

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW: IAN POULTER
March 26, 2016



Q. Ian, I tell you what, you came here on a mission. What a wonderful par save there on the last. How big was that?

IAN POULTER: It was a big save. Obviously it's a par 5, it's pretty much reachable in 2 off of a decent drive and I kind of left myself in an awkward spot, it wasn't lying very well on the right-hand side just short of the green. I guess I got a little bit too cute, hit it in the front trap, splashed it out to 15 feet, but I rolled that par putt in the middle. Each putt like that obviously makes a difference at the end of the week.

Q. Watching your body language out there today, looked like some old feelings being in contention rekindled, you looked very comfortable. Is that kind of the way you were, and the plan for tomorrow?

IAN POULTER: I felt good on the course all week, albeit we got here very late, early hours of Wednesday morning but I felt comfortable. I like the windy conditions, it kind of takes me back to hitting some old-school shots and I feel comfortable on the course. The ball was kind of boring through that strong wind so you're still able to get good distance out there. But I'm happy, I'm happy how I've hung in there nicely. Obviously the last two days has been good and obviously we need another good one tomorrow.

Q. You're such a fierce competitor, there's a number of players in contention. Will you be watching the board tomorrow, kind of see what some of the guys might be doing?

IAN POULTER: I've always been a board watcher and I shouldn't think tomorrow's going to be any different. I'll keep an eye on and make sure I know what I need to do. Obviously get off to a decent start. The 5s are on early on the golf course so it's about taking advantage of those holes. A couple of the short 3s, don't make silly mistakes and hopefully should be good enough tomorrow.

Q. Ian, earlier in the week when we talked to you, you termed this as an exciting challenge and you certainly made it that. You put yourself in great position heading into the final round?

IAN POULTER: Yeah, it was always going to be a tough challenge, kind of a bittersweet week for me. Getting here late or shall I say early hours of Wednesday morning is not probably the best preparation, but obviously we've got other stuff on our mind. So emphasis on the golf course, concentrate 100 percent. Obviously it's a course I don't know and I've gotten to know over the last couple days.

Q. You had said the goal was to improve. I realize it's not a light switch you turn off

and on, but you've got to feel comfortable about this week in that process of improving?

IAN POULTER: Yeah, it's been a while since I've been right there and had an opportunity to obviously try and win a tournament. I've got to take things slowly. I'm trying to improve my swing, I'm trying to improve my consistency on the course. There's been a lot of good stuff, but there's been some bad stuff with it as well. So it's about time to not allow the bad stuff to kick in, keep persevering, keep working on the swing and at some stage the adrenaline's going to kick in and hopefully get me across the line.

Q. Finally, just your 18th hole, just take us through that real quick.

IAN POULTER: Yeah, I actually had a decent lie in the right-hand rough just by the bunker, albeit it was a long way to the green. I figured if I could get a decent strike on it, I could get it there. I didn't, I just pushed it to the right. I had a bad lie from about 30 yards short of the green. Tricky bunker to come over and the pin was 5 on, 4 right. Didn't fully commit to the shot, thought it was going to come out hot and it didn't, it come out soft, so therefore I left it in the bunker. Hit my bunker shot a little clean, trying to be too aggressive, trying to hole it, and thankfully I holed a nice 15-footer coming back.