

Last word

Losing it

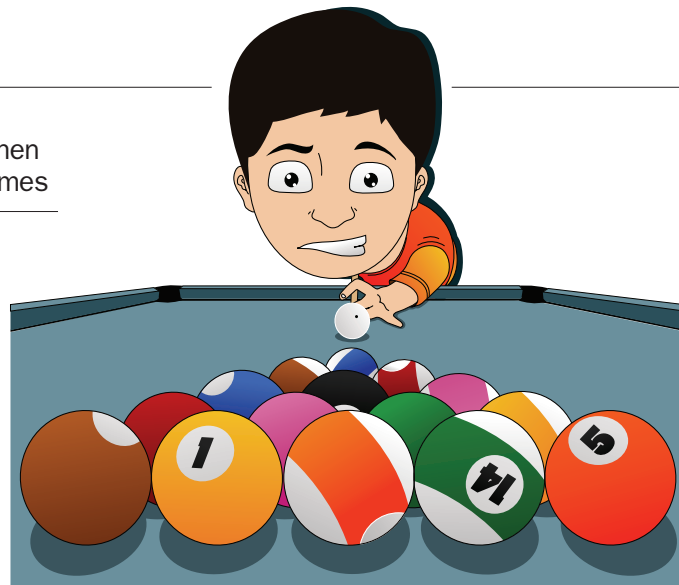
Rob Garratt realises that in Dubai, he's a bit of a loser when it comes to competitive pastimes

It recently dawned on me that I'm rubbish at everything. Well, not everything: I pride myself on my work, I cook a mean risotto, and I like to think I'm a pretty good friend. But anything that involves a whiff of competition – count me out.

My epiphany (that I'm rubbish) came following three torturous stabs to my otherwise healthy ego: a triptych of shame, each blow sustained under the gloating eyes of my colleagues. The first: to break up the excitement of the working week, a group of *Time Out* staff hit the slopes at Ski Dubai. While there were a couple of seasoned pros in the group, I wasn't too intimidated, largely because there were also plenty of other first-timers. Nonetheless, of all of us, it was I who resembled a tree being felled, teetering nervously for a few moments before slamming to the snowy floor.

Despite possessing a better-than average flair for darts, I finished last in the league

Eager to redeem my embarrassment, I was the first to volunteer for a team outing to Dubai Kartdrome. Unlike snowboarding, I'm well-versed behind the wheel and I was pretty confident I could handle a go-kart (child's play compared to a real car, surely?). However, I was at the back of the starting grid, and when the lights went green my co-racers sped off into the distance, leaving me tooting along behind.



So far, so lame, but the final straw was the round of bar games – which I organised. As *Time Out's* music and nightlife editor, I'm known for frequenting more than my fair share of bars (yes, sometimes alone). But somehow, despite possessing a

a penalty shootout competition (yes, it was in 1997 – time to let go). And I distinctly remember beating a date at pool in 2007 (a show of machismo which, unsurprisingly, didn't go down so well).

Okay, I hear you, there's a clear pattern emerging here. I just never noticed until now. Why? Because in Dubai – with indoor ski-slopes and endless attractions – there are simply more ways to embarrass myself. So if this city has taught me one thing, it's that it's time to retire from anything where I might possibly have to compete against anyone. It'll be better for everyone... well, for me at least. *Rob Garratt is our music and nightlife editor. We feel (a bit) sorry for him, but it's funny watching him lose.*

Thoughts? Comments?
Email your opinions to
becky.lucas@itp.com

Time Out
Dubai

Time Out Dubai
Registered at Dubai Media City
ITP Executive Publishing
PO Box 500024, Dubai, UAE
Tel +971 4 444 3000
Fax +971 4 444 3080
Offices in Dubai & London
www.timeoutdubai.com

ITP Executive Publishing
CEO Walid Akawi
Managing Director Neil Davies
Managing Director ITP Time Out Karam Awad
General Manager Peter Conroy

Time Out GCC
Group Commercial Director Walid Zok
Tel: +971 4 444 3192 Mobile: +971 55 650 0688
email: walid.zok@itp.com

