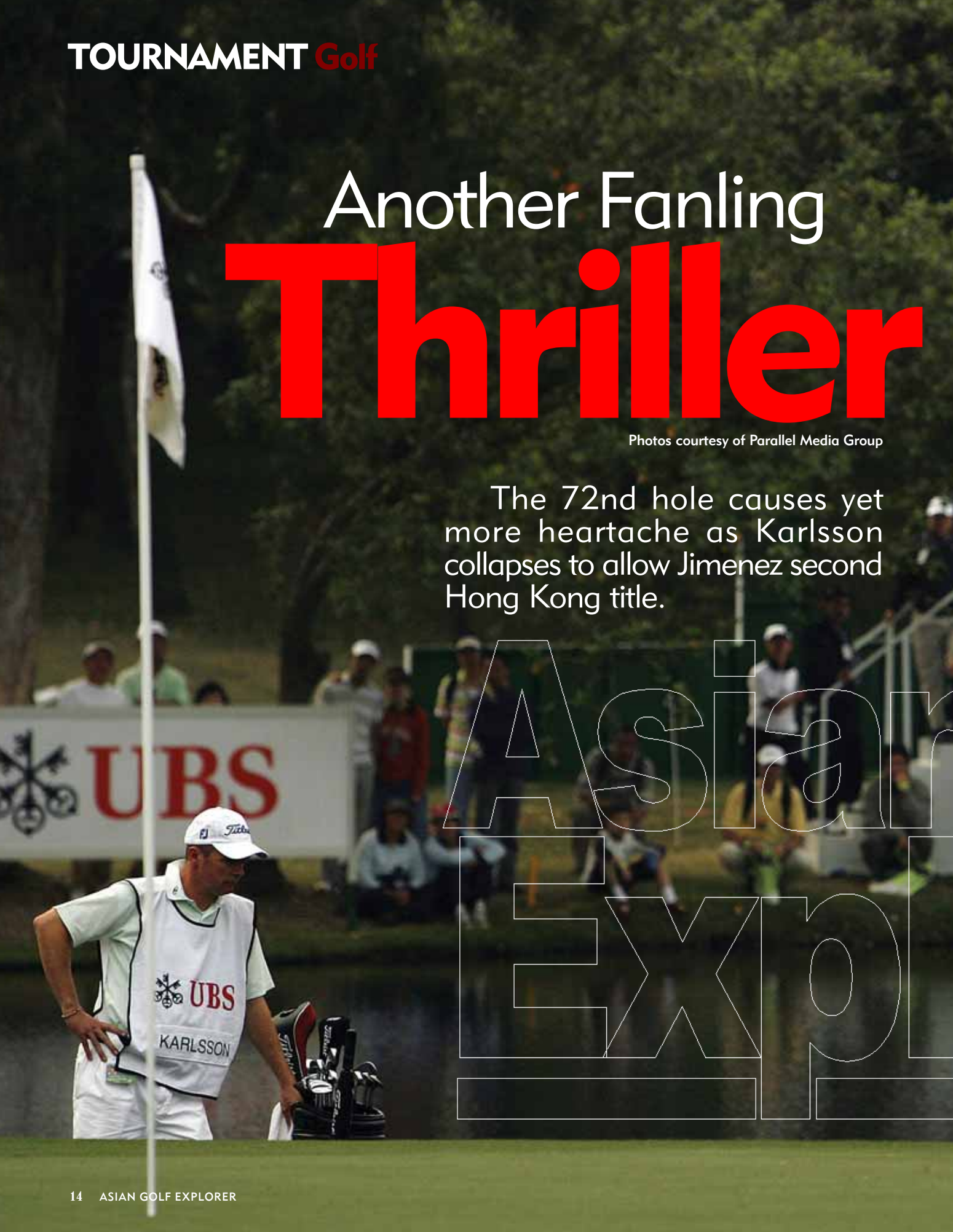
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Another Fanling **Thriller**

Photos courtesy of Parallel Media Group

The 72nd hole causes yet more heartache as Karlsson collapses to allow Jimenez second Hong Kong title.

Asian
EXPL



UBS Hong Kong Open

Championship 2007

HOLE	PLAYER	TOTAL	
17	KARLSSON	-16	AFT
17	JIMENEZ	-16	MATCH NO
18	CHOI K J	-14	JIMENEZ
18	JAIDEE	-14	KARLSSON
18	HANSON	-13	
18	MCDOWELL	-11	

ing Golf
foren

Heartbreak Hole: Karlsson duffs his chip at the last
(note his right hand sliding off the club).

TOURNAMENT **Golf**

Miguel Angel Jimenez won last month's UBS Hong Kong Open in one of the most dramatic finishes in the tournament's 49-year history.

The Spaniard triumphed by a single shot in the US\$2.25 million event despite bogeying the final hole as playing partner Robert Karlsson finished with a double bogey.

Jimenez carded a three-under-par 67 at the Hong Kong Golf Club in Fanling to finish on 15-under 265 – enough to land the trophy for a second time following his success in 2004.

Sweden's Karlsson recorded a 72 to finish in a three-way tie for second on 14-under 266 with Korean star KJ Choi (67) and Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee (65).

"It's very nice to win a tournament again, it's great," said the 43-year-old Jimenez, who collected the winner's cheque for US\$375,000.

"I played well throughout the week so I'm very pleased. But I feel for Robert and the way he finished. He played so good all week and then had a double at the last. It's not the best way to finish."

Record crowds witnessed moments of high drama as first Choi and then Karlsson and Jimenez stumbled on Fanling's notoriously tricky par-four 18th hole.

PGA Tour ace Choi produced a miraculous second shot from behind some trees to the edge of the green, but rolled his chip into a back bunker and was forced to settle for a bogey five.

That left Karlsson and Jimenez, locked together at 16-under, two strokes clear coming to the 18th.

But Karlsson – who had begun the day four strokes clear of the Spaniard – hit his approach short and fluffed his third shot, hitting a bank at the front of the green, before chipping his fourth shot to within five feet.



That left Jimenez, who was on the green in two and 20 feet from the pin, with two putts to clinch the title, but the Spaniard left his first putt six feet short and rolled his second one past the hole.

That gave Karlsson a lifeline, but his bogey putt to force a playoff drifted right and a relieved Jimenez tapped in for victory.

"I hit my first putt there and thought it was going to be very fast, downgrain, downhill," said the Spaniard.

"But I left it too short, about the same distance that he had his putt for bogey. So I putted first and I missed that one.

"When I missed, I still know that I've got a chance because it's not an easy putt for him and he could miss. If not, at least we're going to have a playoff.

"It's not easy. I miss on the left and he misses to the right and that's it."

Earlier, Jimenez's chances of lifting the UBS Hong Kong Open trophy had looked slim when he trailed Karlsson by four shots with seven holes to play.

But he birdied the par-three 12th and followed up with an eagle on the par-five 13th to pull back another stroke as Karlsson birdied the hole.

Karlsson's lead was cut to one when he bogeyed the par-four 15th and the duo were level when Jimenez made a birdie three at the next, setting up the dramatic finish.

While disappointed, Karlsson took defeat in his stride. "I hit close enough to the pins but when I hit good putts, they just didn't go in," said the Ryder Cup star.



Bunkered: KJ finished in a tie for second for the second time in three years.

"I did what I could but I don't know what I could have done differently. A couple decisions cost me a couple of shots but when you're out there, I don't think I would have made any different decisions.

"Miguel hit a lot of good putts. At the end of the day, he beat me fair and square."

Jimenez was full of sympathy for Karlsson, who had led from the second round.

"Robert played so well all through the week, he was on the leaderboard all the way to the last hole," said Jimenez.

"I told him I was sorry for the way he finished the tournament. He's a top class player, no doubt, and he played well, but you can have only one winner."



