

Mr Gary Richard de Bracey

Name: Gary Richard de Bracey
Address: T2-08-05
The Marina View Resort
Permas Jaya
Johor Bahru
Mobile: +60 10 2326937
Date of birth: 26th September 1987
Citizenship: South African
Email: gaz2pro@gmail.com
Marital Status: Partner – Wang Juan
Home Language: English



High School

I attended Maragon Private School, where I was selected a prefect. At school, I participated in tennis, hockey and athletics.

I attained my Matric certificate in 2005 from Maragon.

Golf Experience

At the age of 13, I was introduced to golf training as an extra-curricular activity being coached by Paul Roeloffse.

With this coaching, my handicap dropped from a 24 to a 7 within the year. I joined the Roodepoort Golf Club as a junior member, I got selected to in the junior league team.

Gary Player School for Champions

After finishing school I attend the Gary Player Golf School for Champions at the World of Golf in Johannesburg, as they accepted my application and selected me as one of their students.

I attended the Gary Player Golf School for the next three and a half years where I was 'schooled' in all aspects of the game of golf.

I was taught by golfing professionals Richard Kaplan, Neville Sunderland and Lloyd Caister who made use of the latest technology to assess and instruct me with my golf swing.

Program at the school:

- We had to complete Fitness training as part of our course. The gym is affiliated with the Titleist Performance Institute where we received our gym programs. We had an assessment done every three months, to measure our golf fitness progress.
- We had to attend lectures where we were taught how to address an audience and make speeches, for example, a 'winning speech'. These lectures were there to help us address our nervous habits when public speaking and to make us more confident in the public eye.
- At the school, we attended classes in 'golf' psychology given by Deon van Zyl. He lectured us as a class and individually in getting prepared for golf tournaments and on how to manage ourselves during the round of golf.
- Twice each week we played at various courses where the coaches gave on-course instruction and assessed our performance on the golf course. After these games, we were guided to address some of the weaker aspects of our game that our coaches picked up on during the round of golf.

Private Coaching

In the July of 2009, I left the Gary Player School of Champions to be individually coached by Deon Barkhuisen. I was coached by Deon for the next three years. During this time I had extensive swing coaching twice weekly.

I made use of a golf psychologist Theo Bezuidenhout, who took over from Dean Van Zyl whilst I was still at the Gary Player Golf School. I went to Theo monthly for a one on one assessment. Theo would follow me for 9 holes at tournaments and then give me feedback on my mental approach to that round. We also had a one on one 9 hole playing lesson, where we discussed all mental aspect during a round.

The last golf coach that I trained under was Scott Gillespie who worked on the psychological and mechanical aspects of my game. I later worked with Meg Willows, a psychologist who is coaching me on the mental state through neurofeedback.

Pro Tour

In January 2010 I joined the IGT tour in South Africa where tournament golf games were arranged and we played 72 Hole competition golf with a cut after 36 holes.

At these IGT tournaments, I had mixed results and one win at IGT Event at Blue Valley golf club with a total score of three under par.

The IGT tour started the IGT Pro Challenge tour and I joined, thus signing away my amateur status.

The format was the same except touring professionals were allowed to play in some of the tournaments which made the field much stronger. I played well on the tour and had some satisfactory results. In November I decided to go to 'Q school' for a Sunshine tour card. At 'Q school' gained the rights to play in selected events on the Big Easy Tour as well as some Sunshine tour events. Over 4 years I gained a great deal of professional tournament experience on tour and realized where I needed to apply my focus to moving ahead. I looked within myself and decided to join the PGA and start my apprenticeship.

Personal Strengths, skills, abilities and qualities.

I am a Christian person and have good morals and beliefs. I am a well organised, loyal and honest person who works with integrity and pride. I am always on time and present myself neatly. I always do my utmost best to every task I receive and enjoy challenges. I have good computer skills working with Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher and the Golf Management software JONAS and INTOUCH as well as good working knowledge of the internet.

I have gained a great deal of confidence from all tournaments and tours I have competed in and also gained great experience with interacting with people and players. I have very good conversational skills and work well in a team situation. I am very adaptable and helpful and able to deal with problems that arise by finding solutions. I have gained knowledge of how to handle myself in difficult situations.

I'm a quick learner, and always do research into something that interests me which I want to further my knowledge and understanding of.

Work experience & Career path

2012 – 2014: Houghton Golf Club & PGA SA Studdies

I started working at Houghton at the end of 2012 in the pro shop as an assistant to Richard Kaplan. Richard encouraged me to start my PGA course, which he mentored me for the next two years. I was employed by the Houghton Golf Club and assigned to the pro shop. My duties included checking players in, taking bookings, and cashing up at the end of the day. I learnt a lot about merchandising and sales within the pro shop, taking stock and helping with a display of all golfing goods and apparel. I have also been able to learn a lot regarding the general management and operation of the pro shop and golf club as a whole. I assisted Richard with coaching the club's league teams to which we got great success. I was promoted to golf operations after one year. I worked alone for 3 months performing the below duties before management employed a new golf director Mr Hein Papensus. During this time I excelled at developing skills, solving problems and time management. Hein left Houghton and Scott Gillespie was employed as the new director of golf. I only worked with Scott for a few months, but in that time I learnt vital management skills. I ran a monthly junior tournament for all members once a month, this is to get juniors playing competitive rounds and hopefully build a strong junior section that can compete in the league.

