

Interview – why did you decide to pursue a career in professional golf.

Interviewee's Name: Rhys Granger
Interviewers name: Terry Hawking
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Greatest Influences

+ Who would you say has had the biggest influence on your decision to pursue golf professionally?

Most probably my parents, they have always told me to follow my dreams, my dream was to play golf as a professional, thus the traineeship was the direction I decided to follow to reach this goal.

+ Was it there influence that made your decision for you?

Generally speaking it was my decision to follow my dream, but there influence defiantly helped and made my decision easier to make.

Timing

+ When did you decide that applying for your traineeship in 2009 was the correct time to do so?

Once I got my game to the level it needed to be to pass the playing requirements before application I decided It would be the right time to try.

+ Was there anyone whom influenced this decision, and if so who and to what degree did their influence impact the decision?

the decision was made easier by the advice I received from my coach and parents along with me who believed the time was right to apply seeing my game had reached the level needed to apply.

Decision Making

+ Did you feel like you made the correct decision to enter the trainee system the year following completion of year 12?

yes, although there was plenty of speculation that I was still too immature to do so I believe along with the support of family, friends and coaches, that the right time to apply was prior to the start of the 2009 season and thus applying for the year following high school completion.

+ Was your decision in your own words a smart one?

I believe I made the correct decision, I'll leave it up to one's own opinion as to whether they believe it was a smart decision but as I mentioned before I wouldn't have made the decision if the support from others wasn't there to do so.

+ In the short term and long term, do you think completing a PGA traineeship will give you the best possible opportunity to pursue a career in the game you ultimately love?

I believe so, if I thought otherwise I wouldn't have entered the traineeship in pursue of a golfing career as a touring player, the trainee system has so far and will continue to help me learn and understand and I believe make me a better overall player.

Leadership

+ Throughout the trainee system are there opportunities to enhance leadership qualities?

yes, most defiantly, through the ability to be able to work through the pro shop dealing with members and members of the public and to teach the game there are plenty of opportunities for one to explore leadership opportunities and qualities.

+ If so... do you feel these opportunities have helped in your ability to be seen as a leader around the golfing community?

yes, I believe I am a much better leader as the opportunities I have faced to date have allowed me to be more confident as a leader and has given me more of a leadership quality for members and public to utilize.

Trainee matches/competitions

+ What is the standard of golf as a trainee when compared to amateur golf?

the standard of golf is much better, no longer do guys win tournaments with average scores, great scores are posted each week, which is great as this sets the benchmark for your game to have to reach to be somewhat competitive.

+ Do you find it more challenging to play against and with these golfers?

yes and no, yes because the level and pressure placed on your game is much higher and the performance of your game counts on a weekly basis but no because these guys and girls out there playing are generally very nice people to play with and to get along with. I have made some of my best mates through these people so they mustn't be too bad.

+ What would you say is the biggest difference between professional golfers when compared to amateur golfers?

the overall professionalism of each individual from practicing pregame to the way others dress and present themselves, dramatically different to amateur golfers.

Roles around the club as a trainee

+ What do you believe is the biggest role you play as a trainee to the club that you work at?

as a trainee I believe the biggest role I play to the club is being an employee that is very helpful and useful, I believe my role is to offer a service to its members and guests in the most polite and appropriate way at all times.

+ What do you believe is the biggest role you play as a trainee to your employer in the pro shop

my role as a trainee to my employer is to help further and expand the businesses reputation and overall position amongst the local community by once again offering the best possible advice and service possible at all times.

Enjoyment

+ What is the most enjoyable thing about being in the trainee system?

being able to play golf professionally on a much higher scale, being able to play for more than pride and to be seen by others as elite in the game you love playing.

+ do you enjoy the more competitive side of competition now it is worth more than as an amateur?

yes, I love playing competitively, it brings the best out of me and plus if I want to pursue golf as a career I must be able to play to a high standard whilst being competitive.

+ Is the study and work side of the traineeship at all enjoyable?

its a lot of hours and hard work, but in the end its there for a reason, that it to further our knowledge about business and further our management skills, so I don't mind learning about these things as I have an interest in it.

+If so what is the most enjoyable part of it on an individual basis?

Most defiantly playing golf on a weekly basis at a competitive level, competing against high quality opposition and having the chance to go and play some outstanding courses and golf.

Ultimate Goals

+ Ultimately where would you like to see yourself 10 years down the track?

I ultimately would like to be playing on the USPGA tour, it's a long way away and plenty of things can happen along the way but ultimately I would like to be there on tour in 10 years time.

+ If you had the opportunity to play with anyone on the PGA tour to date who would it be and why?

Tiger, wouldn't anyone, his the worlds best and has been an icon for the game and an inspiration during my hole upbringing in the game, I would also like to play with Aaron Baddley as he was originally from Croydon golf club also and has a great support base from the club I am currently at and played all my junior golf at just like him.

