



## RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GREEN

JUST A FEW YEARS IN, ONE FM 91.3'S VETERAN RADIO DJ GLENN ONG HAS FULLY EMBRACED THE TRAPPINGS OF GOLF

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few swings of the golf club was all it took to get him hooked. And Glenn Ong has colleague and ONE FM executive producer Andre Hoeden to thank.

"If not for Andre, I wouldn't be playing golf today," said the DJ who does the weekday morning show on ONE FM 91.3, along with The Flying Dutchman.

"One afternoon, Andre suggested going to the golf range. Since we have a lot of things to discuss about the show, and it was just one of those occasions; either we will go out for drinks and talk about the show, or we'll just hang out and talk. While he was practising, I decided to pick up a club and Andre suggested I give it a try.

I swung a few times and found it quite interesting. Just at the moment, a coach at the range passed by, we started talking and I decided to take up 10 lessons from him. After that, I just grew to love the sport even more. Just the thought about going out on the course makes me practise even harder."

Over the next four and a half years, Glenn's enthusiasm with the game grew at an astounding level, playing ev-



Above; Glenn Ong tees off at last year's Business Times Corporate Golf League. Below; Catch Andre Hoeden at the SPH Golf-Takashimaya Golf & Travel Fair 2019 across all four days.

ery game he could and at one point, owning 13 different golf sets.

"I wanted to buy everything – every shoe, every club. The moment I start to feel like I wasn't playing well, it had to be the club's fault." A sentiment that most golfers will agree with.

Making time to practise often initially, Glenn would go through up to 500 balls within a single session at the range, to the extent of getting blisters on his hands and waking up the next day with a sore back.

However, improving his game has been the biggest challenge for the local radio personality.

Between a busy work schedule and dedicated family time, Glenn, who married local DJ Jean Danker back in 2016, does not practise as often nowadays and plays a social game every once in a while.

Despite this, Glenn fondly recalls his most memorable moment over the last four and a half years of playing the game.

"It was a par 3 on the Tampines Course of Tanah Merah Country Club, and I was playing with Mark Richmond. This was back when I wasn't playing so well and was still hitting shots into the water.

This course had one of these holes [with a water hazard], and it was the first time that I hit the ball over the water and it landed really close to the pin. Most of the time, I aim for a par but instead, I got my first ever birdie."

Andre not only introduced the game to Glenn, but also has watched him embrace the sport and taking it seriously.

"Sometimes, he will scold me when I put the music on and when he has three bad holes in a row, he'll blame the music. But as long as I buy him a beer later on, he'll be okay," said Andre on what a typical round is like when the duo play together.

Over the last year, Andre has seen much improvement in his game, playing off a strong 15 handicap index.

"I've been working out more and although my workouts are not golf-specific, my golf has improved tremendously as a result."

On the duo's golf goals for 2019, Glenn shares that he has never played a round outside of Singapore. Not even in Johor Bahru, a common destination for day trips and weekend getaways.

"I'm afraid of getting kidnapped," jokes Glenn.

"We're looking forward to checking out the multitude of golf clubs that will be showcased at the upcoming SPH Golf-Takashimaya Golf & Travel Fair 2019 and hopefully, we'll be able to bring Glenn on his first round overseas," says Andre.

• The SPH Golf-Takashimaya Golf & Travel Fair 2019 will take place at Takashimaya, B2 from March 21-24, featuring golf destinations from across the region, as well as exclusive equipment and apparel deals, and much more.