



## Maybank Championship 2017 Preview

### Charl Schwartzel

"I struggled with my knee a little at the end of the year and it never really got better so by the time it came to January for my MRI scan it turned out I needed a longer break.

"That has actually allowed me to be a lot fresher than I think I would have been, to sort out some of my clubs and get some practice done to get my game in shape. I think overall it's been a good thing. It's been nine weeks since I last played competitively and it's the freshest I've ever been.

"I'd like to climb the world rankings more this year. I'm focussed on Majors, 2011 is a long time ago so I'm playing PGA Tour for the majority of events so I'll see if I can get it going out there, that's what I'm aiming for.

"I have memories of this place from 2002, I played the Eisenhower Trophy as an amateur and I don't remember it being this hilly. I can't remember how we did so we obviously didn't win. We had some great fun, myself, Louis Oosthuizen and Shaun Norris who is also here this week.

"There's a lot of holes that I remembered when I was out there today and I'm actually very excited to be here. It's a course that was a good memory even if we didn't win. It's nice to be back here and hopefully I can make new memories here.

"I definitely prefer warm weather than cold so that's maybe a reason why I like it here in Malaysia, you never get cold over here. The golf course is demanding, it requires you to hit the ball straight and although the rough is not very long you can get a massive flier so it's quite uncontrollable.

"I find sometimes the tougher the course is, the better I play so sometimes these kinds of courses suit me. The course is not very long though so you've got to think the winner will be 16 under and up.

"I think co-sanctioned events are a very good idea. It gives a lot more guys the opportunity to compete against different people otherwise it gets very stagnant, up against the same guys. They can't get comfortable and they can keep performing better.

"I think also for a spectator, it's much more interesting when these guys are coming together for co-sanctioned events.

"I definitely can feel like I don't travel as well as I did five years ago but by no means is it a burden for me yet. The knee injury just comes from 14 years playing as a professional. I've not had many injuries in my career and these things just happen.

"I enjoy travelling and on the European Tour you can do a lot more. But I definitely feel like my body doesn't recover like it used to.

“PSG are my main sponsor. I was Nike for nine and a half years so I was with them for a long time, but they’ve pulled out of golf equipment and I’ve formed a great relationship with PSG so it’s a new beginning.”