All Smiles: Jimenez with the trophy

Leaderboard

1.	Miguel Angel Jimenez	Spain	265 (65-67-66-67)
2.	Thongchai Jaidee	Thailand	266 (66-67-68-65)
	K.J. Choi	S. Korea	(62-72-65-67)
	Robert Karlsson	Sweden	(64-64-66-72)
5.	Peter Hanson	Sweden	267 (68-66-65-68)
6.	Graeme McDowell	N. Ireland	269 (67-66-68-68)
7.	Trevor Immelman	S. Africa	270 (71-62-70-67)
	Jarmo Sandelin	Sweden	(69-64-68-69)
	Gary Simpson	Australia	(69-67-65-69)
	Daniel Chopra	Sweden	(66-68-66-70)
	Marcus Fraser	Australia	(67-68-64-71)
12.	Mike Weir	Canada	271 (69-64-67-71)
	Scott Strange	Australia	(66-68-66-71)
	Shiv Kapur	India	(67-67-65-72)
15.	Liang Wen-chong	China	272 (68-66-68-70)
50.	Zhang Lian-wei	China	281 (70-68-71-72)

It was the second time Jimenez had benefited from a rival stumbling on the 18th at Fanling. Three years ago, South Africa's James Kingston bogeyed the hole to hand him the title by one stroke.

After landing his second Hong Kong triumph on Sunday, Jimenez said he had a great liking for Fanling's tight, par-70 Championship Course.

"I like this course very much," he said. "I've been saying it since I won here in

2004. It's an old fashioned golf course, a beautiful design.

"You need to play very well from the tee. It's not very easy to hit those greens, especially when you miss the fairways."

Jimenez's victory was his 14th on the European Tour and his first since the Celtic Manor Wales Open in June 2005. It was also the second Spanish victory in a row at Fanling following José Manuel Lara's triumph a year ago.

TOURNAMENT **Golf**

Choi, a six-time winner on the PGA Tour, pulled level with Karlsson on 16-under when he holed a monster eagle putt on the 13th but gave a stroke back on the 16th and then hit his drive into the trees on the final hole.

"The eagle gave me a very good chance, but on the 18th my drive kicked left into the rough," he said. "It was very tough today."

Thongchai, meanwhile, soared up the leaderboard with six birdies in the last seven holes.

"It was really windy today and it was not easy, but I just concentrated on keeping the ball on the fairway and I putted very well on the back nine," said the Thai star.

Peter Hanson of Sweden finished fifth on 13-under 267 after a 68 while Northern Ireland's Graeme McDowell also had a 68 for sixth place on 11-under 269. South Africa's Trevor Immelman (67) was joint seventh with four others on 10-under 270 while Canada's Mike Weir – the 2003 Masters champion – finished a shot further back in joint 12th position after a 71.

FAST FINISH

At 2-over par through sixteen holes of the second round of the HKO, Gerald Rosales of the Philippines looked like missing the cut and heading back to Manila on the first available flight. But a birdie at the 17th followed by an incredible eagle at the 18th, where he holed a wedge from 110 yards, meant he made the weekend's play on the number. Rosales ended up finishing in a tie for 67th to earn a shade over US\$4,500.

Quotes of the week...

Reteif Goosen [on Phil Mickelson's recent appearances in Singapore and Shanghai]: *"Yeah, it's about time he got off his arse."*

Peter Thomson [on appearance fees]: *"Tournaments in Asia should not be open to rape and pillage by players and their managers...it's a big cause for concern."*

Miguel Angel Jimenez [on Karlsson]: *"I feel for Robert and the way he finished. He played so good all week and then had a double at the last. It's not the best way to finish."*

Robert Karlsson [on Jimenez]: *"Miguel hit a lot of good putts. At the end of the day, he beat me fair and square."*

NUMBERS GAME

Average score during the week at the par-four ninth, ranked the hardest hole on the course: **4.39**

The number of strokes that Thailand's Chapchai Nirat needed to complete the 9th during the third round: **9**

Average score during the week at the notorious par-four eighteenth, ranked the third hardest hole on the course: **4.18**

The number of eagles recorded at the eighteenth during the event: **2** (Hong Kong's James Stewart and the Philippines Gerald Rosales).

Average score during the week at the par-five thirteenth, ranked the easiest hole on the course: **4.44**

The number of strokes that Derek Fung, Hong Kong's best performer at the event, missed the cut by: **1**

They didn't win, but these guys were champions off the course...



Stuart Appleby...OK, so he missed the cut, but the Aussie was by far the most eloquent of all the pros who dared to enter the media centre.



Robert Karlsson...Despite gifting the title to Jimenez, the towering Swede couldn't have been more generous in defeat. A class act and a super nice guy.



Bryan Saltus...The Californian, an Asian Tour regular, got himself right up into contention after 36 holes but faded on the weekend. Nevertheless, his happy-go-lucky attitude won him a lot of new fans.



K.J. Choi...Asia's highest ranked player was the most obliging of the big names when it came to interviews. But why he insisted on using a translator we'll never know. We've heard you speak fluent English, K.J! **AGE**



博愛「高夫」慈善賽 2007

POK OI CHEERING GOLF DAY 2007



比賽開始前，邀請鄧光榮和蘇志威連同博愛醫院往活動籌委會聯席主席梁錫光總理、藍國慶副主席、湯修齊副主席一同主持開球禮，預祝比賽成功。

第四屆之博愛「高夫」慈善賽 2007 於 11 月 30 日在深圳西麗高爾夫鄉村俱樂部正式舉行，參加之球手超過 140 位，除一眾博愛醫院董事局主席總理外，另有多名藝人紅星當中包括：香港藝人高爾夫協會副會長蘇志威先生、鄧光榮先生、黎瑞恩小姐、王馨平小姐、劉玉翠小姐、李思雅小姐、甄志強先生、林漪琪小姐、金興賢先生、杜貞貞小姐及劉丹先生。

博愛醫院一直本著「博施濟眾、慈善仁愛」的宗旨，服務社群，不遺餘力。為了使更多不同的社會階層受惠，博愛醫院自 2004 年開始，舉辦博愛「高夫」慈善賽，藉此為各項社會服務籌募經費。是日

生致歡迎詞，再由博愛醫院活動籌委會聯席主席梁錫光總理、藍國慶副主席、湯修齊副主席、簡陳顯霞總理、藝人代表鄧光榮先生及香港藝人高爾夫協會副會長蘇志威先生一同主持開球禮，為博愛「高夫」慈善賽 2007 正式揭幕。大會特設多項比賽，讓高球好手競逐，包括：個人淨桿、最遠距離獎、最近球洞獎、隊際總桿獎及一桿進洞大獎，讓他們切磋球技，一較高下。

今屆比賽的各項獎品及禮物得到各界商戶的鼎力支持，禮品總值超過 60 萬。原定作一桿進洞之獎品著名高爾夫品牌 Honma (贊助價值港幣 \$228,000 之五星鐵杆) 因未能送出，大會作即場拍賣，結

典禮上，先由博愛醫院董事局副主席藍國慶先

果以超過港幣 \$133,000 成功賣出，為大會增添善款。

是次活動贊助商，包括深業汽車 (贊助價值港幣 \$470,000 之豐田大霸王名貴房車作一桿進洞之獎品)、著名高爾夫品牌 Honma (贊助價值港幣 \$228,000 之五星鐵杆作一桿進洞之獎品)、Ashworth 及金利來分別贊助各參賽者之球衣和球帽、Bridgestone 贊助各參賽者之高爾夫球，以及其他贊助商分別有：梁錫光總理、黃成家先生、Kasco、Swiss Privilege、Agility Logistics Ltd.、大富控股有限公司、高信集團控股有限公司、The Global Group、悅誠集團 (國際) 有限公司、鄧慶治當年顧問、廣東天天洗衣洗滌連鎖有限公司、Comvita、宇聲數碼、福新國際、佳定物業管理有限公司、Adidas Golf、Porterline 等等。



