

KATHIE SHEARER: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Let's welcome the 2011 JBWere Masters champion, Ian Poulter.

IAN POULTER: Thank you.

KATHIE SHEARER: Ian, when you came in at the beginning of this week you said a win here will take you to 17th in the Order of Merit, and that's what you said you were looking for. Done.

IAN POULTER: Done, yes. A nice end to the year, to be honest. It's been a difficult year, but obviously now there's a couple of special highlights to the year, this being the second one. To come down here at the end of the year to play as well as I have played and to be the Aussie Masters champion is very special.

KATHIE SHEARER: Was it a difficult decision when they put the proposition to you to come down here and play at this time of the year?

IAN POULTER: I was always taking January off. So it worked in the schedule perfectly. The way the end of the year scheduling changed a little bit this year, it was nice to add it. I haven't been to Australia for a few years. I think the Johnny Walker was the last time I had come to play. So it was just great for me to come. I have played Royal Melbourne around the corner, but never Victoria. So it was an easy decision.

KATHIE SHEARER: Terrific. Questions, please.

QUESTION: Ian, it was billed as a bit of a match play situation between you and Geoff. How important was that tee shot at 1?

IAN POULTER: Crucial. Obviously I'm two behind, I'm teeing off first and I hit it to 15 feet. So it was a very timely tee shot. It played tricky today. The wind being

as strong as it was, 25 miles an hour, it was a difficult shot. I actually hit 5 wood. Geoff hit 3 iron and came up just short of the green, and obviously didn't up and down. It gave me an opportunity there to try and roll one in to be all tied with 17 to play. That definitely was a nice little boost.

QUESTION: Was this the most patient you have been during the whole week? You seemed very patient throughout the rest of the holes, really, just biding your time leaving almost no downhill putts.

IAN POULTER: I have been chilled all week, actually; obviously it might not have come across that way. But today was a day for patience. You had to hit shot after shot. There was no getting away with bad shots today. They would have been affected real bad. So I think it definitely helped me having that 25, 30-mile an hour wind. It definitely focused my mind. I pulled good shot after good shot off today.

QUESTION: I didn't hear it clearly on the coverage there, but I think you said you got a text from Justin Rose last night.

IAN POULTER: Yes, I was texting him about something else, and he just said, "Go and play well tomorrow and put that gold jacket in your wardrobe, the same one as mine." He won here a few years ago.

QUESTION: How does the gold jacket go in that wardrobe?

IAN POULTER: It's a great addition.

QUESTION: Ian, you found yourself in the fairway bunker a few times. You came out well and a few times you had to make up and down. When you are faced with difficult conditions and you are in that match play situation, how crucial was

that to stamp your approval?

IAN POULTER: I think when you are out of position, certainly you have to hole out exceptionally well, especially in the wind. That's what I did very, very well today. There was no let up. As soon as I did get in front, I didn't let Geoff get back in. When I was out of position slightly or I kind of rolled a putt a little bit too far past, I always made it coming back. I had him under pressure. To see 12 under par posted, I knew what I had to do, and that is to hole putts. I managed to do that. 16 was my friend all week. I managed to hole some nice putts on that green, and I rolled another 20 footer in there today.

QUESTION: Was there a moment where you thought you had Geoff's measure?

IAN POULTER: I don't know. You know, it's a tricky golf course. If my ball on 15 goes a foot further, you know what, it changes dramatically. I had 90 yards to the pin and I hit a tiny, little chippy 9 iron. 9 iron goes 145. I have chipped a 9 iron and it clung on to the back edge of the green. If it goes a bit further, then things change very, very quickly. Obviously when he hit his tee shot astray on 17, I felt very comfortable there. But I had a four-shot lead at that stage.

QUESTION: Ian, you have got a pretty good match play record, a good Ryder Cup record. Did you approach that today similar to a match play situation against Geoff?

IAN POULTER: I didn't really think of it as a straight up match play. Obviously there are other great players in this field, and obviously Marcus Fraser played exceptionally well to shoot 7 under today. Great score. So I just focused on my own game. I didn't really want to

get into a match play slugging match with Geoff; I just wanted to play golf. So I concentrated pretty hard on doing that and putting the ball in play and I guess putting Geoff under a little bit of pressure. For me to win this tournament at the end of the year in a Ryder Cup year puts world ranking points on the board for me, and that's very important to do that.

QUESTION: Awkward question, but can you quantify in some way or another what this ranking will do to you? You did say at the start of the week a lot hinged on this result.

IAN POULTER: It will move me 10 or 12 spots up the world ranking position. I haven't seen the posted numbers for the world rankings for this tournament yet. I will have a look tomorrow. But any win, whether it's in Asia, in Europe, in America moves you forward. That's how we work out how well we play during the year, is where you finish in the world rankings. It is the only way we can work out how well we have played or poorly we have played, take a look at the world ranking. They don't lie.

QUESTION: I mean in terms of the rewards for you personally.

IAN POULTER: I'm happy. I needed to play well this week.

QUESTION: Obviously a Ryder Cup year, majors, but with this title, if it is possible, would you like to defend it?

IAN POULTER: Sure, absolutely, if it fits in the schedule.

I haven't had a look at the back end of the year as yet. I haven't booked anything in the back end of the year as yet. I have kind of only done my schedule up until the US PGA. So I haven't even looked at what events are in what weeks. Europe swapped a couple of events around on us this year and they pushed the Race to Dubai a bit further back. I don't know what this goes up against but,

yes, I would love to come back and play. The sandbelt courses are fantastic.

QUESTION: Ian, what is on for Christmas? It's a nice little gift.

IAN POULTER: A great, big turkey.

QUESTION: Do you fly out for that turkey tonight or do you get to relax for a couple of days or straight into some time off?

IAN POULTER: I fly back tomorrow morning, I land Monday night and then on Wednesday or Thursday I'm flying down to Doral for a day. There is a junior tournament down there, and IJP Design have got a new junior collection coming out. So I will be down there seeing all the kids and giving IJP Design juniors a good plug before coming back up for Christmas.

QUESTION: With the greatest of respect, you are renowned as a fighter.

IAN POULTER: Not literally.

QUESTION: Does that sort of round sort of typify that?

IAN POULTER: For me, it was a pure ball striking round of golf. The last couple of holes I guess I lost a bit of concentration. I needed a lot of concentration on the 17th tee shot. That was the one that could have caught me. I hit it straight down the middle of the fairway, and then from there I guess my concentration went a bit. But it was flawless the whole day. I was very happy how I approached every shot. I hit my targets. It was fairly methodical, but for me it was a nice round of golf.

QUESTION: But that tag doesn't bug you? The fighter tag doesn't bug you?

IAN POULTER: I love being in contention. That's why I play

this game of golf. If you are down the field, there is no adrenaline, there is no excitement, there is no real interest. That's why I practice hard, to put myself in this position to enjoy the fact of being under pressure because you find out who you are.

QUESTION: Ian, I know you have been inside the top 10 in the world rankings before. What has been your highest ranking?

IAN POULTER: Five.

KATHIE SHEARER: Any more questions, ladies and gentlemen?

QUESTION: Where will you be watching the Arsenal-Man City game tonight?

IAN POULTER: What time is it going to be on?

QUESTION: 3 am Melbourne time.

IAN POULTER: So in about nine hours time. Yes, I'll still be up. Probably my hotel room, I would think.

KATHIE SHEARER: Thank you. We would like to thank Ian Poulter for coming down.

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