

A QUICK 18 WITH...

# HENRIK STENSON

The Ryder Cup star and Major winner on his American nickname, hitting a shank in front of Tiger and enjoying a family day out at Pebble Beach on Boxing Day...



## 1. Biggest achievement?

My 2016 Open win at [Royal] Troon after a great battle with Phil Mickelson. It was one of the best Major Sundays in history.

## 2. Biggest disappointment?

Missing the 2010 Ryder Cup having been involved in the previous two. It felt like someone was wearing my shirt.

## 3. Most embarrassing moment on the course?

Playing alongside Adam Scott and Tiger at Doral about five years ago. On the 2nd hole, I hit a shank with my gap wedge straight into a bush.

## 4. Best advice you've ever been given?

My first-ever coach, Richard Bayliss, said: "Chipping and putting is what you've got to practise." You can never be too good around the greens – it turns an average round into a good one.

## 5. Best advice you'd give to an amateur?

It's a lot easier to cut strokes on the green rather than trying to stiff a lot of 5-irons. In Pro-ams, I see a lot of poor green reading and pace is always a big issue, too.

## 6. Most extravagant purchase?

I've got a 33-foot boat in Sweden that's got a price tag of around \$300,000 on it.

## 7. Which course would you pay to play?

I actually paid for the family to play Pebble Beach last Boxing Day. We were holidaying on the west coast in an RV and that was one of the highlights.

## 8. What's the best thing about being a Tour pro?

I'm very fortunate that what started out as my hobby turned into my livelihood. Also, I think I've travelled more than many people would in four lifetimes.

## 9. And the worst?

The airport delays, lost luggage and being away from the family.

## 10. Is there a swing you're envious of?

How can anybody with my swing be envious of anybody else's! Adam Scott has got a prettier movement and motion, though mine has been pretty efficient in producing good ball-striking.



### IN PROFILE

◆ Stenson started playing golf at the age of 12. Six years later, he was off scratch.

◆ Lost around £5 million in 2009 when he was the victim of a "Ponzi" scheme.

◆ Holds the joint record for the lowest winning score (264) in a Major.

◆ Opened his first golf course, Oster by Stenson, in September 2019.

## 11. Who's the hardest worker on Tour?

Vijay Singh and Alex Noren, though I wouldn't be shy to put myself near the top of that list.

## 12. Nickname on Tour?

Robert Lee came up with 'Iceman' for me and in America, Henrik sometimes becomes

Hank... I suppose because it features three of the letters!

## 13. Tell us your best joke?

I want to die peacefully in my sleep like my grandfather, not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car...

## 14. Do you have any superstitions?

I don't like to see the No.4 on my golf balls. I only use them in practice.

## 15. Describe yourself in three words?

Focused, kind and driven.

## 16. Are you a fan of the Tour's slow play policy?

It's good. Something needed to be done. It would be nice to get down from five-and-a-half hours to five at least.

## 17. Do you have any regrets?

If there's one thing I could do over, I would focus more on the recovery/fitness side. I only started doing it in my early 30s. It's one of the more important things I've done for my longevity.

## 18. How much would it mean to play in a sixth Ryder Cup this year?

It's one of my main goals. I've played five and been part of the winning team three times, but they have all been in Europe. So I feel like there's one little box left to tick, being on a winning team on away soil.

### ROSE LADIES SERIES

Justin Rose and his wife, Kate, have sponsored a summer series of tournaments, specifically for British female pros. The duo have even contributed £35,000 towards the prize fund.

### EUROPEAN TOUR

Launched a 'Golf for Good' initiative, in which £500,000 will be handed out to charities chosen by the top-10 money winners during the 'UK Swing'. Each tournament venue will also receive £50,000 to be donated to charity.

### SAM HORSFIELD

The Englishman joined the 59 club with a 14-under-par round at Streamsong's Black course in Florida. His bogey-free round included two eagles and 10 birdies.

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### MAGNOLIA PARK

The Hotel and Golf Club in Buckinghamshire will close at the end of July, despite reporting in May that new members had joined. At least four golf clubs in Ireland have also shut down due to the impact of Covid-19.

### SHOTTS GOLF CLUB

The Scottish club suffered more than £1,000 worth of damage, just days before it was due to reopen, after five greens were cut up by jobs riding motocross bikes.

### EVIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

What would have been the first women's Major of the year in France has been cancelled for 2020, with officials blaming border restrictions.