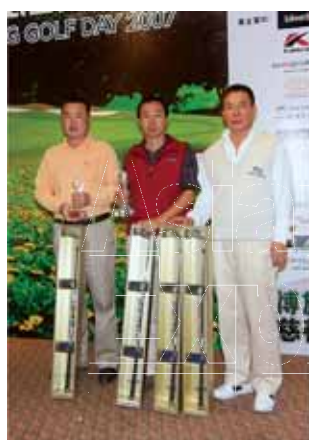
博愛「高夫」慈善賽2007破歷屆紀錄，參加人數超過一百四十人，善款超過七十萬元。



為善最樂的鄧光榮已經第四年參加高爾夫球比賽，藍國慶副主席十分欣賞「大哥」的善心。



香港藝人高爾夫協會派出精英女將杜貞貞、王馨平、劉玉翠及林漪嫻參賽，令活動增添氣氛。



隊際季軍各得 Honma 的挖起杆



隊際亞軍各得 Honma 的3星木杆



隊際冠軍隊-宇聲數碼隊的隊員均獲得 Honma 的鐵杆一套



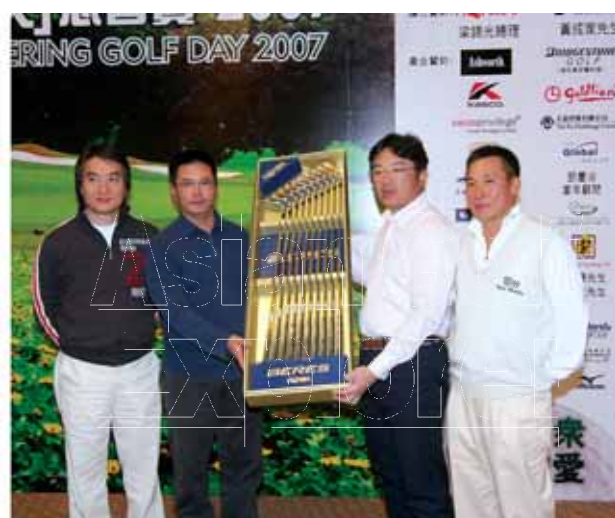
Mr. William Fu 以 71.6 杆奪得個人淨杆季軍



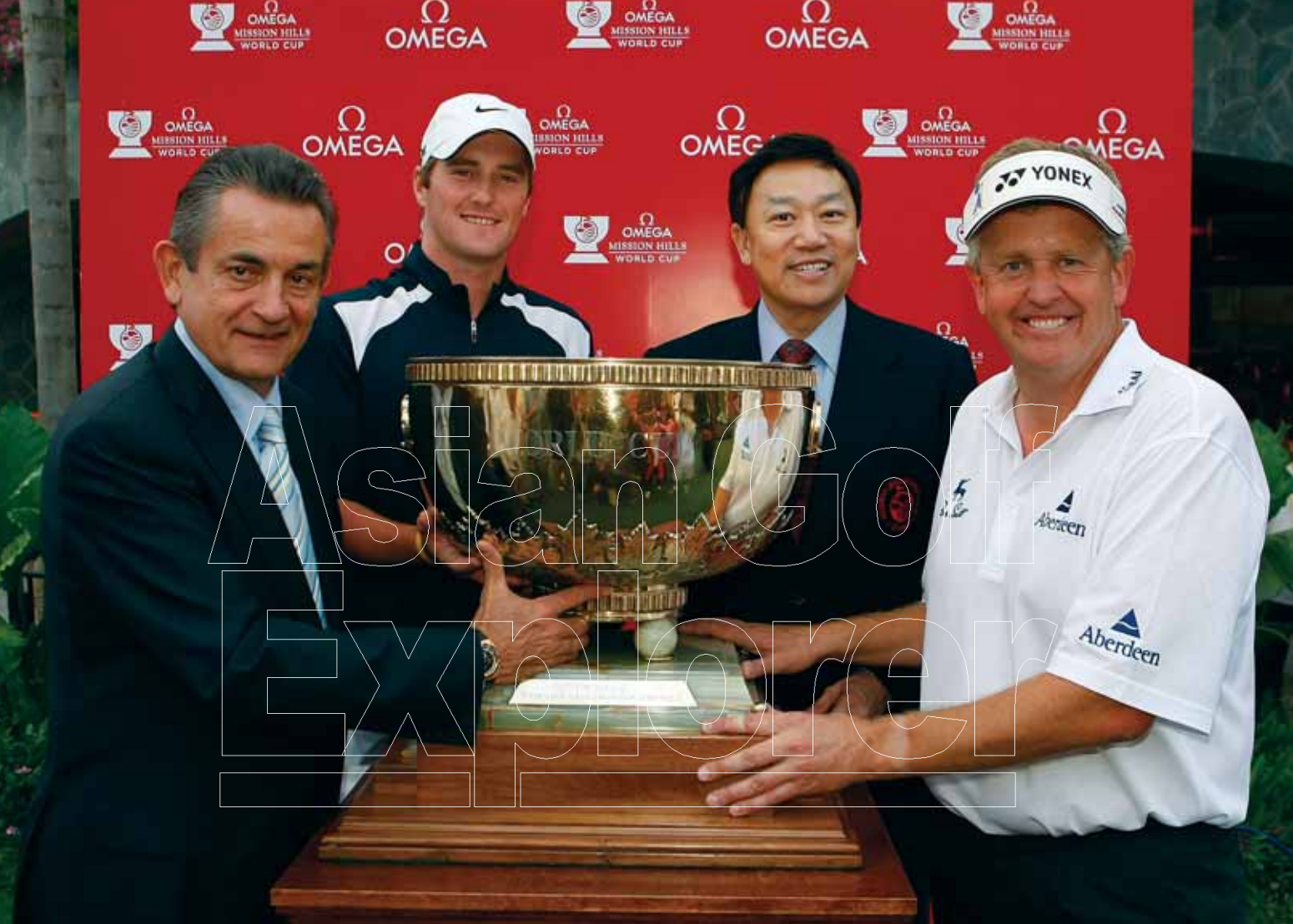
蔡克新先生同樣以 71.6 杆但以較低的差點 2.4 勝出個人淨杆亞軍



盧己立先生憑淨杆數 70.6 在個人淨杆賽奪冠將 Honma 的三星鐵杆一套帶回家



活動的壓軸-競投 Honma 的 5 星鐵杆時各競投者的反應十分踴躍，朱廣平先生以港幣 133,000 元投得心頭好（左起：博愛醫院董事局副主席藍國慶先生，朱廣平先生，Honma 日本總公司總經理 Kyuma San，Honma 中國公司總經理暨博愛醫院活動籌委會聯席主席梁錫光總理）



The Scottish duo held their nerve in a thrilling finish over the Olazabal Course to beat Heath Slocum and Boo Weekley at the third play-off hole to win the prestigious trophy for their country for the first time in the event's 53 year history.

The Scots suffered 'extra time' heartache last year as Germany edged them on the first play-off hole in Barbados. But they made amends this time, making par on the third extra hole to secure a maiden World Cup success and finally join England, Ireland and Wales as World Cup winners.

