

# ADAM SCOTT



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INTERVIEW WITH ADAM SCOTT.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

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AT THE MEDIA CENTRE, NSW GOLF CLUB.

FACILITATOR: Well Adam, you've been playing well of late. Dubai, you played fabulous?

ADAM SCOTT: Mm-mmm.

FACILITATOR: Can we look forward to a win here from you?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, I certainly hope so. That's why I've come here. But yeah, my confidence is a lot higher than it was a month or so ago. It's been good to play some solid golf and you know, like I said in Melbourne or Dubai or wherever it was, playing poorly this year has given me the chance to try and peak here at the end of the year and get some results and get something out of the year and that's what I'm trying to do.

So you know, no more important tournament than the Australian Open really. It's tough conditions this week so it's going to be a grind, but I think I'm playing well enough to challenge, absolutely.

FACILITATOR: Fantastic. Questions?

QUESTION: Adam, does the Shark get a sling from you if you win a tournament, 10 percent of your winnings go to the motivation?

ADAM SCOTT: I don't think he's struggling for a little bit of cash. If he needs it, then I'll see what I can do.

QUESTION: It was what got you moving again, didn't it?

ADAM SCOTT: Well it did, it just kept my head in the game and kept me practising and you know, I worked really hard towards playing well at the

President's Cup and I certainly played a lot better there than have I been previously.

You know, just two weeks later in Singapore I started to really play well over the weekend and carried that into Melbourne and then Dubai. So yes, it was a great boost, more for my confidence just to make me feel like I am actually one of the top players still and to be in that environment and Harding Park. I hadn't played well enough all year to be contending in tournaments and feel competitive juices flowing.

As soon as you walk on the first tee of the President's Cup, you're in an atmosphere that I hadn't been in for probably eight months. So you know, that got me sparked up again absolutely.

QUESTION: Adam, can you describe 2009, the feelings as you watched the rankings go down?

ADAM SCOTT: I tried to stop watching that. I mean you know, the feelings, there wasn't many highs. There were a couple of low points for sure but I really tried to stay very positive and I spoke pretty openly I think in the US to the media about how I was going and how I felt.

You know, for a while I believed I was close to playing well, but I really wasn't and it took me a long time to work out some bad habits and work out what I was doing wrong. That kind of explains the year.

It was frustrating but I've learned so much from it. Not just what I did wrong this year but also what I think I missed when I was playing my best golf and why I didn't play better. So that's exciting for me as I start to play better again. I think I know how to fill in a few gaps of why I didn't perform better at bigger tournaments in the past and when I get back to them next year, hopefully I can put in some better performance and try and win some world golf events and some majors and the players and all those big events that you try and peak.

QUESTION: Not much?

ADAM SCOTT: Well, I'm not out here to make up the numbers. I've always been here to win tournaments and I have my whole career and I don't want to play like I did this year again. That's not what I want to do. I want to compete. I'm ten years into my career, I guess, and who knows how much longer I've got? So I want to get on with it and try and win one and try and win two and keep it going.

QUESTION: So did self doubt creep in there at your lowest points, or did you always feel like the next day was going to be a better one?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah. Talked myself down on days but you know, I always got to wake up the next day and that was a good thing. It's never as bad as it seems but at certain times, you know the US PGA was pretty embarrassing. I just couldn't do a thing right. I was trying my guts out, couldn't hit a good shot, couldn't hit a good putt.

I felt like I embarrassed myself and didn't enjoy that experience much. But it's never far away and you know, I got a lot of support from other players out there and they kept pushing me hard, just like Greg and Frank Nobilo had a bit of faith in me to pick me for the President's Cup. But you know, and since I've played better a lot of players have come up to me and said that they like seeing me play well again. So that feels nice and I definitely appreciate that support.

QUESTION: Who are some of those players?

ADAM SCOTT: Peter Senior just did. I'm walking on in here and I played with guys in Dubai, my playing partners there, Harrington and Soren Kjeldsen. A lot of guys, Darren Clarke and these guys who looked after me when I was a young kid on the European tour.

It's nice because there definitely is camaraderie between a lot of the players on the tour that may or may not be seen by the public. Everyone goes through their ups and downs and it's nice when they're there for both of them. So you know, that felt good.

QUESTION: Apart from the faith that the Shark showed in you in the President's Cup what do you think was the key to the turn-around?

ADAM SCOTT: Well I started working on things which I needed to. I mean I wasn't addressing the issues in my game, in my golf swing and you know, things started coming into place. My posture got better, my back swing got better. Therefore, I hit the ball better. A bit of confidence came back with the striking.

Now I could be aggressive again hitting the ball which is how I play my best golf and you know, I continued to work on my chipping and my putting. It's not always feeling 100 percent comfortable but I see the benefit in the long run. I've seen it briefly the last few weeks. I've been solid performances. If I was on the top of my game, I think I could have done better but I'm working towards that.

