

# SCOTT HEND



PO Box 745 Indooroopilly QLD 4068 AUSTRALIA Ph 1300 662 173 or +61 7 3378 2668

Email [info@pacificsolutions.com.au](mailto:info@pacificsolutions.com.au) Web [www.pacificsolutions.com.au](http://www.pacificsolutions.com.au)

INTERVIEW WITH SCOTT HEND  
AUSTRALIAN OPEN  
THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2009  
AT THE MEDIA CENTRE, NSW GOLF CLUB

FACILITATOR: Just a fantastic round of golf, Scott – fantastic. You'll probably be leaving at the end of the day. The wind's picking up this afternoon.

SCOTT HEND: More than likely, I can't see it abating.

FACILITATOR: You loved the golf course?

SCOTT HEND: I love this course. It reminds me a lot of playing courses in Scotland and playing courses down in Melbourne at the National, so I really enjoy it.

FACILITATOR: Terrific. Questions please?

QUESTION: Scott, have you played here since the day we were out here with you a few years ago?

SCOTT HEND: No, that's the last time I played. I was only speaking about that the other day when we were out here, I met one of the guys that I played with – so, it's been a long time.

QUESTION: I wondered if you'd been back in between?

SCOTT HEND: No. I had noticed the brush has grown a little bit and a few tees have been put back a bit further, but it's still great.

QUESTION: Scott, you had a good finish in Singapore four weeks ago?

SCOTT HEND: That's right.

QUESTION: Was that the sort of confidence builder you need coming into a tournament like this?

SCOTT HEND: Not necessarily. I felt like I played great since around July this year. The first half of the year was a bit of a stutter with tournaments because of the conflicting tours and I'm the sort of a player that needs to play three weeks on, one week off, not one week on, three weeks off.

Singapore was great. Unfortunately I just came up short of being fully exempt in Europe, but I mean, I felt like I played great since July, like I said, I just have to start holing some putts.

QUESTION: What did you do well today? What was pleasing about your round today?

SCOTT HEND: Just thought well. You have to think really well round here. It's not necessarily how good you hit it – you have to think really well. That's the way to play this golf course.

QUESTION: How many years did you play on the PGA tours?

SCOTT HEND: I played 2004, 2005 and I had conditional status in 2006.

QUESTION: Do you harbour a desire to go back there at some stage?

SCOTT HEND: I'd be back there tomorrow. I've been trying and trying and trying and every year I seem to get an injury or get sick. I mean, a week before Singapore I had first stage of Q-School. I was fine on the Monday, Tuesday and then Tuesday afternoon I came down with the flu and diarrhoea so I was in bed for 15 hours before the first round and the whole week I was down.

I started feeling better when I flew to Singapore, around Wednesday I started feeling better and I was fine in Singapore.

QUESTION: So obviously your game was in great shape but the tummy got you?

SCOTT HEND: Yeah, you could say the tummy got me – a bit further down got me – it wasn't too good.

QUESTION: It all comes from there, doesn't it?

SCOTT HEND: It's a bit hard to hit a driver when you wonder what's going to happen.

QUESTION: Scott, were you pleased to see the conditions nice and calm this morning after the last couple of days?

SCOTT HEND: Yeah, I did hear that the breeze was going to change back to what it was on Sunday. We played here Sunday and the breeze was coming this way and then Monday, Tuesday obviously the opposite way.

It's just great to get out there when there's hardly any wind at all and you can just play your shots. It's just a great place to be, so relaxing on the golf course.

QUESTION: Do you have a sense there was a chance to get some shots this morning, given that it's likely to come up this afternoon?

SCOTT HEND: I felt like because of the way that we've got the draw tomorrow, where I play – I think tomorrow could be quite ugly in the afternoon, so you've sort of got to get a little bit of a head start because you know it's going to even up after the 36 holes and then the weekend it's a lucky draw – whatever happens.

QUESTION: What do you think would be a good number this afternoon given the wind is up?

SCOTT HEND: If it really strengthens, anything under par is a pretty good round. I mean, you shoot three under this afternoon, you've played really well.