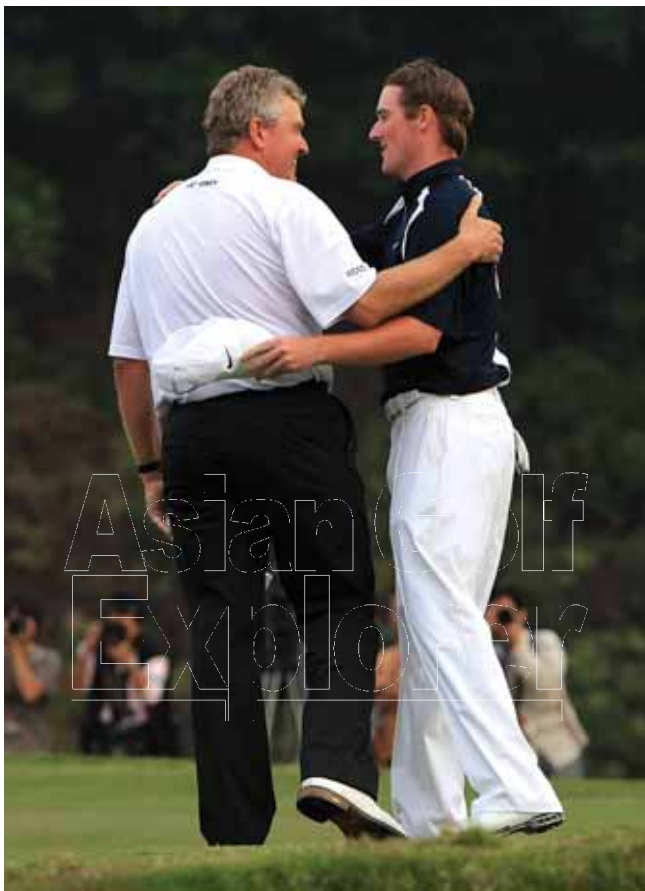
"I didn't want to say anything to Marc but my play-off record is rubbish," joked Montgomerie. "But playing with Marc was great and if he is not in the top 20 in the world by this time next year I will be very surprised for he is a fantastic player.

KINGS OF SCOTLAND

**Monty and Warren Claim World Cup
Glory at Mission Hills**

Photos courtesy of Getty Images

Colin Montgomerie and Marc Warren thrilled Scotland and the enormous galleries at Mission Hills Golf Club with a superb play-off victory over the United States to win golf's World Cup.



Key Players (clockwise from far left): The victors with possibly the heaviest trophy in golf; Monty and Warren picked up US\$800,000 each for their triumph; the American team can consider themselves a tad unlucky; Poulter and Rose added much-needed star quality.



"He holed some crucial putts out there under pressure, none more so than at the first play-off hole to keep us in it. After that went in I thought we were favourites to be honest and so it was great to get the job done. After missing out last year, to come here and win is superb."

Warren returned the compliment to the doyen of Scottish professional golf who now has a World title to stand alongside his eight European Tour Order of Merit successes.

"For this format, Monty is the perfect guy to play with," said Warren, who continued his play-off success story, the win in China following his Scandinavian Masters success in 2006 and his Johnnie Walker Championship at Gleneagles victory earlier this year.

"If you make a mistake, you know he

will hit a fine recovery shot to get you back on track and, just like last year, it was an honour to play for Scotland alongside him.

"We didn't really feel any extra pressure going into the play-off because we lost out last year but it would have been really disappointing to miss out again which is why it is fantastic that we have won for Scotland for the first time. It is also a great honour to win the first tournament sponsored by Omega and Mission Hills who have looked after us all so superbly this week."

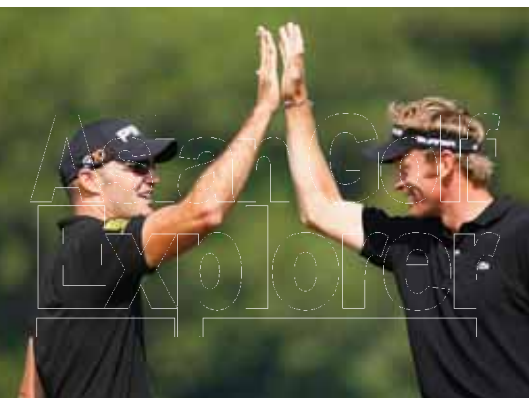
Scotland had initially looked on course to claim the victory without the need for a play-off after completing their round with a superb six under par 66 in the four-somes format and sat top of the leaderboard by one stroke as the United

States and France headed onto the 18th.

In regulation play, the Scots went ahead for the first time after playing the 14th and 15th in three under par. First Warren his a pitch stone dead for a tap-in birdie at the 14th, then Montgomerie produced the shot of the day, a 202 yard six iron to eight feet for Warren to roll in the eagle putt.

Warren's calm demeanour never changed all day and, after Montgomerie had left his first putt 15 feet short at the 16th, the junior partner in the Scottish team took dead aim and hit the centre of the cup for a vital par four. It was, as Montgomerie pointed out, a key moment.

England's Justin Rose and Ian Poulter could not deliver the one 'hot round' they promised all week and came up two strokes short of the play-off. On another week, the English pair might well have



won and both admitted they want to do it all over again some day.

After Slocum had teed off at the 18th, Weekley's approach shot rolled within five feet of the pin and Slocum held his nerve to comfortably despatch the putt for a birdie to tie Scotland at 25 under par 263 and force the play-off.

It looked bad for Scotland on the first hole when Montgomerie pushed his tee shot into a fairway bunker and despite a brave escape attempt, Warren sent his approach shot into a greenside trap.

Montgomerie chipped out from the sand but the ball fell short of the pin leaving Warren with a tricky task to putt from ten feet. However, the 26 year old showed no signs of nerves as he bravely made the 25 foot putt for par.

The USA also made par meaning the play-off continued and when both teams parred the second play-off hole it looked like it was going to take something special to separate the two.

On the third play-off hole, suddenly Scotland were strong favourites as Weekley's heavily hit approach shot came up short of the green and Slocum's underhit pitch shot finished some 12 feet short of the pin.

With the Scots' par four assured after having played the hole in regulation fashion, Weekly knew he had to do what Warren had done two holes earlier and knock in a brave putt for par to keep the

contest going. His putt was struck well but stayed above ground leaving Scotland champions for the first time.

Outside the leading two nations, France, in the guise of Grégory Havret and Raphaël Jacquelin fell just short as they claimed sole possession of third place by carding a five under par 67 in the foursomes - their disappointing 71 in Friday's alternate shot format in the end proving costly.

That time they struggled to make birdies while carding three bogeys but in the final round they enjoyed a faultless round while collecting five birdies.

Though Rose putted for an eagle on the ninth, two bogeys on the front nine proved damaging for fourth placed England as they completed their round in five under par 67 and a 23 under par total of 265 for the tournament.

"I think we did well to score what we did considering we made some mistakes out there," admitted Rose. "Every time we made a mistake we bounced back brilliantly with a birdie or an eagle but the mistakes proved costly."

South Africa's Retief Goosen and Trevor Immelman combined for a three under par 69 to claim fifth place while Sweden, who carded an impressive two eagles in their final round, finished tied for sixth along with The Netherlands, Germany and Argentina.

Team China Give Galleries More to Cheer

China recorded their best-ever finish at golf's World Cup, firing an impressive final round of 68 to end the US\$5 million event in a share of eleventh place.

Spurred on by enormous partisan galleries, the mainland duo of Liang Wenchong and Zhang Lian-wei racked up six birdies and just two bogeys in the final day foursomes to finish on a total of 271 (17-under-par), eight strokes shy of the playoff mark set by eventual champions Scotland and runners up the United States.

"We're really happy with the way we finished," said Liang, the current UBS Asian Tour Order of Merit leader. "To make six birdies is a very good achievement; I think we complimented each other very well all week."

Zhang, who partnered Liang in their previous best finish of tied 17th



at the 2001 edition of the event, paid tribute to the estimated 30,000 fans who were following the home nation around the mountainous Olazabal Course at Mission Hills Golf Club, saying: "The support we received was fantastic. We just went out to try our best for them; it's great to see so many people watching us."

