

COLUMN

Compleat Golfer's playing editor is South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen. Apart from providing regular instruction, his monthly column takes you into his world

Down to Business

When I received my July issue of *Compleat Golfer* and saw myself staring up from the cover with the words, 'I'm starting a whole new chapter', it made me do a sort of 'double-take'.

I mean, I have always been a golfer and my entire outlook from when I was at school was to make it in the difficult world of professional golf. Some kids want to be doctors, firemen, pilots, vets or lawyers, but you could have asked me since the year dot and I would have said, 'I want to be a professional golfer.'

Now these words - 'I'm starting a whole new chapter' - were there staring up at me and it shows me how my life

is changing, even though I'm still 'only' 33.

I've become involved in the business side of golf and there are lots of things going on. I've got my wines, my restaurant, my travel and various other projects. Watching them grow is always a good feeling. And the growth depends on how well I play; it affects the business side. The more I play well, the more other stuff picks up and it motivates me to play even better.

Now I've got the opportunity to get into golf course design with the Matkovich Group and that is a huge honour and an exciting advancement.

I've always said that if I didn't play golf, I'd be a struggling

farmer! Everyone knows about my love for the farm life - living on it, helping my dad and brother around the place, checking out all the new equipment and so on. I've always been a farm boy; I love the scenery and the kids love it too. I really enjoy the lifestyle that is associated with farming.

But, first and foremost, I'm a golfer. I always had a 'Plan A' and never a 'Plan B'. I am blessed to be able to say that golf has come together for me to be able to chase my goals and allow me to now have a 'Plan B', which includes expanding my business and helping build for the future for myself and my family.

What has also changed is that a lot of my spare time is spent looking at my emails and replying to them. Having never been a 'desk-bound' person and having a love for the outdoors, I'm now having to reply to those needing to talk to me about the business side of things and I must say it can be time-consuming, but it's also very exciting.

My priority now is to get back among the wins and there are a couple of important events and tournaments coming up. I'm looking forward to challenging for titles and making the most of this new 'energy' and direction I'm headed in! ☺



LINING UP A PUTT

On a pretty straight putt, inside edge, right edge, not outside the hole, anything inside eight feet, I look at the hole when I putt, not the ball. For something longer or trickier, I take my line and get into the position where I want to be before I putt. Then, line up, line up, and just before I putt I'll look at the hole and I'll make the stroke. I have more of a feel of it when I see the highest

point where the ball should be and that's my starting point. If it's a really slow putt I'll look a little beyond the hole to get my pace right. If it's a really fast putt I'll 'move the hole' a bit closer to me, so that the pace of the putt is spot on. Then just take a spot that you see your ball, at the highest point of the line, focus on that and try to make a good pace.