



### **Martin Kaymer, Preview Interview**

**Wednesday February 17, 2016**

Q. What are your first impressions of the course?

A. I've played many times in Malaysia, but this has to be my favourite course here. It's definitely my kind of course, I grew up playing tree-lined courses so in some ways this place reminds me of home – although it's a little bit warmer here! You really need to move the ball both ways, and I enjoy the challenge of shaping your shots. You need to hit lots of fairways and then wait for your chances to come along, so it's a fun course to play. You have to try to take advantage of the par fives, because they're all reachable in two.

Q. A slow start to the season so far, what have you put that down to?

A. I practised hard over the winter, sometimes it pays off straight away and other times it takes longer. The last few years, I've managed to get off to a fast start, especially in Abu Dhabi, but this time I've struggled to find my rhythm. So I took time off last week and went on holiday, and it really helped to clear my head.

Q. So do you come into this week feeling relaxed and with no pressure and expectations?

A. I'm relaxed most of the time. The golf course suits me, I had a very nice group in the Pro-Am yesterday, we're staying in a nice hotel, the food's good and everyone seems very happy and smiling, so I have no reason not to relax and feel happy! You always expect a lot from yourself, but hopefully I can handle that this week.

Q. How do you cope with the heat and the conditions?

A. I've played in this part of the world quite often, food and drink are obviously very important. When it's this hot you don't often feel like eating much, but you need to keep refuelled and rehydrated or you get tired very quickly. It's one of the most unsatisfying things when you're at a tournament and you don't feel like you have enough energy to compete that week. It's happened to me in the past, but after my week off I feel very well rested.

Q. Do you think much about trying to reclaim your World Number One title?

A. Not really, it doesn't bother me, I care much more about winning tournaments, and if you do that consistently enough, then you'll get to Number One. I know everything that comes with it, and now I'm much more prepared for it than when it happened. It takes time to get adjusted to the title, and

your time isn't your own. I didn't really like it at the time. As long as you stay in the top 50 of the World, it's fine because you can play in every tournament.

Q. How do you compare your performances in 2010 to your current form?

A. I don't really hit the ball any different to what I did back then. I was probably more consistent back then, but my best now is as good if not better than it was then. It just came down to a few things which made the difference. I became a lot better, and more rounded player in recent years. I felt like I had to change, and a lot of people had doubts but it was something I knew I had to do for myself. I didn't change my swing, I just adjusted a few things. You have to be careful who you listen to, you just have to trust yourself.