Had it not been for a calamitous finish to their second round however, Zhang and Liang could well have picked up a substantially bigger cheque than the US\$87,500 they received for their efforts this week.

"Nobody wanted to see that big ugly 7," said Zhang in reference to the triple bogey on the par-four twelfth that effectively derailed their chances of challenging for the title. "But this isn't an easy game and we just went out to try our best. We're a great team – the best China has ever had – and we'll do even better next year."

Liang, who has committed himself to playing more on the European Tour next year, believes that the experience was vital and could lead to success in future World Cups, which are scheduled to be played at Mission Hills for the next eleven years.

"We learnt a lot about team play this week," said Liang, 29, who had only just started playing the game in 1995 when the World Cup was last played in China. "I always enjoy partnering with Zhang, and to play as well as we did is a very precious thing. We've played

well together in the past – in events like the Dynasty Cup and Buddha Cup – but this will give us a lot of confidence when we return here next year," he said.

High Fives (clockwise from top left): A poor final round cost the French; Boo Weekley, arguably the player of the tournament; Liang and Zhang combined admirably to finish just outside the top-ten.



The Boo Weekley SHOW

His team might not have won, but American Boo Weekley proved to be the star of the week thanks to his outstanding play and amusing performance in front of the world's press. The Florida native, who enjoyed a sensational rookie season on the PGA Tour, winning over US\$2.25 million

and picking up victory at the Verizon Heritage, was described by Monty as the most laid-back golfer he had ever met, and for good reason. The 34-year-old is certainly not your average tour golfer. A self-described redneck, Weekley's passion in life is hunting – golf, he says, is just a way for him to make a living. In fact, Weekley was halfway up a tree, his rifle pointed at a deer, when he got the call that he would be representing the US at the World Cup. "I damn near well fell off" he said.

Some Classic Boo...

"Uhhhhm....rice," when asked what he knew about China before he visited Mission Hills. This was only Weekley's third trip outside the United States after visits to Scotland and Mexico earlier in the year.

"I love to play the game but my heart is really with hunting and fishing. I had a good day. It was fun. But what would be even funner is if I'm sitting at the house catching about a 10-pounder."

"I want to play 10 or 12 years, whatever it takes to get enough money in the bank, and I'm done. I get tired of the grind. I get tired of being away from my family." **AGE**

INTERVIEW

LIVING LEGEND: Peter Thomson

Photos by Paul Lakatos/UBS

The 78-year-old Australian, in Hong Kong as a special guest of Open sponsors UBS, is one of golf's true greats - and a thoroughly nice chap to boot. We sat down with the five-time British Open Championship winner to get his views on the state of the game, his course design business, his loathing of appearance fees and why he doesn't think Tiger Woods is the best player the world has ever seen.

AGE: Although you're credited with helping to establish the professional golf circuit in Asia, you weren't actually at the first Hong Kong Open in 1958. Why was that?

PT: Well the truth of the matter is that I didn't actually know it was going on. I was lying on the beach in Australia and saw a report on the tournament in the newspaper. I thought, 'hey, they are playing the Hong Kong Open and why I am not there.' I made sure I was there the next year.

AGE: You're the guest of honour at the Hong Kong Open. How does it feel to be back?

PT: I'm in the stages now of dignity. I sit around and look important, but I'm not [laughs]. It's very nice to be invited and honoured in this way - I'm pleased with that. People have asked me if I'm going to catch up with some old friends, but the truth is that not many of them are left. Some of them have since left

Hong Kong and some...well, some of them have gone to heaven. That's what happens when you get to my age.

AGE: It is very satisfying to see how the Asian Tour has progressed?

PT: Yes and no. The progress here in Asia has obviously been very rapid, but I have a tinge of regret because this success it putting the squeeze on Australian golf - the Australian Tour. We are suffering on the advent of the tycoons of Asia and this is giving us just three precious weeks in a year devoted to golf. At one time we had at least fifteen events in October, November and December. Anyway, I'm not a person to look back but to look forward. Australia will take care of its problems in its own way. But I would issue a word of caution on the Asian progress, that you're in for a bit of competition and it will come from the Middle East. There are so many opulent

courses that are built there and they are having really big events already. There will be competition for players and heavy sponsorship, which is a healthy thing for the professional game of golf, chasing the big name players. Generally speaking, I think the more big professional events there are, the better.

AGE: These days, you're almost as well known for your course design business as you are for your professional playing career. How active are you still on the design front?

PT: I've been active since 1964 in designing and getting things built. As





we've expanded and grown, more and more people have come into my company. They try and keep me in the back room now, away from the important business people. I think that's inevitable with the fate of an ageing chairman, but I like that, I'm having a good time. I still do a great many site visits, you understand – it's important for me to get out there and make sure what we plan is actually getting built properly. It amazes me that there are professional golfers out there who just put their names to courses without having much input into how they're built. How can they be described as designers?

AGE: Is there a project in Asia that you're particularly fond of?

PT: You've got to be careful. If you praise one, you offend the other. You have to love each of them equally like children. It's a very rewarding thing to be sculpturing, hopefully to build something that'll last one hundred years or more.

AGE: Are golf courses too manicured these days?

PT: You look at the technology of modern turf grass – it goes against the interest of the game. You don't get a bad lie anywhere on the golf course now; the skill of recovering from bad lies has

gone. Now, you can play one day in China and then fly to America and the grass is the same. Conditions are the same the world over – you're not – professional golfers are not – having to deal with anything out of the ordinary. Golf isn't a fair game – that's why it's played over four rounds rather than just one. Professionals are not getting tested enough.

AGE: What is your course design philosophy?

PT: First and foremost, the terrain will determine the character of the course and you have to use that to your best ability. There's no use trying to build a links course in the swamps of Florida, for instance. Likewise in Japan, more often than not, you're going to be faced with pretty mountainous terrain. You have to work with what you have.

AGE: You're known for your love of the Old Course at St. Andrews and having won 5 Open Championships, this might seem a rather uninspired question, but is links golf the best form of the game?

PT: Golf, like sailing, needs wind and you tend to get that at links courses. However, I find inland courses – both parkland and heathland – equally pleasurable. The Old Course at St. Andrews is the most demanding of all the courses on the Open Championship rota – amazing, because it's largely a natural phenomenon. In fact, you could say that all courses are copies of the Old Course to some extent. Every course has 18 holes and the vast majority have sand bunkers too. That's because the Old Course had them – designers copied the idea from there. The Old Course is so unique – some people criticize it for its eccentricities but nobody has thought of anything better.

AGE: Your firm recently completed the renovation of Clearwater Bay here in Hong Kong. How would you rate the course now?



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PT: I'm surprised, because it's built on a very unhelpful piece of land. We weren't the original architects, but were called in to strengthen the layout and as you know it's an incredibly beautiful place. Our shaper – Peter Widdell – did a brilliant job. I think it's as good as anything in the world now.

AGE: It seems to be that the vast majority of courses being built in Asia are part of a real estate development. There are very few stand-alone courses. Why is that?

PT: It's not just in Asia. The United States is the same. There are a couple of reasons, but the most important, of course, is money. To build a golf course these days is exceptionally expensive – the cost of the land, the design fee, the construction fee...it all adds up. Developers don't think they'll be able to make their money back just through the golf course so they need the properties as well. In a way it's a shame – but having more courses is preferable to none being built as well. From a design point of view, planning a golf course so that it fits with the real estate is a skill in itself. But it's something we all have to get good at – I'd say 19 out of 20 new courses are part of a larger property concern.

AGE: Tiger Woods. Is he the best the world has ever seen?

PT: I don't think anyone will ever beat his record, but whether he is the best player ever, that's a different question. He hits too many wild shots for my liking. There will be a series of people who will burn brightly for a few years but I was very taken with the effort of Andres Romero at the Open this year. He is the most unlucky player I can recall. When he hit that wall on the seventeenth it went 90 degrees and out of bounds. I thought that was the cruelest thing ever. But he won the next week. I would expect him to win the Open at some point.

