

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW: IAN POULTER**  
**March 23, 2016**



**Q. Ian Poulter, thanks for joining us for a few minutes. Making your first start here in the Puerto Rico Open. I know you got in late, haven't had a chance to see much, but maybe just your decision -- I know why you're here, but obviously perhaps excited to have an event to play in for the first time in light of not having match play.**

**IAN POULTER:** Sure. Obviously the decision to come here was an easy one. I wasn't in the match play event, so I was waiting as a first alternate back in Orlando to see if someone wasn't going to play the match play, and obviously everyone decided to play. So the obvious choice for me right now is to keep playing golf. Weeks off don't do me any good. Obviously the option to come and play here in Puerto Rico is a good one. I don't know anything about the golf course. I got in late last night. I will see it for the first time today in the pro-am and it's a new challenge.

So for me to be here, to have the opportunity to play for World Ranking points, which is key for me, an opportunity to play against a good field, you know, albeit the top 66 players in the world aren't here but yet you're going to have to play exceptionally well to win this golf tournament. That's a challenge in itself and one that I look forward to.

**Q. I know last week I heard you talking, you had been working on your swing, doing some things. If you could just kind of bring us up to speed on what you've been working on and how that's kind of coming together.**

**IAN POULTER:** Yeah. Obviously I haven't been 100 percent happy with the game so I've had a couple lessons, I've been looking at areas of my swing that I need to improve, and working harder to get back to the good golf that I was playing not that long ago. Looking at my statistics, I've only been hitting a couple of poor shots a round, but those poor shots have been very damaging. Same last week, there were only a couple shots that were damaging last week. There were probably 66 really good solid holes in there, and unfortunately there were six that were double bogeys. In fact, five and a couple of other bogeys, which did the damage. So if I can rectify those couple of shots that are creeping in, whether it's a concentration issue, whether it's a tiny swing move, provided I do the right things and keep working, then hopefully I'll get back to the good golf that I was playing.

**Q. And my last question for you, I remember one of the things that stood out last year from Honda, the one that got away from you when we were talking to you afterwards, you said, "And now I'm going to get in the car with my son, have the long drive back, explain to him how hard this game of golf really is." You've obviously won many times all over the world, I think 13 international wins and the two World Golf Championship victories. Are you proud of the fact in how grounded you are, that you do realize how tough of a game this is as you get older but you're still able to compete on the level that you are competing?**

**IAN POULTER:** I'm pretty grounded. You know, probably folks on social media would say quite the opposite, but I don't really care about some of those idiots. So for the most part I know how grounded I am. I've got a good stable of friends around me, and family. I enjoy my family time. This game, I don't take this game for granted. I had to work exceptionally hard to get to where I have in the game of golf and to have achieved the things that I have. I've been rewarded for working hard. So from a grounded standpoint, I know what I need to do to get it all back and hopefully I'm on the right path to doing that.