

BY JUSTINE MOSS

ALL ABOUT TEAM EFFORT

he Boustead Group has been a strong supporter of the Business Times Corporate Golf League, both as a sponsor and participating team, since the League's inauguration in 2010. Having been around for 188 years, Boustead, a progressive and global provider of infrastructure-related engineering services and geo-spatial solutions has three divisions – Energy-Related Engineering, Real Estate Solutions and Geo-Spatial Technology through which they provide professional services and exclusively distribute Esri world's leading geographic information systems to major markets across Australia and South East Asia. Thomas Chu, 45, who joined the company in 1997, started playing golf about 18 years ago and currently holds a handicap of 21.5. The Managing Director of Boustead Projects, which is the Real Estate Solutions Division and is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, shares his love of golf, the business and cars.

What is your favourite golf course in Singapore and why?

Sentosa Golf Club. They really attempt to treat all golfers like family and vice versa to the staff and management. The course is ultimately one of the best in the region.

Your favourite three courses in the region and why?

Long Thanh near Ho Chi Minh. I go to Vietnam frequently and play there more often. Red Mountain in Phuket – I had the privilege to play there when it first opened. One of their par 3's is on top of a hill and the green is surrounded by the jungle. It was most challenging and interesting plus all the dirt/earth was red in colour. Also Nirwana Bali Golf Club. The scenery there was full of padi fields and it was wonderful.

Do you travel on golf holidays?

I would love to but family and work take priority now. I owe a lot of my golfing buddies a lot of golf holidays.

Who would be in your dream flight – pick three other players, living or dead?

I just prefer to have my golfing buddies for a great time at the course and have a good drink and laugh over how we could have played better.

Your favourite player and why?

Tiger Woods because he is an extremely talented player and, like all golfers, there are always the ups and down in golf. I used to play off 14 and recently I am ashamed to say, that I am a real 24 if not higher. Not that I am as talented as him, but I guess I have been going through the golf slump for a while now and hope to recover my game soon.

How useful is golf for you when it comes to business networking?

I think it gives the opportunity to have



a conversation about anything and everything apart from work and business. It certainly loosens both parties' guard about business and reflects everyone's true character. Each game provides a dedicated six hours or more of intimate time together and to build comaraderie.

Tell us a little more about Boustead Projects.

We are a leading integrated industrial real estate solutions provider of industrial infrastructure, from customized, high-tech facilities to entire industrial and business parks.

We have constructed and developed more than three million square metres of industrial real estate regionally in Singapore, China, Malaysia and Vietnam, and we have designed and constructed custom-built facilities across a diverse range of industries including aviation, commercial, electronics, food processing, high-tech manufacturing,

lifestyle, logistics, petrochemical, pharmaceutical, precision engineering and technology industries.

Our strong design expertise and technical knowledge, combined with our experience in undertaking projects as a design-and-build contractor and full-scale developer, enables us to provide a wide range and full suite of industrial real estate solutions tailored to our clients' unique specifications.

What do you like most about participating in the BT Corporate Golf League?

Every year Boustead sponsors in some way in the BT League. It only occurred to me about three years ago that the sponsorship does allow us to participate in the tournament.

Our Chairman Mr Wong FF obviously believes in the game however we never quite got around to building a team. At the Boustead Golf Open, it was decided that we could form a team

to compete and for the last two years we have competed competitively.

One main thing I personally liked was the team effort put together by our captain Adrian Chu together with our Vice captain Brian Seah. We strive to play our best and we know how our respective golf games actually turn out, and it was wonderful to see Boustead winning the League and the other competitors were really fun to compete with too. Everyone did provide their utmost best and my contribution to the win was to not play.

What do you like most about this Audi TT Roadster Convertible which you are test driving?

I hope to see if a cabriolet is something that I would like to drive soon as I am embarking on a possible mid-life crisis car decision making process. What's important to me is the drive and feel of the car.



TT ROADSTER SPECIFICATIONS & FEATURES

Model name: Audi TT Roadster 2.0 TFSI quattro S tronic
Engine: 1984cc, in-line 4, turbocharged
Power: 230hp
Torque: 370Nm
Top speed: 250km/h
0-100km/h: 3.9s
Consumption: C 6.8L/100km
Price: \$250,700 inclusive of COE

Features:

- Audi virtual cockpit
- quattro all-wheel drive with torque vectoring
- lightweight sports seats
- Matrix LED headlights
- Voice control via seat belt microphone
- MMI touch (touch pad to read handwriting to find addresses, phone numbers etc)
- Powered retractable soft top lowers or raises in around 10 seconds, at speeds up to 50km/h

photos by Gavin Foo, Audi