Editorial
Editor Becky Lucas
Tel: +971 4 444 3279 email: becky.lucas@itp.com
Deputy Editor Oliver Robinson
Tel: +971 4 444 3414 email: oliver.robinson@itp.com
Chief Sub-Editor Rebecca Milford
Tel: +971 4 444 3489 email: rebecca.milford@itp.com
Body & Mind, Community and Sport & Outdoor Editor
Holly Sands Tel: +971 4 444 3485
email: holly.sands@itp.com
Eating Out Editor Penelope Walsh
Tel: +971 4 444 3211 email: penelope.walsh@itp.com
Kids Editor Claire Glasby
Tel: +971 4 444 3241 email: claire.glasby@itp.com
Music & Nightlife and Film Editor Rob Garratt
Tel: +971 4 444 3337 email: rob.garratt@itp.com
Shopping & Style, Art & Culture and Time In Editor
Jenny Hewett Tel: +971 4 444 3817
email: jenny.hewett@itp.com

Art
Head of Design Nadia Puma
Tel: +971 4 444 3512 email: nadia.puma@itp.com
Designers Dominika Durtan, Mohammed Irasosy
Group Picture Editor Adam Wilson
Tel: +971 4 444 3129 email: adam.wilson@itp.com
Image Editor Emmalyn Robles
Senior Photographers Efram Evidor, Jovana Obradovic
Staff Photographers Isidora Bojovic, George Dipin,
Murrindie Frew, Lyubov Galushko, Shruti Jagdeh,
Mosh Lafuente, Ruel Pablo, Rajesh Raghav

Guides & Supplements
Editor Hfu Reisenhofer
Tel: +971 4 444 3481 email: hfu.reisenhofer@itp.com
Assistant Editor Peter Feely
Tel: +971 4 444 3579 email: peter.feely@itp.com
Sub-Editor Melanie Smith
Tel: +971 4 444 3469 email: melanie.smith@itp.com

Production & Distribution
Group Production & Distribution Director Kyle Smith
Production Manager Subramanian AC
Production Coordinator Anand Sundaram
Tel: +971 4 444 3367 email: anand.sundaram@itp.com
Distribution Executive Nada Al Alami
Tel: +971 4 444 3260 email: nada.alalami@itp.com

Marketing & Circulation
Marketing Manager Martin Chambers
Tel: +971 4 444 3728 email: martin.chambers@itp.com
Deputy Marketing Manager Shadia Basravi
Tel: +971 4 444 3325 email: shadia.basravi@itp.com
Marketing Business Development Manager Omar Kawas
Tel: +971 4 444 3360 email: omarkawas@itp.com
Retail Development Manager Osama Baraka
Tel: +971 4 444 3629 email: osama.baraka@itp.com
Head of Circulation & Database Gaurav Gulati
Tel: +971 4 444 3671 email: gaurav.gulati@itp.com
Circulation Customer Service
Tel: +971 4 444 3559 www.itp.net/subscriptions

Advertising
Commercial Director Kelly Jenkins
Tel: +971 4 444 3199 mobile: +971 50 645 6671
email: kelly.jenkins@itp.com
Advertising Director, Time Out Dubai Michael Smith
Tel: +971 4 444 3422 mobile: +971 50 273 8258
email: michael.smith@itp.com
Advertising Director, Time Out GCC Farrah Taylor
Tel: +971 4 444 3523 mobile: +971 50 151 1575
email: farrah.taylor@itp.com
Advertising Manager Christian Kachacha
Tel: +971 4 444 3515 mobile: +971 50 714 3436
email: christian.kachacha@itp.com
Sales Manager Sally Davis
Tel: +971 4 444 3820 mobile: +971 56 104 0567
email: sally.davis@itp.com

Digital
Editorial Director, ITP Digital Consumer Will Milner
Tel: +971 4 444 3184 email: will.milner@itp.com
Digital Publishing Director Ahmad Bashour
Tel: +971 4 444 3549 email: ahmad.bashour@itp.com
Assistant Online Editor Jamie Goodwin
Tel: +971 4 444 3463 email: jamie.goodwin@itp.com
Sales Director Stuart Morgan
Tel: +971 4 444 3547 email: stuart.morgan@itp.com
Sales Manager Gurjeet Kaur
Tel: +971 4 444 3561 email: gurjeet.kaur@itp.com
Advertising Manager Sarah Doherty
Tel: +971 4 444 3243 email: sarah.doherty@itp.com

ITP Group www.itp.com
Group Chairman Andrew Neil
Group Managing Director Robert Serafin
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