

# STEPHEN ALLAN



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 STEPHEN ALLAN

### AUSTRALIAN OPEN

THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2009

AT THE MEDIA CENTRE, NSW GOLF CLUB

FACILITATOR: It's been a long time since we have seen you in the media centre.

STEPHEN ALLAN: Yes.

FACILITATOR: It's good to have you in here.

STEPHEN ALLAN: Nice to meet you.

FACILITATOR: This course was perfect this morning we've heard?

STEPHEN ALLAN: Yeah, it was great. Just little light gentle breezes early on and then it just gradually picked up as the day went on and the last five or six holes it was blowing pretty good, but earlier on it was a beautiful story.

FACILITATOR: Are you looking forward to tomorrow?

STEPHEN ALLAN: Yeah, absolutely, yeah. I mean, who knows what it's going to be like.

QUESTION: It's been quite a while since we've seen you in the media centre?

STEPHEN ALLAN: Yes, I have played the last two years in the Australian Open but just played middle of the road and unfortunately every year I have to go back to the Q-School in the US and I don't get a chance to come back and play as often as I would like to.

QUESTION: Steve, it's rather odd as an Australian Open champion you have to get an invite to play.

STEPHEN ALLAN: Yeah I did. I guess with the whole new One Asia, the categories have all changed. I mean, that's understandable.

QUESTION: It's only a five year exemption in the Australian Open?

STEPHEN ALLAN: I think it just goes under the Australian category exemption, so if you win one of the majors I guess for Australia, like the Open Masters PGA it would be like five years and any of the other tournaments would be like two years.

QUESTION: You get life for the Masters and you get life for the British Open but you don't get life for the Australian Open.

STEPHEN ALLAN: When I won, I think it was a 10 year exemption and then on the entry form last year it said life to 65 and now it's back to five years I guess.

QUESTION: That must have been a bit of a shock to you?

STEPHEN ALLAN: I was kind of – once I heard that the tournament was going to be a One Asia one, I kind of expected it. Obviously it would be great to come back and play every year till I'm 65 but they're trying to get something going, so I understand. It's not something that I was disappointed in. I called Trevor and said if I need it, I'd love to come down and play and he was pretty helpful.

QUESTION: I guess you prefer not to be playing; you'd prefer to be playing somewhere else this week?

STEPHEN ALLAN: I prefer to be playing but not having to go to the Q-School. I really needed to get through the second stage and I actually played very well there but didn't quite get the job done. I had a terrible start and a bad finish.

QUESTION: What did you miss by?

STEPHEN ALLAN: I think I missed by four in the end, but I hit one in the bushes on the last – when I was already out of it – I had 41 on the first nine and then played really well until the last nine, where I hit one in the water, I got myself right back on the number, hit one in the water, had to force it a little bit, had a couple of three putts and then missed. It was encouraging that I played really well but obviously extremely disappointing.

QUESTION: How frustrating has it been, because it has been a period of years where you've really been in Limbo, haven't you, up and down, going back to Q-School? Has it sort of worn you down a little bit over the years?

STEPHEN ALLAN: This year definitely did. The previous two years I played really well in patches. Two years ago I was right on the edge of the 125 after a slow start and I missed a season with a – the last six – I had to have hernia surgery, so that was pretty frustrating because I was really playing well and playing well week in and week out for a few weeks there, which is unlike me. Normally I get one good week and then it's a struggle again.

Then last year was really frustrating but I found some really good form at the end of the year; I played as good as I ever have. So I was really looking forward to this year, even though I only had conditional status and I just never got that back.

Most of the year I really didn't play – it wasn't like I was going out there and I didn't know where the ball was going, just one thing and another, I just kept missing the cut by one, two, three or four. Most weeks – half the time I was playing well enough to make the cut – I'd putt badly, I'd hit a bad shot at the wrong time and then as the year goes on, you probably try too hard, your confidence goes down.

Today's the best I've puttied probably since I played well at the end of last year.

QUESTION: How long will you keep hammering at the US for?

STEPHEN ALLAN: Probably till I feel I'm not good enough, but I feel like my best is definitely good enough. I guess I'm 36, I've been telling my wife since I was 32 that it will be 10 more years, 10 more years, and I still say 10 more years.

I'm going to keep at it. Like I said, I don't feel – I'm not panic stations about my game. It's never been absolutely horrendous. I've probably got a couple of things – relax, let it happen a little bit, just keep working on the things and try to get it back to where it needs to be.

Like I said, it seemed like a combination of a lot of little things and not one big thing; so sometimes it's hard to identify exactly what is the key thing to get going in the right direction.

I've been trying, I've been working pretty hard – maybe I need to work less hard.

QUESTION: What's kicked into place today?

STEPHEN ALLAN: I definitely made a little bit of a break through with my coach, Dale Lynch before the second stage, and like I said, I really hit the ball well there, and really once I got here we were just working on the same things.

I was a little bit tentative early today and then I was very nervous once I started playing well, because I haven't for a while, but then when you're playing well you're nervous over a shot and you can still hit a good shot, and that's what I didn't do a lot of the time this year – when I got nervous I didn't hit good shots.

QUESTION: You made a break through with what?

STEPHEN ALLAN: It was actually with my set up a little bit. I just was probably setting up a little bit, I guess, I got my spine angle a bit straight and that caused me to get ahead of the ball a little bit coming through, which caused a sort of a weak shot to the right, which my stock shot that I like to

play is – the one I feel most comfortable with is a pretty hard draw I guess and I wasn't – when things got tight I wasn't able to hit that. I tried to do that and I couldn't do it, and when you can't hit your stock shot, that's when you know you're in trouble.

A lot of days I'd be going along playing pretty good, nicely and then I'd hit a really bad shot from that and lose a lot of confidence. Even though I didn't necessarily play brilliantly early on today, I didn't hit any of those really bad weak right shots.

QUESTION: Your posture is a bit better?

STEPHEN ALLAN: I tilt the spine angle this way kind of, I was just getting a bit forward, so when I came through, I'd be a little bit...

QUESTION: Steve, at this point, 2010, does it look primarily like the nationwide tour?

STEPHEN ALLAN: I don't think I even have any status on the nationwide tour, so I've got to work my way back up through qualifying and things like that. I guess really my options are open – without any great options.

QUESTION: You can do a Michael Sim, he had no status this year and played the ones down here.

STEPHEN ALLAN: I think Michael had some conditional status, didn't he?

QUESTION: No, not at the start.

STEPHEN ALLAN: Yeah.

QUESTION: He got to those tournaments on the Australian Open, he had nothing.

STEPHEN ALLAN: I'm not sure about that, I think he had conditional status.

FACILITATOR: Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

**END OF TRANSCRIPT**