

# Team Cup

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Abu Dhabi, UAE

Abu Dhabi Golf Resort

## Great Britain & Ireland

### Aaron Rai

#### Quick Quotes

**Q. Aaron, it's the first time you've been involved in a team match play competition like this. Just how much are you looking forward to the week and how much have you already managed to get out of the few days that you've been here?**

AARON RAI: Yeah, really looking forward to the week. I think obviously it's a very different week to most weeks on tour.

I think it will present so many different challenges for me with not being in teams before. I've played in the Zurich Classic which has been a doubles event for the last few years, which has got kind of one step towards replicating this. But a very different week, and a nice challenge, I think personally, to figure out how I can still be part of the team but still play golf in the way that I normally try and play golf.

So I think full of learning for me so far over the last couple of days, and I think that's only going to continue over the next three days of competition. So yeah, really, really looking forward to it, and regardless of what happens in terms of results, I think I'll learn a lot of things from this week.

**Q. And not just what happens on the course but off it, the fact that you've got access to the vice captains and his support staff and guys that you can speak to, how much will that benefit, maybe not in the immediate term but coming forward in your career?**

AARON RAI: Yeah, definitely. I think as you touched on there, all of these things are great with the prospect of the Ryder Cup towards the end of the year. But I think these things are just great for every player's development, being part of a team atmosphere, for one, but having access to all of the players that are here this week and all of the legends that are here this week, both for Ryder Cup experience, but general experience, as well. The atmosphere is great.

# TEAM CUP



It's quite intimate, as well, because there's only 20 players and all the backroom staff. It's a unique setup, and I think there's more openness, as well. Even though obviously it's GB&I against Continental Europe, I think everyone is still overall trying to pull in the same direction and push one another on. So I think it's unique and it's really cool to be a part of it this week.

**Q. And how has Justin been as a captain so far?**

AARON RAI: He's been great. He's been great. Very warm. Very giving in terms of his time. I think very pragmatic in the decisions that he's made with even the pairings and how practise is going to look. Great in terms of communication, as well, over the last couple of weeks.

Yeah, he's been great.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports