

**Zurich Classic of New Orleans  
English Turn Golf Course  
New Orleans, LA  
April 28, 2006**

**Second-round tournament quotes:**

### **AN INTERVIEW WITH IAN POULTER**

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Ian, for joining us for a few minute in the media center at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans. Another solid round out there, and a hiccup on 16 are.

IAN POULTER: I've hit it very, very nice the last couple of months. It's nice to go out there on this type of golf course and keep hitting shot inside 15 feet. That's what I've done for the last two days, and when you do that, you can have lot of chances. I've taken a few. I've missed a few, and we only had one hiccup on 16.

So, all in all, it's been a steady couple of days really.

THE MODERATOR: Questions, please.

Q. What exactly happened on 16?

IAN POULTER: Always start with the bad ones, don't we? Driver straight down the middle of the fairway, a 9 to four yards in front of the green, the wind off to the right, hit a sand iron, probably come out 4 yards short of landing in front of the green in the front bunker, did and up and down. Easy bogey really.

Q. Tell us about the good ones.

IAN POULTER: I just hit it real solid. There was a stat, which Paul, my manager, texted me last night, average approximately to the hole yesterday. I think I was 15 foot, one inch, which is pretty good. On average, I matched that every week in my golfing career. I think I would win pretty much most weeks.

I hit it really, really solid yesterday, and I done pretty much the same today. Just kept hitting it inside 15 feet, 20 feet, and I took a couple of chances. I'm just playing great.

Q. You just holed more putts today then?

IAN POULTER: I shot 4- or 5-under yesterday. I'm holing a couple of putts, but I'm certainly missing a few as well. I got to stay patient which I haven't done in the past. I have been getting a little frustrated on missing putts I should be holing. It's a good lesson to stay patient and just keep plugging way.

Q. Ian, any difference in the course today from yesterday?

IAN POULTER: No, the wind was a little bit more, was a little bit stronger out there today, 5 or 10 mile an hour. It was the other way. So a few of the holes played a little bit different. 18 was playing longer. And 17, the par-3, is a lot longer. Yes, it's nice to play in two different winds.

I actually didn't play the golf course until Thursday. This was my first round of golf. I stayed at home Tuesday in the house in Orlando. I decided to take Tuesday off. I was pretty tired after I got back after last week. I watched (inaudible) in the Champion league in the semi-finals. We're in the final, that's perfect.

I decided that to come out and play Wednesday morning would be fine. So that's what I did and, I landed the first thing Wednesday more, landed in a thunderstorm. I thought this is not the best of preparations really.

I walked the golf course late Wednesday afternoon when I realized I could actually play. I go out there and play fantastic. So it's funny. Funny things happened.

Q. You found a new way to train for a tournament?

IAN POULTER: I wouldn't want to do that every week. Once in a while is not too bad. To relax to stay at home and have an extra day at home with the family really.

Q. Why are you so worn out, did you go to China?

IAN POULTER: No, a few weeks on the road. I didn't get back in my house until a quarter to one at night, the flight was delayed Sunday night, you get up early Monday. I was pretty tired. I didn't want to get back on an early flight the first thing Tuesday morning, I'm so tired all day Tuesday. I had a rest, watched the football, and soccer, football.

Q. Just do it for us, okay.

IAN POULTER: Soccer.

Q. You said you were in a house in Orlando, it's not your house?

IAN POULTER: No, it's our house in Orlando, yes, I'm on Lake Nona.

Q. Was this the one you just completed building, a year and a half or two?

IAN POULTER: A year ago, just under a year ago.

Q. A big closet?

IAN POULTER: Not that big. Bigger home, England home.

Q. Ian, talk about your experience here so far in two years, well a year and a half playing over here.

IAN POULTER: It's been good fun. You know, it does take a little while to get used to out here. I feel pretty comfortable. I should, I played out here enough. I played enough tournaments around the world. I like it. There is a great bunch of guys. The field is always pretty strong. You know, it's strong every week with the scores. I think there is slightly better depth of.

Q. (Inaudible)?

IAN POULTER: The world rankings points certainly, over here, are a little bit bigger than back home than Europe. But it's also nice to go back home and play in the big events back home in Europe. A lot of the guys play both tours.

I think I'm trying to compete in the best fields every single week. That's how I try to take the game to another level.