AGE: Fanling is one of the very few tournament courses that measures less than 7,000 yards, and although a lot of the players say it's still a good test of golf, they are saying that it does play short. What's your view on modern-day equipment, because, presumably, Fanling wasn't considered a short course when you were winning here?

PT: I think it's a shame that what's happened to the golf ball has gone right under the noses of the authorities. Today's golf ball penetrates the air so easily and the result is colossal distance. This doesn't fit the arena in which they play.

AGE: Should anything be done?

PT: The golf ball has been under scrutiny for more than 100 years. The golf ball has always been a problem with regard to golf courses – even the Old Course at St. Andrews has evolved so that it was able to 'fit' the golf ball. When I played in the 1960s, the cover of the ball was dimpled, but there were fewer and smaller dimples; approximately 50% of the cover was dimpled. If you had a ball with no dimples it would drop like a stone. It wouldn't even go 180 yards. Today's golf balls are fully covered with dimples and that's the problem. More dimples mean the ball penetrates the air better. But despite all this, it's not necessarily a big problem in establishing the best players. The biggest championships are still being won by the best players. It's hard to argue with that.

AGE: You said that tournaments competing for the big name players is healthy for golf. But should these tournaments – or rather their sponsors – have to pay appearance fees to get these players?

PT: Absolutely not. This is a subject that I feel very strongly about. There is an undercurrent of nastiness at the moment and it's a big cause for concern. Tournaments in Asia shouldn't be open to rape and pillage by players and their managers. In my opinion, the PGA and European Tours should step in and assist the Asian Tour in stamping out the practice. They should introduce the same rules as their own sphere. Sponsors need to be protected; they're going to get fed up eventually. In Australia there aren't any appearance fees; they jacked it in. The players won't play if they know that someone is being paid to be there. The European Tour and PGA Tour don't allow appearance money to be paid and Asia to do likewise. The most important thing to realize is that the PGA Tour is the strongest tour in the world because they don't pay appearance money. The Asians have to take a leaf out of their book. **AGE**

Weighty Issues

Normally, I'll fly to the tournament venue on a Sunday night. The biggest hassle about my job is the amount of luggage I have to carry around. Lugging a 70kg bag, filled with 30 putters, a bending (loft and lie) machine and an assortment of caps and other accessories, through customs and then into a taxi isn't the easiest thing to do, I can assure you. Thankfully, touch wood, the airlines have never lost an item of mine. I try and always fly Philippine Airlines (PAL), because I am permitted an extra 25kg of baggage allowance with them. I always exceed this, of course, but I'm pretty cheeky and can get away with it most times.

I always stay at the same hotel as the players, so there's usually a few of them around by the time I arrive. The players, by and large, like a bit of a drink on a Sunday night – the only time they really get to enjoy a 'blowout' is on the last night of a tournament, so I might join them for a while. I get on very well with the vast majority of players on Tour. I think the players respect the fact that I am a qualified professional too. It's of great help when I talk equipment with them. Most of the guys who represent Yes! Golf on the tours around the world are professional golfers as well. I think it's a huge advantage for us. It helps us understand the needs of the players better.

A Week in the Life of... **THE TOUR REP**

Shane Warde spends 40 weeks of the year travelling to tournaments around Asia on behalf of Yes! Golf, one of the world's leading putter manufacturers. We catch up with Warde as he prepares to leave his base in Manila.



Expert Advice: Warde on the green with India's Amandeep Johl; his tools of the trade (right)

I love my job; the lifestyle is great but I think it would be even better if I was single. I now have four kids, so it's not always easy being away from home.

Customization

My chief role is to make made-to-measure Yes! Golf putters for any of the Asian Tour players who want them. Of course, I want as many of the pros to use Yes! putters as possible, so I'll spend a great

deal of time with them, explaining the superior characteristics of the putters, and personally fit each putter for whoever wants one. Usually, I'll arrive on the practice putting green at around 7am on the Monday and set up all my kit. The players start arriving after 7.30am and I assist them in any way I can. I normally give away between ten and fifteen putters a day.

Yes! Golf are currently the second most popular putter on Tour. The statistics vary from week to week, but if you take

September's Midea China Classic in Guangzhou, for example, 40 of the pros were using a Yes! putter compared to 45 who were using Odyssey, who are currently the number one. Ping had 20 putters in play that week and Titleist had 12. The first time we were represented at a tour event was in 2002 at the Hong Kong Open. I think we gave away 17 putters that week, but many of those were given away to the Hong Kong amateurs who were in the field. To go from there to having approximately 30% of the field using Yes! putters gives a great indication how far the company has progressed in recent times.

Generally speaking, professional golfers are reluctant to change anything equipment-wise, but if their regular putter hasn't been behaving as it should then they might drop it for a round in order to 'teach it a lesson'. It's funny the number of guys who drop their own putter to try out one of ours. More often than not, they'll keep the Yes! in the bag for a lot longer than they imagined.

My biggest convert to a Yes! putter is probably Nick Faldo, who, in 2004 at the Hong Kong Open, used one for all four rounds. In the end he finished in a tie for sixth, which was easily one of his best results of the year.

Travel, little leisure

I'm contracted to attend around 40 events a year. 20 of these are Asian Tour, 10 are Asian/European Tour co-sanctioned, I'll do 5 in Japan and I've just started doing the Korean PGA Tour too. Plus, I'll go to Orlando for the PGA Merchandise Show and the occasional event in Australia. My favourite events are the biggest; Hong Kong, China, the Singapore Open – they've all got a really great atmosphere.

But my work doesn't just involve working on the practice green. Usually,

on the Thursday and Friday of an event I meet with the Yes! Golf distributor for the country we're in, or I might have to hold demo days at corporate events or driving ranges – it all depends where I am. Because I also own the distribution rights to Yes! Golf in the Philippines, I'm getting pretty busy with that side of things as well, but my first priority is to get as many Yes! putters on Tour as possible.

Some of the players say I have the best job on tour, because I'm guaranteed to pick up a cheque every week. I love my job; the lifestyle is great but I think it would be even better if I was single. I now have four kids, so it's not always easy being away from home. But the good thing is that I get to spend the weekends with them – I'll leave the event on a Friday to make sure I'm back at home for Saturday and Sunday.

Commitment

Despite being a relatively small company compared to some of the golfing mega brands out there, Yes! has made a huge commitment in establishing a presence here in Asia. I receive a decent salary and my expenses for the 4 nights I'm away every week equate to roughly US\$1,500. Plus, I'll be giving away 30



putters on top of that, so it all adds up.

Recently, Yes! introduced an incentive programme for Asian Tour players. Each week, the top

Yes! finisher will receive US\$500 and the second placed Yes! finisher receives US\$250. If a player wins an event using a Yes! putter then he'll receive a US\$500 bonus as well. What's more, if a Yes! player doesn't win that week, the money is rolled over to the next. It's a bit of extra fun, but it's also proved to be very popular among the pros.

Although we're called tour reps, we're not really – first and foremost I'm a golf pro. I really don't like the word tour rep.

