

Hero Dubai Desert Classic

Friday, 17 January, 2025

Dubai, UAE

Majlis Course at Emirates Golf Club

Laurie Canter

Press Conference



A Rolex Series Event



Q. Eight birdies and two eagles in 36 holes is good golf around this demanding course. What have you done particularly well?

LAURIE CANTER: I think I've driven the ball well. The way the rough is, the way the greens are, you need to be able to hit the fairway a lot. I feel like I've hit a lot of fairways, and when I miss fairways, I've kind of maybe been in or around the semi rough or given myself a shot to the green.

So I'd say that's a really important thing to do and I'm doing it well so far.

Q. You've been doing some work with David Howell, one of our commentators on putting. He was renowned as a wonderful putter in his career. How is he helping you?

LAURIE CANTER: Basically, Phil Kenyon used to help me with my putting, who is the man in putting, really. He's kind of very much been in demand.

I asked Howler, he's a member of the same golf club of me. I felt like if I could pick his brains and how he thought about putting, if any of that rubbed off on me. I've always kind of had the mindset of I need to practise it, particularly enjoyed it. I've just asked questions about how he thinks, how I practise, just asked him loads of questions.

Yeah, I've tried to listen to it and I think we just want to have fun. I think it's his first time coaching someone, so he's probably learning a bit.

Yeah, it is rubbing off on me. I enjoy my practise sessions with him, and I'm enjoying putting at the moment. It's obviously gone well in the first two days. Last week was pretty steady, too.

Q. You mentioned last week. Team Cup last week. You won three points out of four. Was that big for your belief and your confidence and your ability to come in here and feel like you're on the front foot; you got a

burst of energy from that performance?

LAURIE CANTER: I just found it inspiring. Like I think it was really inspiring, and more so than I thought. I thought it might just be a couple of teams playing match play. But it was so much more than that. Like all the stuff we got from the legends and being around captains and hearing their kind of genuine experiences about you want to play in the Ryder Cup now.

Obviously the Team Cup is a version of that, where everyone is trying to get to grips with that process. I felt like it was massively inspiring and a privilege to be around some of the legends.

Yeah, I think I said last week, we do this so much that actually getting the chance to do that last week and being around those guys, I felt like I kind of fell back in love with the game in a way that I haven't maybe since I played amateur golf, just that whole head-to-head match play.

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