Q. Are you getting impatient that you haven't made a big splash here?

IAN POULTER: Absolutely. It's frustrating especially when you are playing good golf. You know, you just got to get that little white ball in the hole sometimes. If it doesn't go in there, it gets a little bit frustrating. But patience is the key really, just stay patient.

Q. Yesterday when, you were in the score's tent, your caddy, he said it in somewhat gest said 67, you putted like Ray Charles, true or false?

IAN POULTER: I'm trying not to think like that right now. The last couple of months I have been a little bit negative. I've been talking about not putting that well. And if you talk about it too much, then you start to believe it and that is not good psychology. You know, tell yourself you're playing good. Tell yourself you are hitting good putts and just stay patient. It's a lesson from the best players. You've got to stay positive all the time, and that's what I've tried the last couple of weeks. I've worked hard on my putting. But it's one of those.

I am putting. When I look on video, last week and the week before, I've done some work on the camera, it just reassured me that I am putting fine. Sometimes you don't see the ball going in the hole, and you lip a few out on the left edge or right edge and it's level par when you've played great. Going back to that stat, average proximity to the hole, I've been in there the last few weeks. I've hit well enough to win these golf tournaments. It's just staying patient for it.

Q. Are you aware of the history here in New Orleans with a lot of foreign winners?

IAN POULTER: No, I'm not aware of that. I know Lee won it a few years ago.

Q. Woozy, Franco, South Africans have won here, KJ Choi won here.

IAN POULTER: I'm really comfortable with the golf course. When I walked around on Wednesday afternoon, you know I just felt very, very comfortable. My short game is on right now. And certainly when the greens aren't very big, you know, you are going to miss a couple of greens, hopefully not too many. When you, you feel on form with a lob-wedge in your hand, and you feel good from four feet. That's good and it helps you build your confidence.

Q. How have you been received by the galleries here?

IAN POULTER: Great, fantastic. Every single week I go out and play golf I'm having fun. That's the main thing to me, to be out here enjoying myself and everybody has taken to me pretty good.

Q. Any wisecracks about your --

IAN POULTER: Hair? Dress?

Q. Dress.

IAN POULTER: All the time. It's normal.

Q. All in good fun?

IAN POULTER: I love it. It's good fun.

Q. When they say nothing, you're in trouble?

IAN POULTER: Yes. Then I have to go back to the drawing board and rethink.

Q. What color did you wear it yesterday? He was very bland yesterday?

IAN POULTER: Navy blue trousers and a light blue top, it was really boring.

Q. How about the weekend you might layer it?

IAN POULTER: No, I'm not really in any contractual situations with any clothing company. I've got some stuff possible, my own clothing line, very, very shortly, which I've been designing. We might have some fun with that.

It's moving on and hopefully the sooner the better and, who knows, could light up the fairways a bit more.

Q. Ian, when you go out for three weeks, you play three in a row, how many wardrobes do you bring out?

IAN POULTER: I've been backwards and forwards to the house in Orlando. So I'll be dropping stuff off.

Q. What did you bring over this week?

IAN POULTER: I brought over a carry-on bag, the first time ever I walked onto the airplane and not put a baggage in the hole.

Q. That's news?

IAN POULTER: That's unbelievable. I showed Justin last night. I said you've got to see the size of my suitcase. It's ridiculous. It's the smallest suitcase I could find in my house. It was a suitcase that somebody gave to me. I never thought I would every use it. But I put in four pairs of trousers, four tee shirts, 4 pairs of boxer shorts, four pairs of socks, a pair of greens, three tee shirts, that was me done, toothbrush, happy days. I was on and off in no time.

Q. You ruined your reputation by admitting this?

IAN POULTER: I thought it was fun. To have another day at home and to walk on the airplane and throw your stuff in the hole at the top, that was awesome.

Q. What happens if you have to play Monday?

IAN POULTER: I'm stuck. If it goes into Monday, good point actually, I better put something in the dry cleaners.

Q. Something you said a minute ago made me wonder, if you could only play one TOUR, would it be easier to make the Ryder Cup playing over here or playing Europe?

IAN POULTER: I would say probably Europe.

Q. Based on money?

IAN POULTER: I would think on the Money List, yes, because you have to do it on the world rankings points over here, and I think to constantly finish Top-10 it's probably more difficult to finish Top-10 over here than it would be to finish Top-10 back home in Europe.

