

Pre-Tournament Interview: IAN POULTER
March 22, 2017

Q. Obviously coming back to a place where you had some good success last year. What does that do for you when you come back to a place such as Puerto Rico knowing you've had the success you've had?

IAN POULTER: Well, it's always nice to play a course you played well in the past. Obviously last year was, it was a good week. It was a shame not to birdie 18 and get in the mix with a playoff. It's a good course. It sets up well for me in the wind. If we get decent wind over the four days, I'll be pretty happy with that. The course is playing nicely and it's a little softer than it was last year so the ball's not quite got as much run on it, which makes it a little easier on a couple of holes and it will make it difficult on a couple of the longer holes. So I think it kind of balances that out. But I'm looking forward to the week.

Q. I know this is a little bit -- a lot of a different year for you. You've got the medical, you've got three or four events left, I guess maybe \$150,000 out. Do you approach the game differently? How much is that on your mind?

IAN POULTER: Just play golf. I can't sit down and start crunching numbers. The fact is if I win this week, I get a two-year exemption and that's the only thing I'm really focusing on, playing well this week, which would reinstate many things, and a two-year exemption would be great.

Q. When you had battled the injuries you have, is the process of coming back, is it more of getting back in the competition of the game or is it a make-sure-I-don't-reinjure-myself?

IAN POULTER: No, I don't think it's a case of getting hurt, injuring myself. I think it's more to the point of just play good golf. I've played good golf over the last few events. I haven't really taken out -- I don't feel I've taken out everything from my rounds. I feel I've left shots on the course and that's been really costly over the last number of events. So it would be good, it certainly would be good to play a course like this this week, play solid, don't make any mistakes and then I should be in a good position.

Q. And last thing, obviously these events, they're significant, they're not ideally what you want to be playing in but they've certainly proved a value and a purpose these opposite events as evidenced by your third-place finish here last year. Do you feel like these are --

IAN POULTER: I think these events are important. Obviously it's very difficult to schedule so many tournaments in a calendar year, and when you've got an event opposite WGCs or other events, I think they're great. It gives a playing opportunity to other players and it enables the Tour to continue to expand and grow. I think this event is a good event. I think it can certainly grow as well. I think it's, just from talking to the guys that organize it, they're

in a better position this year than they were last year. So it's good. I think even this being opposite a big tournament, it's still got a good field and that's because people enjoy coming here to play.