

BY SULAIMAN AZMIL

FUNNY SIDE OF GOLF

THIS KUALA LUMPUR-BASED LAWYER-COMEDIAN IS AN ARDENT FAN OF GOLF BUT VIEWS IT AS A SPORT THAT DISCRIMINATES AGAINST UNDER-ACHIEVERS

When you over-achieve on a golf course, for example, when for a particular hole you get one under par, it's called a birdie; two-under is an eagle; and three-under is an albatross.

Only the legend and Jedi Master among golfers, the late Kim Jong Il, would have had the ability, nous and publicity machine to score a four-under, namely a hole-in-one for a par five!

By comparison, when you under-achieve, that is when you score one over par or worse, the corresponding reference is a bogey, double-bogey and triple-bogey respectively.

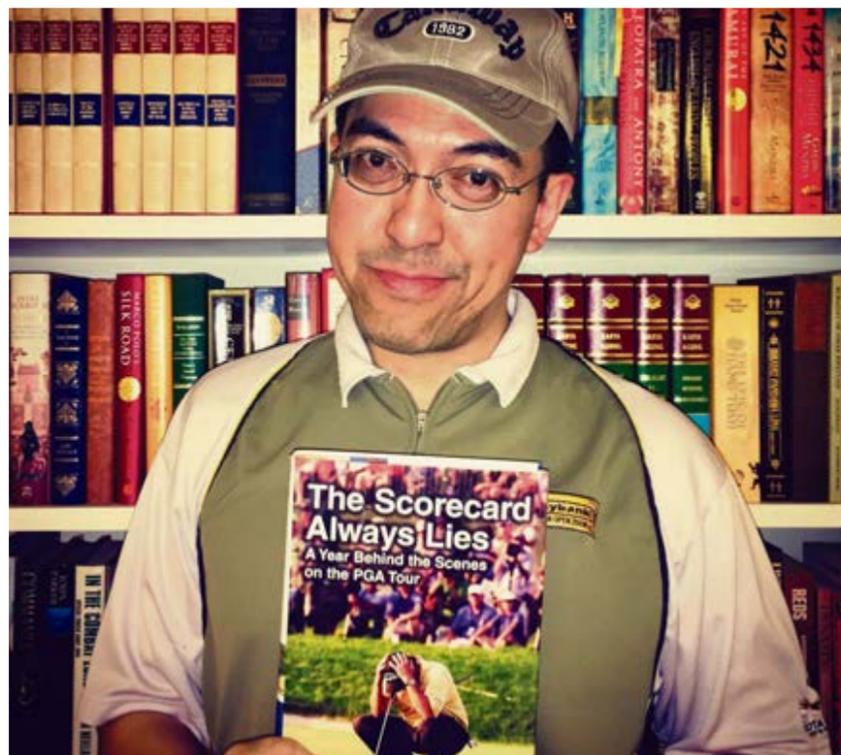
Isn't it time to start assigning different names to the various bogeys? Why is there this discrimination? Surely it's time to put an end to that.

Treat over achievers and under achievers equally. Retain the term bogey for one over par, but designate a two-over par as a "tragedy", a three-over, a "catastrophe".

My most memorable moment in golf was sometime in the late 90s when I played at the Braemar Golf Club (UK's highest golf course) in the Grampian highlands in Scotland.

It was mid-autumn. So blustery were the winds that day that even where there was less than 90 yards to a flagstick, I left my wedge in the bag and instead pulled out a four-iron to play a low approach shot, under the wind, with the hope that my Titliest ball would not be too averse to the idea of hopping and skipping its way on the hardened fairway onto the green.

Through the round, I found himself mired in situations that I had not



previously encountered. Never before or since did I have to consult, with so much regularity and meticulousness, the Rules of the Ancient Game.

Some of the less invoked rules, not least, Rule 25-1 on Abnormal Ground

Conditions due to burrowing animals, finally made sense!

But the cherry on top was the conversation I had with an elderly Scottish gentleman whom I had met later in the day as he trudged back to his car, golf bag

in tow and a scorecard which recorded a less than salubrious 124 peeking out from his trousers' rear pocket.

He was delighted to meet a Malaysian who came all the way to Braemar for a round of golf and proceeded to regale me with some humorous anecdotes from his golfing history.

In the course of the conversation, it was inevitable that we touched on how there was such a connection between Malaysia and Britain given Malaysia's colonial past.

With a nod and a wink, and with much sagely wisdom, he wrapped his burly arm over my shoulder and said, in that distinct Scottish burr, "Well lad, unlike us Scots, at least you've got yer Independence!"

● Catch him, together with Kavin Jay, Fakkah Fuzz and Samuel See, at Magnier's International Comedy Festival's "Singapore v Malaysia" show on March 10 at Get Juiced, Clarke Quay, 8pm.

Sulaiman plays (not often enough) with a 10-degree Callaway Big Bertha 460, a Pro-Select 7-wood, steel-shafted Mizuno T-Zoid Comp CTs, a 60-degree MacGregor finishing wedge and an ageless Dunlop putter (which he had paid three pounds for at a car boot sale in the outskirts of Hampshire).

RADIO DEEJAYS LOVING GOLF

At SPH Radio's OneFM 91.3 morning show, the effervescent Glenn Ong and executive producer-presenter Andre Hoeden often trade barbs to the sound of early morning traffic.

Listeners from across the island often hear them, together with the redoubtable Flying Dutchman and youthful exuberance of Catherine Robert talk shop on any topic from aunties selling tissues to the difference between a hot and cold dog.

This April, they will entertain the listening public with something more leisurely and, as in the case of Ong and Hoeden, closer to the heart – golf.

Avid golfers who have professed to

teeing off whenever they can, both presenters can now rattle on about the sport they love most, and in particular, about the SPH Golf Travel Fair.

Slated to be held over the weekend of April 6-8, 2018 at the centre atrium of Marina Square Shopping Mall, the free access SPH Golf Travel Fair will bring together golf clubs and tourism boards from across the region to offer the best deals in golf travel at one place.

With UOB Travel as the official travel agent, the visiting public can check out and book their deals at these award winning golfing destinations

with ease and convenience.

There will be a live broadcast during the event and Hoeden, in particular, will be live on stage throughout the three-day fair, hosting shows, sharing deals and generally building a rapport with fellow golf lovers.

"I just love the game and the bond that golfers share, it'll be a fun three days for me and I'm sure, for the golf fans coming to the fair," he said.

● Listen out for OneFM 91.3 as well as sister station Kiss 92FM for announcements throughout the run-up to the event and OneFM during the three-day fair.



Glenn Ong and Andre Hoeden playing their favourite game.