My dream is to see Yes! become the most popular putter in the world. Is that realistic? There's a slim chance, but it's not impossible. My ambition, however, is for Yes! to be the number one ranked putter on Tour. Is that realistic? Absolutely, and I expect that to happen by the end of the 2008 season. **AGE**



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Golfing **GUILIN**

暢打桂林

桂林……一個既熟悉但又陌生的地方。
熟悉……因為「桂林山水甲天下」這六個字，從小已經不時在耳邊響起；更聞不少國家領導人都專程到訪，就連前美國總統克林頓到中國也要前往見識。
陌生……因為一直都沒有機會去體驗……

其實祖國內還有很多地方我也沒到過，在我草擬行程中，便已經有十多個地點可以選擇，結果桂林排衆而出，為什麼？因為短短的假期，不想來回花一整天坐飛機的時間，而從香港直飛桂林也不需要一小時，正合我的心意！

抵達桂林機場後，馬上出發往第一個目的地——**山水高爾夫渡假酒店**，從機場至球會只需約 45 分鐘車程，當抵步後，被眼前所見的“中國城池式”會所吸引，彷彿置身於古代中，打量一番後，便舉步進內，果然，室內外裝修有著連貫的風格，木梁上的雕刻，大理石圓柱，大堂上的一只巨型鷹雕，處處散發濃濃的中國

味，頗具特色。拿過房匙後，便往其最新落成的酒店配套——東方城堡進發，打開房門，眼前一亮，房間佈置仍極具中國色彩，而且空間寬敞，靠窗處設一道小廳，供人邊品嚐茶道邊聊天，感覺著實寫意（如果地面換上木板，相信更是協調）。

一切都非常滿意，當然我最感興趣的還是球場，二話不說便來到山景場的發球台揮出第一杆，山景場景觀非常壯麗，除兩旁樹木成熟外，一座座奇山異石拔地而起（第二天早上打球時，球場上更披上一層薄霧，猶如置身於仙境中，歎為觀止），球場設計方面，球道寬闊，不乏上山落坡和狗腿洞，水障則非常少，難度雖然不高

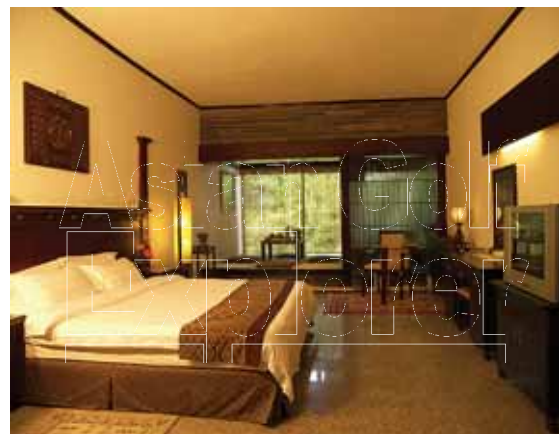
但仍保持著不俗的趣味性。

轉住湖景場，第一洞相當攝人，並非到處皆是水障（事實上湖景場水障要比山景場多些少而已），而是發球的落差甚大，落球點極為狹窄，兩旁滿佈參天大樹，幸好這只是個別嚇人球洞，往後的球道都偏向寬闊，平易近人。要數特色洞，這裡第八洞頗具玩意，發球後可乘船往果嶺。

這山景及湖景場，事實上屬於渡假式球場，照顧到各級別的球手。另一個石景場在設計上環繞其中一大石而建，其球道較短之外亦異常狹窄，部份球道當站在發球台上會看不到球道……如果第一次嘗試



Scenic Swings: Stunning landscapes await golfers at Twin Peak Golf Resort (3); first-rate accommodation in downtown Guilin.





Merry Time at Merryland: Guangxi's premier course

這球場時令球手甚為迷惘……究竟要往那裡發球呢？雖然可以根據球僮指示方向，但落點極細小，壓力因此相當的大，在方向及距離的準確性要求非常之高，一點偏差便會鑄成大錯。

球會另一優點就是靠近市區，乘坐的士只需 20 分鐘車程約 35-40 元，市內購物、飲食及娛樂都很方便。

下一目的地便是**桂林樂滿地高爾夫俱樂部**，這個離市區較遠的球會（車程約 50 分鐘），其實是一項巨大的渡假設施，內裡除了有 18 洞高爾夫球場外，亦有主題公園、機動遊戲、水上樂園、西部城特技表演等，配套五星級酒店，以豪華及舒適為主題，與山水球會的東方城堡酒店截然不同，房間空間不缺少，與山水的古典味相對彷彿從古代穿梭回現代；這裡作為渡假酒店，設施相當的齊備，多間餐廳、咖啡廳及酒吧少不了，水療、按摩、足浴、美容、的士高、演藝廳、卡拉OK的應有盡有，更有百貨公司設在內，真是足不出

戶亦可以享受多姿多彩的娛樂，非常滿意，可惜未有時間參觀其他如主題公園等的設施。

球場由美國設計師 **Golden Louise** 負責，建於平地上，設計則以渡假式球場為藍本，迎合多數球友，不太苛刻，整體球道較為寬闊，只有少數球道有些起伏，水障礙也並不算多，果嶺斜度亦不大，白tee有兩個長度（5,921 或 6,493 碼）縱觀難度不算高，非常適合新手或假期型球手耍樂，但如果自信技術非一般，希望難度多一點的話，大可以走上藍tee，因為其長度足有 7,073 碼，跟職業球手打的沒兩樣！

最特別是第 16 號四桿洞，除左景觀出色之外，發球後需坐船到對岸，跟山水球會湖景場第八洞有異曲同工之妙。

雖然這裡沒有山水球會的奇山異石獨特景色，不過園藝卻做得甚為出色，舒泰怡人，草坪保養亦非常到位，無論發球台到球道，以至果嶺都讓人滿意。

在這幾天假期裡，當然會抽空往桂林名勝如象鼻山、盧笛岩、灕江及陽朔等參觀一番，亦大開眼界，果然沒有令我失望，最讓我讚嘆不已倒是灕江大酒店的瀑布表演，既震撼亦是免費的。

桂林肯定是值得再次重來的好地方。



Inset: The par-four 16th requires a short hop on a sampan.

Guilin Golf Guide

ORIENTATION

Hong Kong Airlines, Dragonair and China Southern all fly direct from Hong Kong to Guilin's international airport (flight time: 50mins), which is situated 20 minutes from the centre of Guilin, capital of Guangxi province. Transfers between the airport, hotel and course are included within packages booked in Hong Kong.

WHERE TO PLAY

Guilin Twin Peak Golf Resort Hotel

Arguably the most scenic course in China, this 27-hole club, which comprises the Mountain, Water and Rock courses, is surrounded on all sides by magnificent limestone karsts, allowing jaw-dropping views from nearly every

vantage point. The appealing Mountain and Water courses, which feature dual greens (Bentgrass for the cooler winter months; Bermuda for every other time), should be the choice for most; the Rock nine is a candidate for the narrowest and most unforgiving layout in the land. Although the club isn't known for its conditioning, you have to play it for the scenery alone.

20mins from centre of Guilin.

Guilin Merryland Golf Club

Although not as beautiful as Twin Peak (it's still very pretty but those famous karsts aren't in view here), Merryland scores higher marks when it comes to design; this is a thoroughly enjoyable (and playable) resort-style 18-hole lay-

out that takes advantage of naturally rolling terrain. The par four 16th – the club's signature hole – features a lake in front of the tee box that can only be crossed by sampan. As part of an enormous so-say 5-star resort and theme park, Merryland is certainly a good choice for those with family in tow.