QUESTION: Adam, if you can win this week, how would it change the way you look back this year? Does it make it an okay year or a good year?

ADAM SCOTT: Well, you know, it would be great. It would be a great way to finish the year. You know, I'd look back on 2009 as the year I won the Aussie Open. I mean I think certainly something I wouldn't forget too quick, although I might erase the previous nine months or so.

Yeah, to win the Australian Open, to be our national champion would be a great honour and that's what I've dreamed about as a kid and all the other guys out there have dreamed about as a kid. Ever since I was watching it on tellie or playing free qualifiers as an amateur, it's a big event and I'd be very proud to be on that trophy.

QUESTION: Did you play well today and what will be the secret to cracking four good rounds here?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, I think this week, certainly a bit of luck might be involved. The old winner's luck. It's pretty demanding golf course with any wind blowing so you know, the guy who gets the breaks still has to take advantage of them and that's what you've got to do. But certainly if the wind blows, solid ball striking is pretty important to start things out. So you know, fortunately I've got my game a little tightened up recently and feel good about that. But just like any week, you know, you've got to make the putts to win.

I think patience will be key around here because no doubt you're going to find yourself in some pretty ordinary positions at some points and scramble and make the most of it. It's about scoring around this golf course and it might not be pretty but it can be effective if you do it well.

QUESTION: When you look back on Kingston Heath and you see driving accuracy was best and greens had ranked best and putting down the track, do you think the good things or do you think the bad things about the putting?

ADAM SCOTT: Well I didn't putt too bad. I mean when you hit a lot of greens you have more putts. Otherwise I'd win by 10. So you know, I need to, obviously I want to make more, it took me a couple days to get a good feel for the greens at Kingston Heath. Hopefully it doesn't here. I need to get going right from Thursday but you know, it was solid science there obviously, can't fault the long game.

But still, like I said, the stuff I've been working on my putting is not 100 percent comfortable yet. I mean I've tried to raise my hands and get them higher to free up the stroke but I putted with low hands for ten years mostly so it's pretty tough to break that habit and it's a different feel, but I'm encouraged by what I've seen so far. I roll the ball better, just haven't made some. Hit a lot of good putts.

QUESTION: You haven't tried anything radical happening like other pros, long handed?

ADAM SCOTT: I don't think I need to. I think I haven't putted too badly over my career. I didn't putt badly to win tournaments and play consistently well for a long time. You know, like every part of my game, I want to get it stronger. But this year that wasn't my weakness. My weakness was usually my strength, my ball striking. I hit it ball so terribly and with average putting, you know, not bad scores. So always trying to work on improving every part of my game and continually do that throughout my career.

QUESTION: Can I ask you, you're not going to go surfing this afternoon down at Bondi after unfortunately what happened last year when you had to pull out with the knee?

ADAM SCOTT: Oh yea. No, no surfing today, definitely not.

QUESTION: We're keeping him safe. A couple of questions please?

QUESTION: Adam, the putting change that you made obviously you said it's fairly dramatic compared to what you've done previously. Was it a decision of your own or was it the coach's, to raise the hands a bit?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, it's both. I mean I think - I've tried to do it over the years. It's just, you know, they stay up for a week and then slowly they fall back down into the position where I don't want them. It works okay for a while but eventually they get to a spot where you just really can't hit consistent putts.

So at the moment it's a bit forced, it's not natural and that's where the feel kind of goes sometimes. But I think I've got to stick with it. You know, it's a long term thing. I'm taking a long term view of the whole game. It's just that I've really come on quick with the way my ball striking has turned around. It's getting a bit frustrating to hit a lot of good shots and have a lot of chances but not make as many as I should. So it's not that I'm hitting bad putts either. It's just about getting that consistent pace and once you know exactly how hard you're going to hit it, you can really pick lines very well and the hole gets bigger.

QUESTION: Longevity is a big factor in a golfer's life. Do you still feel the same sort of desire as you did five years ago and have the same sort of goals?

ADAM SCOTT: Yeah, I think absolutely. I'm five years further on. I think I've achieved some but not others. So I feel I've got plenty left to do and to fulfil what I think my own potential is. I think I've got a lot of work to do. So like I said before, I'm out here to win tournaments and complete at the highest level and I've done it before, I certainly know I can do it again but I think I can do it better than I did it before.

QUESTION: What have you learnt this year that's going to enable you to do that? You've talked about the things that you've learned, compete in the big tournaments. What are those things?

ADAM SCOTT: Just the way I manage my game and preparation and practice. So much is talked about preparation for the bigger events and how you should do that. And just making sure I have everything under control a little more, a little more regular coaching. Not necessarily coaching but monitoring of my golf game. I think that's going to be very useful just to make sure that any little thing doesn't become a big thing.

You know, there is added pressure at majors and world golf events and if something is a little bit off, it's a little bit more off for those events and if I can kind of tighten that up, I really think I'll give myself a better chance of being able to win one of them.

FACILITATOR: Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much.

END OF TRANSCRIPT.