

**ROUND 2 PRESS CONFERENCE**  
**June 7, 2025**



**THOMAS BJØRN**  
**DARREN CLARKE** (-25)

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**MODERATOR:** We would like to welcome Darren Clarke and Thomas BJØRN into the interview room, the 36-hole leaders of the 2025 AmFam Championship.

Gentlemen, another solid round today. What about the scramble format did you guys enjoy, and what about it allowed you guys to post a low number?

**DARREN CLARKE:** Yeah, we obviously enjoyed it, we had a good day.

It was a bit weird marking the golf ball and not knowing quite what to do the first couple of holes. On the front, the first few holes I wasn't quite (indiscernible,) but Thomas hit some wonderful shots. We got together and things sort of clicked on the back nine for us. Overall, a good day.

**MODERATOR:** When you're able to lean on your partner early on if you haven't found your game early on, just what does that do for you as a team when you're kind of able to trade blows when maybe one guy's a little out of position and your partner picks up the slack?

**THOMAS BJØRN:** I mean, these formats, they free you up a little bit. I think we kind of knew, both of us, coming in here that we in general drive the ball pretty well, and we kind of stuck to making sure that we prefer we have two balls off the tee in the fairway and we can make -- today we could make good choices. Yesterday was a question of always giving yourself opportunities.

I think we played the golf course very smart these first two days and obviously that's backed up with playing pretty well, both of us, as well.

We played pretty smart, and tomorrow we have to go do more of the same. It's a golf course that you really have to -- you have to drive the ball extremely well here to give yourself the opportunities. But then when you do drive it well, it does offer you a lot of good opportunities out there, which you can kind of see in the scoring.

But tomorrow's a new day, a different day, and we look forward to it.

**MODERATOR:** Obviously a different format, first time playing a team format at the AmFam Championship. What have you guys enjoyed most about playing with each other again here at this event?

**DARREN CLARKE:** We have had a great time. Thomas and I have been friends for a very

long time, played Ryder Cups together, played many tournaments together.

To be able to stand there and have 100 percent confidence in your partner is a wonderful thing. Thomas is a world-class player obviously. To be able to stand there, Thomas just mentioned the word "freedom." To be able to have that freedom with him hitting shots in there just sort of frees me up a little bit, maybe get a little bit more aggressive on the greens than I normally would be. So far it's worked.

It's been great to see so many people out here this week, it's appeared to have been really well supported. I think tomorrow with Tiz and Strick, I think there will be a lot of people out here tomorrow.

**Q. You guys talk about (inaudible) on 11, the second shot. It seemed like that was to propel (inaudible)?**

**THOMAS BJØRN:** Yeah, we got into -- we had a really nice position there in the fairway on a little bit of an upslope. It really invited us to hit driver for the second shot off the deck there. Sitting there in a nice upslope, we both hit beautiful golf shots from there.

It puts a smile on your face when you hit those kind of shots and then roll in the putt for eagle. It seemed like the round just kind of took off from there.

We holed some very good putts. It was just one of those things, and sometimes you need that. I wouldn't say we were going flat, but we were not quite getting the things out of the round like we did yesterday there in the middle of the round. All of a sudden something happens and it just kind of pushes you on.

In the end it seemed like the hole was the size of a bucket, and you get like that but you also know that a night's sleep, you can wake up and it can seem like very small tomorrow. That's the way golf goes. But today it was just one of those days where we needed that one thing to happen where we could -- where we could feel -- I think we both felt like when we hit that shot, we probably felt like we did when we were 28, hitting those kind of golf shots.

**DARREN CLARKE:** That's what we used to do.

**THOMAS BJØRN:** Yes. And that doesn't happen as often these days. It was nice, a nice moment for us, and it also turned into an eagle, which is always good.

**DARREN CLARKE:** Twenty-seven on the back nine was pretty good for us. On the front nine we weren't playing bad, we couldn't quite get the momentum that we got yesterday. Sometimes, especially in this sort of format, you're waiting for that little spark.

The driver that Thomas obviously hit off the deck there on 11, in close and then to hole it, and then Thomas holed a great putt on the next just to go on and stuff. That was a huge difference. The back nine was very kind to us today. Let's hope it is tomorrow.

