

LGA Beijing – Interview with David Leadbetter

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1. What is the benefit of Leadbetter golf instruction?

I have always believed in a holistic approach to teaching golf that covers technique, mental training, on-course strategy and physical movement. My philosophy hasn't changed much over the years, I have always believed golfers are athletes first and taught the correct use of the body to lead the golf swing. The A-Swing, which I spent years researching and developing, takes that a step further and provides a clear, simple approach on how to synchronize the body with the arms and club. There is a lot of instruction available these days, most of it contradictory and confusing. At the Leadbetter Golf Academy we keep things simple and give every golfer a clear plan for their development.

2. Is it true that the A-Swing does more to help amateurs or beginners, rather than the experienced golfers?

It is certainly true that the A Swing cures most of the common swing faults we see in amateurs and in a short amount of time. Using the A Swing we can get a mid or high handicap golfer to cure their slice and start hitting a draw just by simplifying their swing and getting their body and arms to work in sync. That's really the key to the A Swing and why it works for every level of player. We have proven results from Tour players, right the way down to complete beginners. The A Swing is a new approach to teaching rather than a method so there are personal variances that allow every level of player to benefit, regardless of their age or ability.

3. Why did you choose to open an Academy at the Bay Club in Beijing?

We've had a lot of success at our Leadbetter Golf Academies in Shenzhen and have been looking to expand to other areas in China where we feel our coaching can make a difference. There is a lot of potential in Beijing and The Bay Club provides the ideal location with a mix of indoor and outdoor practice areas, and the latest technology including RG simulators. We are lucky to have a great partner in Zhu Rong Xing. He's very ambitious and we share a common goal of wanting to develop the next generation of talented young golfers from Beijing.

4. What advice would you give to young golfers and their parents?

The most important thing to do is learn the basic fundamentals skills at an early age. That's what our coaches at LGA Beijing do so well. They make sure juniors have a solid foundation to build on. Golf should be fun so we encourage parents to be supportive but not put too much pressure on their children. Only a very small number can become professional Tour players but they can all learn important lessons in life from golf.

5. What are the different coaching programs available at LGA Beijing?

We offer programs to suit every level of golfer, old or young, male or female, from aspiring Tour players to complete beginners. We start at a very young age with our Leadbetter Kids program, which teaches golf, fitness and life skills. We hope to encourage a lot of children to start playing golf. From there children enter our Junior Leadbetter Coaching programs available at LGA Beijing, which will include a series of junior tournaments. LGA Beijing also offers a direct link to our full-time Leadbetter Junior Academy in Orlando, Florida where we help players turn professional or attend US colleges.