

# 'Tee' Time

IN CONVERSATION WITH MR. BENNY D'COSTA, GOLF PROFESSIONAL IN BOMBAY PRESIDENCY GOLF CLUB (BPGC), CHEMBUR REVEALS THAT BOMBAY PRESIDENCY GOLF CLUB SUCCESS STORY CONTRADICTS THE BELIEF THAT GOLF IS ELITIST AND A OLD MAN'S GAME.

**B**enny D'Costa is a golf professional and also a technician at BPGC. He married golf when he was 22 and his spirit is still up at 54. Benny's father was also a golf professional, and after him Benny carried the game forward. "I did play cricket, football, hockey but I feel golf is the most challenging one of all. The point of tolerance is just 0.5 inch that has to be hit with precision by club and the golf ball has to cover about 250, 450 or even 600 yards to reach the designated hole," shares Mr. D'Costa. He revealed that golf has gained its own share of popularity over time. "Between 60s and 70s, it was only 35 to 40 rounds a day played but today, the numbers have shot up to 120 a day," he elaborates. Aged 5 or 75, each one takes pleasure in playing the game as a professional or as an amateur. Schools and colleges do not have golf in their academics owing to space constraints and lack of expert faculty for proper guidance.

Golf course stretches to around 80 to 90 acres. Club restricted sport leaves our youth

unaware about it. BPGC did conduct a work shop in BARC schools so as to introduce and inculcate interest towards the sport among the rising generation. Six figure fees structure to pursue the game is quite expensive and far beyond the reach of middle income group. BPGC have started giving crash courses to the juniors with concessional fees so as to bring in more and more players. D'Costa basks on the fact that earlier they started with 15 juniors



and today the numbers to join has reached 70. Duration of course is completely upon person's aptitude and the amount of frequent practise. "You may not reach the full potential quickly if one fails to strike 1600-balls in four month," said Mr. D'Costa. One can't guarantee good shot, it just happens through regular practise. 'Sweet Spot' is what players call the target fondly. Just practising the sport is not enough. So as to be able to play the



game to it's fullest; one should work out to keep the core muscles strong and active. This is to keep the body muscles stable and in sync with the mind. Dedication and perseverance is equally important along with skill, mental and physical fitness.

Few sports are reviewed and some change in rules are brought about, so the same with golf. 18-2c rule, where previously, if a player's ball in play moved after he had touched or moved a loose impediment within one club length of the ball, the player was deemed, by Rule 18-2c, to have caused the ball to move (and he incurred a one stroke penalty and was required to replace the ball). With the removal of Rule 18-2c, it is a question of fact whether the player's actions caused his ball in play to move. New Decision 18-2a/30.5 was added to clarify that point is been dropped for that matter. "These changes are logical" he concludes.

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# IPL ke side effects!!!

Intro: "It came, we saw and hearts were conquered" if we say this about IPL it wont be wrong. Many cricket fans have still not come out of the IPL hangover, let's see what the young Mumbaikars think is the after effect of IPL.



Bollywood and Cricket always make news in India and the Indian Premier League (IPL) is a culmination of both of them. IPL was the Indian initiative that gave cricket a look of Club football. When Navjot Singh Sidhu compared test cricket with classical music, one-dayers with Hindi film songs and Twenty20 with remixes, God knows....what he believes IPL is like?

If Twenty20 is Bhelpuri, then IPL definitely added some extra masala to the flavour of T20 and these masala obviously are promotional songs, cheerleading babes and bollywood actors in the crowd. "After experiencing this entire glamour sudden switch to the one day looks so plain" says Tej Adarkar 16, a standard 10th student. If even small percentage of cricket fan believes so then it definitely means ICC will also have to take some steps towards it.

But now when the power packed entertainer has come to an end and the one day matches are back it seems, some where the interest of the fans is fading away, which is very evident from the dropped TRPs of the one dayers just after IPL. Prathamesh, a final year student of interior designing, whose exams ran parallel to the IPL even then he managed to watch all the matches now says "managing three hours a day was easy but now I really wonder how I was managing to see whole one day match before?"

Apart from viewer ship as far as endorsements and ads are concerned, Sameer Kapoor former PR of ESPN explain "T20 cricket format is giving tough time to the one day cricket". But as a cricket fan Sameer Kapoor says "Advent of new things never effects the older things but in fact it makes the older things more valuable and classic". This seems really true as the advent of one day game made test matches a classic look.

Sagar Tanna a die hard cricket fan says "This is all about money. The more money will be invested the better game it will be as it will attract more good and famous players from around the world. People naturally are attracted by star players". That's the reason behind failure of IPL's toughest competitor ICL which was evidently not that strong economically to IPL.

Comparison and criticism is something that IPL was facing, since it was idolised. But the success of the matches has undoubtedly not only silenced all the criticism and comparisons but also made more fans following and the rest as we say is history.

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