

The 19th Hole with...

Andrew Wilson

Director of Golf, Bethpage (N.Y.) State Park



We just got done playing 18, drinks are on me. What are you having? I'm partial to a pint of Guinness.



You have a degree in English, so I'm curious — what's your favorite book? I have a fondness for old Ernest Hemingway books and 20th Century American writers. Charles Bukowski is also a favorite. He was a down and dirty writer, a life you like reading about, but not one you'd want to live.

What's your girlfriend think of your job? Britany's very understanding about the hours. Thank God she has patience. She looks forward to the fall and winter when we can spend more time together — and so do I!

What's your coolest celebrity encounter? I've been fortunate enough to travel to London twice. One of my favorite bands is the Clash. On two separate trips to London, I met Mick Jones, the lead singer, both times. We went to this little pub where they used to play gigs at when they were first starting out 25 or 30 years ago. He happened to be there the first time. We went back a year-and-a-half later, and he was there again.

So what's Mick Jones like? He was really cool. He's a long way from his punk rock days. He was wearing a blue blazer, and dressed like an English gentleman. He was affable, polite, gregarious, everything.

What's your favorite way to waste a day? While most of the planet wants to go to the golf course, I'd rather go to the city and see what it has to offer. I'm a downtown person, I like going to SoHo, Chinatown and East Village.

What's your favorite thing about your car? I have a little Honda. It starts every time, it's old reliable. I even have a Honda home lawn mower, and this spring, it started up on the first pull. So I'm sticking with Honda.

What's the best Steve Buscemi character? I have to go with Mr. Pink from "Reservoir Dogs." It put him on the map as the strange guy. He was good in "Fargo," but that one didn't end so well for him.

Of the 90 holes at Bethpage Park, what's your favorite? That's a tough one...No. 4 on the Black. When you get to the green on No. 3, it's hard to deny that the 4th hole on the Black is an awesome par 5 in front of you.

I also like just standing on the putting green. We have a lot of different languages being spoken out there... it's cool to see how the game has grown that way.

As interviewed by Seth Jones,
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