

editor's
letter

BY
S. MURALI

LIFE LESSONS

FROM LEADBETTER AND JURONG'S SAD DEMISE

It has been an eventful month since the last issue of *Swing*, especially in Singapore.

The big bombshell moment came when Jurong Country Club (JCC) members were told that their course would be taken away in November next year, a move that is still being discussed and analysed by every golfer in the country.

Apart from the repercussions for JCC's 2,600-plus members, everyone else is wondering what sort of impact this will have on their own club memberships and for the future of the game in Singapore.

In this issue of *Swing*, contributing editor Tan Ju Kuang speaks about the JCC saga with some of the key officials from Jurong, learning that they are still coming to terms with the decision, and that the rest of the golfing fraternity has been shaken by the suddenness of it all.

When world-famous golf guru David Leadbetter visited Singapore last week, *Swing* asked him to comment on the issue of golf courses in Singapore giving way to other land-use requirements.

His take on the matter?

Said Leadbetter (right): "You can fill every square foot in Singapore with concrete, but what's that going to do? You are breeding a nation of people who won't have the opportunity to appreciate nature and the sport.

"Yeah, golf courses, let's face it, they take up room, but if more young people play golf, it's a great way to learn about life.

"It parallels life so much; it teaches so many people about the good qualities of life that you don't necessarily get from other sports. It's a game that requires honesty, integrity, perseverance and patience, and all the good qualities that one requires to be a good human being."

I think the coaching legend makes a good point.

I was also very interested when Leadbetter took his time to explain his new swing theory, which he calls the A Swing (Alternative Swing).

The affable 62-year-old, who has taught big names like Nick Faldo, Greg Norman, Ernie Els, Michelle Wie and Lydia Ko, also took the time to demonstrate to us his new technique, one he says will benefit golfers of all abilities.

The same technique was recently used by Leadbetter protege An Byeong Hun, who demolished a superb field at Wentworth to win the BMW PGA Championship by six shots last week.

The 23-year-old South Korean set a new tournament record of 21-under par in the process, leaving even world No 1 Rory McIlroy in his wake. Now the world will wait to see if An can take the same sort of form into next month's US Open, perhaps bringing Asia its second Major, after YE Yang's heroics of 2009 in the US PGA Championships.

And speaking of talented young people, *Swing* is proud to showcase Singapore's very own Koh Sock Hwee this month. The 25-year-old will be the country's best bet in the women's golf event at the upcoming SEA Games, and we wish her and her teammates all the best.



Golf is not a game of great shots. It's a game of most accurate misses. The people who win make the smallest mistakes.

— GENE LITTLER

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