

**DARREN CLARKE (-6)**

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**Q. What did you think of the bar?**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Which one, the Irish bar?

**Q. The Irish one.**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Oh, it was good. I can sniff them out usually no matter where I end up going. That Guinness has got a certain aura. Aroma, sorry, and aura.

**Q. Good today?**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Yesterday, I played really nicely yesterday as well, really nicely. I putted poorly and made a couple of bad swings at the end, so I finished bogey, par, double bogey, bogey yesterday. That cost me an awful lot. But I played really nicely yesterday and I've done the same again today.

**Q. Last night after that round, how do you get back into the mindset to compete again today?**

**DARREN CLARKE:** I needed to play well. It wasn't as if I shot my poor score yesterday by playing poorly, I just made two bad swings at the end and got a couple of really tough breaks and that's -- unfortunately, that's golf. But all in all, the week's been -- I really enjoyed my week. From all the Champions Tour players to all the PGA TOUR staff to all the volunteers to everybody here, it's been a fantastic week for me for my debut. Everybody's been so kind to me, it's been wonderful.

**Q. What's been the most surprising thing?**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Well, it's not how good the guys are because I know how good they are. I think the standard is obviously very, very high. You know, 60 shot yesterday, that was an incredible score, Kevin Sutherland.

But I think the most surprising thing was I think the public perception. People tend to imagine they play the courses a little bit shorter than they actually do, and the courses aren't that short and the greens run to 12 on the stimpmeter. It's a test, but the guys just flat out go for it. They take the shots on and you can see from the scoring.

But it's great. I'm happy to -- I've got my rookie week under my belt and I played nicely. I was disappointed. You know, the professional in me still was somewhat irritated last night

after shooting the round I did with actually having played okay. So it was nice to come out today and shoot a good score today. Even on 17, I hit it in the water on 17. I got it up and down from 140 yards to make bogey and then birdied the last there. It's all good. Can't wait to get there next week.

**Q. What do you take from this to Calgary?**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Just keep on working on what I'm working on and, you know, as I said, it's a long time since I felt -- I was comfortable over the ball with my irons, not with -- some of my irons, but I just got to keep on working on what I'm working on, but there was a lot of good this week.

**Q. It's been now two years since you played back-to-back weeks competitively. Do you think you'll --**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Well, I participated in the Irish Open, the Scottish Open and The Open. There was three in a row there. I participated. I didn't say I played, I was there, but I did hit the golf ball numerous times.

But no, I'm excited to get playing. That's it. I'm playing with a bunch of old friends again and, you know, the camaraderie out here is wonderful as well. There's still obviously the guys want to play well and everybody wants to play the best they can and beat you. The camaraderie's there. Every one of the players that I've seen this week, everybody's come up to me and said hello and welcome to the Tour. That means an awful lot.