Q. More points?

IAN POULTER: Yes, more points but they dilute very quickly when you go Top-10 tied.

Q. Do you think we could see different makeups on both teams based on the play over in Europe and the change in the U.S.? I'm not sure you're aware of the change.

IAN POULTER: I haven't been looking too much. I'm not trying to get too involved in all of the point situations and stuff right now. I think the Americans should have -- I think, from looking from what do I know, they should have a stronger side, I would think in the way they've changed it a little bit, current form going into the Ryder Cup, obviously it's going to be a lot stronger for them.

Q. I guess we shall see.

IAN POULTER: We shall see.

Q. It usually makes no difference?

IAN POULTER: No, it hasn't in the past. We'll see. It will be an unbelievable atmosphere over at The K Club this year. It will be special. I think both sides would be out front.

Q. Would you be disappointed if you weren't there?

IAN POULTER: Yes.

Q. When do you start paying attention?

IAN POULTER: I'm paying attention, but it's not really the front of my mind. I'm trying to take along the nature, keep doing what I'm doing. I don't want to divert from that and get lost into the qualification stages for Ryder Cup and this and that and the other. I'm outside of the Top-50. I am aware of that. I want to get back inside of the Top-50 which opens up the right tournaments for me to play, which opens up a lot easier to get on the Ryder Cup side.

I think when you miss Augusta, and that was pretty hard to take this year, then it's difficult. Those types of golf tournaments, if do you play well in it, you run out that Ryder Cup pretty quickly. I'm pretty excited to try and get back in the Top-50 and just keep doing what I'm doing because certainly the way I'm playing I should be in the side.

Q. Where are you now?

IAN POULTER: 72, something like that.

Q. If you don't make it to Top-50 --

IAN POULTER: I'll make it.

Q. -- by the time, the end of May, which is the U.S. Open, you tend to qualify here, or go back and do the one in Britain?

IAN POULTER: I'm going to stick to the same schedule I've done, I've planned out since the start of the year. I think I'll be close on both sides. I'm not really going to change my schedule too much to try to favor one side than the other. I'm going to stick to what I've planned out to do right now. I'm going to play 15 or 16 events in America, and I will play a few more Europe.

Q. What do you mean, close on both sides?

IAN POULTER: Both sides of the qualifications on the Order of Merit position back home on the Money List and then obviously on the World Ranking points over here.

Q. If you weren't there, and you had to qualify, do you do the one in Britain?

IAN POULTER: Qualify for?

Q. U.S. Open?

IAN POULTER: I've put down to qualify over here in Ohio.

Q. For the Memorial?

IAN POULTER: Yes, after the Memorial.

Q. What would winning mean to you on this TOUR? You have had great success in Europe.

IAN POULTER: Yes.

Q. Winning just about every year since 2000?

IAN POULTER: Another step. When I said earlier I think the field is slightly stronger over here, it would mean another step. Winning six times back home is fantastic. I just want to keep winning and whatever I choose to play on, I think will certainly be a step forward. Winning the Volvo Masters a couple of years ago was a big, big win and a 5 year exemption. But to win on the PGA TOUR, it holds all merit.

THE MODERATOR: Let's go over your card.

Q. I'm just curious on one other thing, did you go to the meeting at La Costa this year?

IAN POULTER: Yes.

Q. What did you take away from there, the one with George?

IAN POULTER: I thought it was pretty positive. Everybody had a good chat about things. It's difficult especially with some many tournaments changing dates next year. Obviously there is a lot of international players which play both tours. It's difficult. It's very hard for the European Tour to make sure that they keep those guys playing as many tournaments as they do already. So I think they can adjust it pretty good.

THE MODERATOR: Let's go through your birdies and bogeys. You started on No. 1.

IAN POULTER: 1, hit pitching wedge to ten feet.

7, I hit a sand iron to 4 feet.

8, 8-iron to 12 feet.

11, chipped it to a couple of inches.

13, longest par hole of the week, that was probably 25 feet, 20 feet.

Bogey on 16, loads of missed chances.

Q. What's the wind doing on 13?

IAN POULTER: 13 is -- off the left. A 3-wood off the tee and hit it into the wide part of the fairway and left a 9-iron actually. Just a little 3-cut, 9-iron shot.

THE MODERATOR: Thanks, Ian.

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