1hr from centre of Guilin. **AGE**

COSTS

Guilin(桂林) 3 Days 2 Nights
H.K <> Guilin Roundtrip Ticket
2 Nights Merryland Or Twin Peak(share room)
Daily Breakfast
Unlimited Green fee
HK\$2,690up, By HongKong Airlines
HK\$2,980up, By Dragon Airlines

Wu Yi Fountain Palm Golf Club



Getting there :Ferry to Jiangmen Port - available from China Ferry Terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui
Journey Time: 2hr30mins.
Club shuttle bus from Jiangmen Port to Club takes approximately 15mins



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★★★★★

Marco Polo Shenzhen 馬哥孛羅好日子酒店

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★★★★★

Conifer Hotels & Resorts 華安康年國際大酒店

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★★★★★

Jin Jiang Shen Zhen Airline Hotel 深航錦江國際酒店

0755-86819999 0755-82835888 6035 Shennan Road, Futian, Shenzhen 深圳市福田區深南大道6035號

★★★★★

Grand Mercure Oriental Ginza 東方銀座美爵酒店

0755-83500888 0755-83508687 Shennan Blvd West, Futian, Shenzhen 深圳市福田區深南大道西(竹子林地鐵站附近, 招行往西250米)

★★★★★

Grand View Hotel 景軒酒店

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★★★★★

Golden Central Hotel 金中環酒店公寓

0755-23993333 0755-23993336 Futian, Shenzhen 深圳市金中環商務大廈

★★★★★

Sunshine Hotel 深圳陽光酒店

0755-83303888 0755-82287477/82226719 Luohu, Shenzhen 深圳市羅湖區嘉寶路一號(近火車站)

★★★★★

Intercontinental Shenzhen 深圳華僑城洲際大酒店

0755-33993388 0755-33993666 9009 Shennan Road 深圳華僑城深南大道9009號

★★★★★

The Bonanza Hotel & Spa 萬悅國際酒店

0755-27881888 0755-27781599 Baoan, Shenzhen 深圳市寶安21區前進一路90號寶安中旅大廈

★★★★★

Nan Hai Hotel 深圳南海酒店

0852-23153388/23660813 0852-23117686 Shekou, Shenzhen 深圳蛇口工業區一路一號

★★★★★

The Interlaken OCT Hotel 深圳茵特拉根華僑城酒店

0755-88883333 0755-25031114 Yantian, Shenzhen 深圳東部華僑城

★★★★★

Crown Plaza Hotel, Shenzhen 深圳威尼士皇冠假日酒店

0755-26388888 0755-26388888 9026 Shennan Road, Shenzhen 深圳華僑城深南大道9026號

★★★★★

Mission Hill Resort 駿豪酒店

Savannah Wing 賽維納新翼酒店
0755-28020888 0755-28024866 Baoan, Shenzhen 深圳寶安觀瀾高爾夫大道1號(屬觀瀾球場酒店, 近三九球場10分鐘車程)

Huizhou 惠州

★★★★★

Huizhou Noble Jasper Hotel 惠州天悅大酒店

0752-2388005/2718690 0752-2388004/23668333 No. 22 Maixin Road, Huizhou, China 惠州市麥地路22號

★★★★★

Kande Hotel International 康帝國際酒店

0752-26888888 0752-2688123/2688666 Dukousuo, Huizhou No.1 West Road 惠州市環城西一路渡二所

Zhongshan 中山

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Zhongshan Shangri-La Hotel 中山香格里拉大酒店

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Jiangmen 江門

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★★★★★

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Guangzhou 廣州

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NanSha Grand Hotel 南沙大酒店

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★★★★★

Nanyang King's Gate Hotel 南洋長勝酒店

020-61368888 020-61393888 38 Xinghua Road Tianhe, Guangzhou 廣東省廣州市天河區興華路38號

★★★★★

Royal Marina Plaza 廣州科爾海悅

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★★★★★

Guangzhou Ocean Apartment 廣州頤和商務酒店

13312899363/13566008245/020-83868888 020-87628728/87622880 No.416, Huangshidong Road 廣州環市東路416號

★★★★★

Asia International Hotel 廣東亞洲國際大酒店

020-61288888 020-61268811 No.326, Seolun 1, Huangshi Dong Road, Guangzhou 廣州環市東路326號之一

★★★★★

Guangdong International Hotel 廣東國際大酒店

020-83311888 020-83313299 No.338, Huangshi Dong Road 廣州環市東路338號

★★★★★

Royal Mediterranean Hotel 廣州地中海國際酒店

020-38788888 020-38788623 No.518, Tianhe Road 廣州天河路518號

★★★★★

Guangzhou Helenbergh 廣州歐洲假日國際酒店公寓

020-23889888/23889778 020-34600390 No.176, Qianrenhua Road, Panyu 廣州市番禺區市橋南華路176號

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Dragon Lake Princess Hotel 九龍湖公主酒店

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Star River 番禺星河灣酒店

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Espring Hotel 逸泉國際大酒店

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CANTERBURY The Michael Campbell Collection

Canterbury's is not a name that many Hong Kong golfers will be immediately familiar with; the brand is better known as a supplier of first-class rugby apparel and accessories, rather than having any association with the royal and ancient game that we all know and love. But the New Zealand clothing giant has recently joined forces with 2005 US Open champion Michael Campbell to produce a range of high performance golfing gear – the Michael Campbell Collection – which is now available from all branches of Royal Sporting House.

Campbell is instantly recognizable on the course – his distinctive clothing is festooned with authentic Maori designs, each symbolizing a powerful mythological story. Indeed, after his victory at Pinehurst two years ago, sales of his colourful garb went through the roof. Not surprisingly either – he really looked the business as he coolly held off a surging Tiger Woods down the stretch. Canterbury might not be able to promise you'll be able to do the same, but you're bound to impress your regular foursome partners by turning up on the first tee wearing something from this undeniably trendy range of attire.

RRP HK\$499 (Shirts). Available at Royal Sporting House / Golf House.



ADAMS GOLF IDEA a3OS Irons

Are these the most forgiving irons on the market today? Quite possibly, is the rather vague answer to that, but here's the thing: they're not really irons at all. Designed for maximum game improvement, Adams have integrated six progressively shaped hybrids with two cavity-back short irons for what the company says is the latest breakthrough in hybrid shaping and performance.

Featuring a category leading MOI (moment of inertia) of 3350, Adams also claims that these babies are the longest, straightest and the easiest to hit of any club out there. Well, of course they'd say that, we hear you chime, but there's little doubt that the a3OS series will appeal to those who struggle with regular irons and are looking for something that will generate higher spin rates, thereby giving a higher launch. Traditionalists might scoff at their unconventional look, but who cares about that when you're hitting it sweeter than you have ever done before.

a3OS Set Make-Up

3, 4 & 5 Boxer Hybrids: Designed with Boxer Technology, which results in high MOI for more forgiveness and a straighter and longer ball flight.

6, 7 & 8 Hybrids: Three iron-like hybrids. Adams have moved the weight low and back for high-launching, easy-to-hit approach shots from the rough or fairway. A wide sole design helps cut through turf interference.

9 & PW: 'Traditional' cavity-back short irons with a large sweetspot to further promote ease of use.

Available in Men's, Ladies and Senior's specifications.

RRP HK\$5,990 (3-PW, all specs). Available from Royal Sporting House.



Tiana's Double Delight

In what is arguably the local story of the year, 10-year-old Tiana Lau achieved the incredible at Clearwater Bay Golf & Country Club last month, making TWO holes-in-one in an unbelievable six-hole stretch.

Playing the executive nine at the Hong Kong club, Tiana, with caddie/mother Irene in tow, aced the 91-yard 2nd with a 9-iron, before holing out again on the 85-yard 7th with the same club.

"After the first one, she screamed," said Irene. "After the second one she was jumping up and down. It was amazing."

To say the least. Tiana (seen here receiving some instruction from China's Liang Wen-chong prior to

last month's UBS Hong Kong Open) had never made an ace before, but has already established herself as one of the SAR's most promising junior golfers: her solid performances in Hong Kong Golf Association events has resulted in a call up to the junior squad and she already plays off an impressive handicap of 14, which is set to drop further as a result of her miraculous play.

The only unfortunate part was that her staggering feats occurred during a practice round for the Clearwater Bay Executive Nine Winter Junior Open and not the tournament proper. Not that Tiana was too bothered about that – she still went on to claim victory in the Girls 9-10 age division. **AGE**



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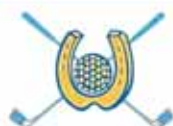
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