2015 - 2018: Eagle Canyon Golf Links

At Eagle Canyon, I was the Assistant Director of Golf to David Christie. I started working at Eagle Canyon in February 2015. In 2015 I also graduated from the PGA South Africa

My duties were focus on customer experience and coaching ensuring the golfer receives professional services from all touch points:

- Welcome and check-in experience
- Coaching
 - Coaching (Club fittings and on-course coaching to all members)
 - Head coach and manager for all the club's league teams
- Pro shop management

During my time at Eagle Canyon I working closely with Hendrik Berman and Martin du Toit who ran the driving range and set up an elite junior golf academy. I also focused on furthering my PGA studdies to become an AA Professional

Current - OGolf Academy, Malaysia

I started working at OGolf in October 2018 as Head Professional along side Jean Daniels. I am currently heading up the Junior development academy and Elite academy working with kids from the age of 6 and up. Designing junior and elite training programs, overseeing curriculum design, coaching methodology, talent identification, and tournament preparation. Work daily with youth golfers, mentoring players through long-term athletic development into elite competitors earning national and international achievements. The Academy has well over 60 juniors which I manage from beginner to Elite level.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead all junior coaching programs, including beginner pathways, elite squads, and tournament preparation.
- Short-game specialist responsible for performance development and on-course coaching.
- Seasonal planning, progress tracking, and individualized development plans for elite players.
- Coaching parents on communication, competition planning, and mental training for kids.
- Collaborated with PGA of South Africa to launch the PGA apprentice pathway in Malaysia
- Successfully mentoring three students through the PGA SA Apprentice Program, guiding them to PGA certification.

Coaching Highlights & Achievements

Coached multiple juniors from beginner level to elite competitive level, many achieving national tournament wins and WAGR (World Amateur Golf Ranking) status.

- Wang Enxi – Joined at age 8; now one of Malaysia's most dominant junior golfers, winning the majority of tournaments entered and earning WAGR recognition
- Ben Toh – Developed from age 9 beginner into elite tournament player; multiple-time champion, WAGR-ranked, and selected for the National Sukma Team
- Ng Winnei – Guided from elite junior to U.S College. Now playing professionally
- Ashley Goh & Hayden Hah – Coached during their elite junior years; both earned U.S. college golf placements (Ashley recently graduated; Hayden currently competing in the U.S.)
- Developed rising junior talents such as Wang Yunzhi (multiple podium finishes, progressing toward WAGR), Ng Zhen Ting, Jami Kim, and others.
- Selected as a coach for the Malaysia Junior National Team (2023), supporting the country's top junior golfers
- Built a coaching team and structured junior pathway that significantly expanded academy success, tournament results, and competitive participation.

Qualifications

PGA Member:

I qualified as a PGA Professional in March 2016. I am currently an AAA Class Professional.

First Aid:

I have recently qualified as a level 1 first aider

Rules of Golf:

I am a qualified level 3 Rules official which I completed through the R&A

I have officiated for GolfRSA Junior Tournaments as a Rules Official.

BMI (Business Management Institute):

I have recently joined CMASA (Club Management association of South Africa) in completing BMI Level 1 certification "Leadership Principle" and level 2 " Club Management".

Career path

I have always been interested in the game of golf and the allied industries associated with the game. I will continue to learn and apply myself to the coaching and educating of golf. I believe that I have the attributes of being a leader, problem-solving, good time management, able to work smarter not necessarily harder and learning from past mistakes. These are high standards I believe are the foundations for success. I have continuously worked on my own PGA studies and recently got upgraded to an AAA- Class Professional. At the moment I am doing online studies to get TPI level 1 certified.

Goals:

- Long-Term:
 - Continue to develop my own golf game and fitness.
 - Run my own Golf Coaching academy.
- Medium Term:
 - Apply my coaching experience and knowledge to grow junior development and elite golfers.
- Short Term:
 - Continue to grow the junior beginner golf Program, introducing SNAG, PLAYBALL and junior fitness
 - Mentoring young Professionals through the PGA Apprentice Program.

References:

Jean Daniels	-	+60 11 231 6179	jeandaniel@gmail.com
David Christie	-	083 296 4232	dave@echoa.co.za
Richard Kaplan	-	082 990 7226	kappy@houghton.co.za
Hein Papensus	-	+27 72 224 2456	etm@pga.co.za
Martin du Toit	-	+1(737) 326-2077	