

*Lula Witzescher: After your (disappointing) first season as a professional, you described your main goals for the next year as winning more matches and ultimately staying on the tour. How do you judge the current season with respect to these goals at the moment?*

Sean O'Sullivan: Obviously staying on the tour was a realistic ambition for this season but at the moment it's looking tough from the position I'm in. An amazing run in the world championships could save me, or, if not, then it's back to Q school to try and get back on the tour and bounce back.

*LW: Which parts of your game do you think you have to improve upon the most?*

Sean: My safety has certainly improved over the course of the last couple of seasons. I think my all round game has improved also. My fitness as well has been a helping factor as I have starting to go to the gym on a regular basis and feel much better for it when at tournaments.

*LW: You had two very different matches last week. The first was your 4:3 first round defeat at the Gdynia Open against Alan McManus, after which you said: "Should have won 4-2, didn't take my chance and was punished for it." The other one was the 1. QualiRd. match for the China Open against Tian Pengfei, which you lost 0:5. Afterwards, you said, it was frustrating because you were playing well at the moment. But Tian played so well, you didn't have a chance. Which scenario is more difficult to deal with: not taking the chances you have or not having any? How do you deal with frustration and disappointment?*

Sean: It depends which way you look at things. Some say that knowing you've had your chance in a match and not taking it is much easier to deal with, because at least you knew your chance was there for the taking and it can keep your mind at ease. Others perhaps would say well I'd rather know that I did nothing wrong and the other guy just played great snooker. Either way, to me, it's going to be disappointing because it's a loss. However I think that the first scenario, knowing I had my chance is easier to deal with, in my opinion. Simply because you knew you had your chance to win and that's all you really want from any match. Compared to the pengfei match where Tian really did play some brilliant snooker and I could do nothing about it. The 6th frame against Alan, I was in the balls and had a black on its spot, just running it round off two cushions to get on the next red, but I had little margin for error to get on the red so I took my eye off the pot, being greedy as I like to say, in pinching the pocket to get better position, when, looking back I would have just made sure of the pot and if I don't get on the red then at least I know I could then play safe from it. Schoolboy error as they say! That all comes with experience, and I know that I'll learn a lot from that one shot, never mind the match!

*LW: How much time do you spend for snooker? (Including practice, competitions, travel, communication etc)?*

Sean: Snooker takes up a lot of time. You don't get much time to chill out or relax and you are always travelling or on the move. However, it's something I always wanted to do, and with the way the tour is structured now, people like myself have a great opportunity. I practice near enough every day but I'm lucky that I enjoy practicing.

*LW: Do you (think you) have the perspective of a fulltime snooker job (to make a living)? Who does support you the most (as a snookerplayer and/or as a person)?*

Sean: Well at the moment I wouldn't say I'm really making a living out of it. I'm lucky that I have my sponsor to help me or else I probably wouldn't be able to fund being on the tour as it's very expensive. My biggest support, of course, are my parents. Without them I wouldn't have made it this far and I'm lucky and grateful to have such loving parents who have done amazing things just to help my snooker career since a young age. My friends and other family members are all great as well and I appreciate all the backing I get from them.

*LW: On Twitter, we can see that you also play darts. On which level do you play? Is it just a hobby?*

Sean: The darts are just a hobby. I do play to quite a decent standard in a banks league in the city

and east London. I've had an 11 darter which is my best finish and a month or two ago missed treble 19 on a 9 darter!

*LW: At which occasions do you listen to music? What kind of music do you like? Are the lyrics important for you or do you just listen to the music?*

Sean: I love listening to music! There's always music on in my house, whether it be from the radio playing in the background or from my phone. I listen to a very wide range of music. Obviously I listen to all of the latest stuff that's out now like drake, eminem, Rihanna, Ben Howard, Ed Sheeran and many more but I also listen to old music like Elvis and Bob Dylan. Also, yes I like to find a song to listen to with good lyrics which have a deeper meaning and try to use them in a positive way.

*LW: Have you ever cried because of Arsenal? (If you know Nick Hornby's "Fever Pitch": Do you see similarities between the protagonist and yourself?)*

Sean: Haha yes I can admit to having cried watching arsenal at one stage in my life, but it was only ever the once. The 2006 champions league final against Barcelona. We've gone down to 10 men early on when Jens Lehmann was sent off for fouling Samuel Eto'o and denying a clear goal scoring opportunity. However we then scored an unlikely goal from a free kick in the first half when Sol Campbell scored a great header. So then I'm actually starting to believe we could do the unthinkable in beating Barça in the final! Second half came along and my heart and millions around the world were broken when Beletti scored the winner for Barça after Eto'o had equalised with 14 minutes to play. It still hurts today as a massive arsenal fan as it's the closest we've ever been to winning the biggest club football competition in the world! Please remember I was only 12 years of age so you can understand me crying haha!

Thank you for the questions, they were very good!