**THOMAS BJØRN:** Yeah, I think in this format you've got to remember when you're out there, the leaderboards look different in this format. People go low very quick and they keep making birdies. If things are not really happening for you, if you start looking at the leaderboard, things go so quick up that board and you can get called out in these kind of formats. You've got to kind of stick to it and knowing that the holes, you know, you're not running out of holes.

That's how I felt on the golf course today. We had a lot of holes to go. If you are doing really well early on, we had a lot of holes to go and there was plenty of time to catch up with it, and in the end we just kind of -- everything just went our way on the last few holes.

**Q. You guys both have been putting very well this weekend. What was it like today going second to see the read, see how the putt was playing from that position?**

**THOMAS BJØRN:** Certainly puts some questions on your reading of the greens sometimes.

**DARREN CLARKE:** It's not always good to go first (Laughs.)

**THOMAS BJØRN:** I think it just kind of shows that we talk about a lot of things in the game of golf, putting especially. Reading greens is the biggest key to professional golfers. That's kind of what you have to go with. Those weeks where you're not putting very well is most often just because you don't see it on those greens. It's not so much down to the stroke or the strike, it really is down to the read.

Once you get this kind of format where you do see the reads, people are going to hole a lot of putts out here, and you see that in the scoring. This is not an easy golf course, and it's by no means what we play normally a short golf course, either, but the scoring is still extremely good just because people hole a lot more putts than they normally would because they see the read.

**Q. As well as you guys have been playing, has there been any point where you've felt you needed to change the order? I thought they said on TV you might have changed the order on the green around 11.**

**THOMAS BJØRN:** No, we didn't really change the order. Yesterday we went with a certain way of playing and we kind of agreed on that.

Today it was more we went with the order of who had hit the shot into the green hit the putt. That was kind of what we went with, because I think that's the normal -- that's the normal frame of mind. You hit the shot, as soon as the ball has landed on the green your mind goes to what am I facing. So let the guy that has that normal frame of mind, and then the guy that hasn't maybe hit such a good shot, he can then see the read and kind of get his head into it. That's what we went with today and that felt natural to us, but that could be different for other

guys.

**DARREN CLARKE:** Yeah, back to what we said yesterday, you don't want to overthink it too much. Just get up there and if you've hit a nice shot in, just go for it, try to roll it in, make a 3. And if you don't, you don't make a birdie, at least you're showing your partner the line. There was no real method to our madness, it was just turned out that way.

**Q. As for tomorrow, you mentioned Stricker and Mario, I mean this is their home course.**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Yeah.

**Q. Do you anticipate a little not like Ryder Cup-type enemy fire from the fans, but what's it going to be like tomorrow with this crowd?**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Oh, brilliant. We've spent our whole careers playing in front of people. It gives us the buzz, it gives us the excitement of the whole thing.

And rightly so, the guys are from here, it's their golf course. We're just going to go out and do our thing and try and play as well as we have the first two days and see where that takes us when we finish the last hole tomorrow.

**THOMAS BJØRN:** This is the friendly tour, we're way past all of that stuff that happened 20, 25 years ago. Those things don't happen anymore. This is the friendly tour. All us guys on this tour know each other very well. We go and enjoy our golf together, and we're going to have fun with those two guys tomorrow. There's a lot of other guys that could win this golf tournament as well.

**DARREN CLARKE:** Correct.

**THOMAS BJØRN:** They'll be quite happy I think the guys that are not in that last group seeing, OK, they'll let us four go out there and try and battle it out, but they'll be waiting right there to get their nose in there.

**DARREN CLARKE:** Exactly.

**Q. I was going to say, it looks like the four of you might like to have the beverage cart follow along?**

**DARREN CLARKE:** No, I don't know.

**THOMAS BJØRN:** We'll have a beverage afterwards.

**DARREN CLARKE:** Afterwards, together.

I'm really looking forward to it. It's really exciting to go out there with a chance to win any tournament, and then to go out there and have a chance to win tomorrow playing with Thomas in a team event, it's brilliant. That's what we practice for, that's what we play for. If it happens, great. If not, then so be it, we've done our best.

**MODERATOR:** Anything else? Thank you, gentlemen.