QUESTION: When I was talking to you in Singapore, how disappointing was it then to sort of go to Hong Kong and not play the four rounds?

SCOTT HEND: Extremely because in Hong Kong a lot hinged on that tournament to become fully exempt in Europe, to try and get third on the order of merit in Asia, try and get two world events.

All that sort of stuff was going through my head and once again I played fantastic there and I just had 32 putts – 31 putts every day and missed by a couple of shots.

QUESTION: I guess if you had of made the cut in Hong Kong everything would have been pretty sweet?

SCOTT HEND: It would have been close; I would have had to finish top 30 I think. It was great that Adam got up and down in Singapore, but it was unfortunate for me – but that's golf. You know, I could have done the job a lot earlier in the year.

QUESTION: Where will you be playing mainly at the start of next year?

SCOTT HEND: I'm hoping to play the tournaments here in Australia and then hopefully I'll get into Dubai through the Asian tour, being the top ranked player not already exempt, and then sporadically in Europe off the category in Europe and Asia. I'll be mixing it up a bit.

QUESTION: To win a couple of the nationwide tour events down our part of the world...

SCOTT HEND: That would be nice.

QUESTION: Would you cop conditional status on a nationwide tour and play the nationwide tour next year?

SCOTT HEND: At this very moment, yes I would, because I think you can work your way into the PGA tour that way as well.

I mean, I live in Florida, it's a long way to commute from Florida to Asia and I bring my family over for four months at a time into Asia so I can spend time with them, but it would be nice to be back in my own house in Florida playing the nationwide tour.

QUESTION: Do you rent the house out at all?

SCOTT HEND: No, no, no. There are way too many difficulties renting a house out – you come back, it's destroyed. I just don't need that.

QUESTION: Scott, how difficult was the decision to base yourself in Florida? You're obviously from Brisbane and with a young family; how difficult was the decision and what are the reasons?

SCOTT HEND: Well fortunately enough when we went to the States, in 2003 I think I was sitting in Moonah Links being interviewed about handing in my tour card and I didn't have a family then, it was just myself and my wife. We looked around America a bit where the other Australians are, we went to Pontevedra and Pontevedra is so much like Brisbane – it's ridiculous.

So we feel very comfortable there. It's great for the young family as well. We've got great neighbours, great people. I mean, I practice with Vijay a lot there, so I've got a guy I can watch who's pretty good apparently and you learn. It's a great golf course, great area.

I mean, I miss Brisbane, but you know, sometimes you've got to do things you don't want to do.

QUESTION: What is it about the coastal courses that tickle your fancy?

SCOTT HEND: It's more of a shot maker. You can't just stand there and hit the one shot, you've got to get it low, you've got to get it high, left to right, right to left. You've got to think; use the banks. I mean, I like a course where if you hit it off line you've got to take a drop. There's a right to left slope and if you hit it left or right into it, bounce it back into the middle of the fairway – it's just – it's exciting. I don't know what it is, it's just – you don't get to play these golf courses in every tournament you play – they're really good.

QUESTION: Scott, just with your length, you're a pretty long hitter of the ball, could you use that to your advantage out there today? Did that help you a great deal?

SCOTT HEND: You can, but unfortunately on the hole that I could have I didn't – the par 5 on the 5<sup>th</sup>. I mean, we waited 15 minutes on the tee because obviously everyone could get to the green and it was – it was a hole where you could knock it down there and have a little lob wedge into the green, but other than that, you can use your power, but if you do hit it off line you're in big trouble.

QUESTION: How many times did you use your driver out there?

SCOTT HEND: Off the top of my head, probably five times. Probably not even that – I think four, four times.

QUESTION: Are there any memorable shots or bad shots?

SCOTT HEND: I hit a pretty good shot into – I only made par on 16 but I hit a great five iron. I hit a three wood out to the right and had like 195m to the pin, hit a five iron to 20 feet and two putted for par and I was pretty happy with that.

Sometimes pars out there are better than making birdies.

FACILITATOR: Thank you, thanks for coming. That was terrific.

SCOTT HEND: Hopefully I'll be speaking to you on Sunday.

**END OF TRANSCRIPT**