

STEPHEN AMES

63 (-9)

How was your day today?

Today was a great day. I hit the ball very nicely and capitalized with my putting, which is very nice.

This must be a pretty nice way to open the year.

Yeah, slightly. The first hole, I made birdie, so I was like, this is nice. As the day went along it was solid. I think I can recall maybe two bad drives that I hit all day, which were my two bad shots for the day. So I think I'm going to be very happy with the round. The main thing I worked on all week was putting and I putted extremely well today.

Last year at the Chubb Classic you opened with the same score and eventually finished T6. Do you have memories of that round?

No, different golf course completely. This is much tougher than Chubb and I guess starting the year off like that is nice. I guess the main thing is the fact that I took time off – two-and-a-half months, basically – and the things we were working on last year with my new coach, and heading into this week. We've been talking on the phone and doing a lot of filming and watching it and he was like, 'It's spot on, it's not very far off,' and it showed. I hit some really nice shots, some quality golf shots, which for this time of year, I never do. So I'm quite happy with the way things have started today.

Seems like you're enjoying Morocco?

I am enjoying Morocco. As we know, it's all those spices we're eating (laughter). The food here is fantastic and I feel very much at home eating all of this. And of course we're being hosted extremely well here in Morocco. They're very hospitable people and we're enjoying each other's companies, which is nice.