

Collin Morikawa 'saws' way to win at WGC-Workday Championship p22

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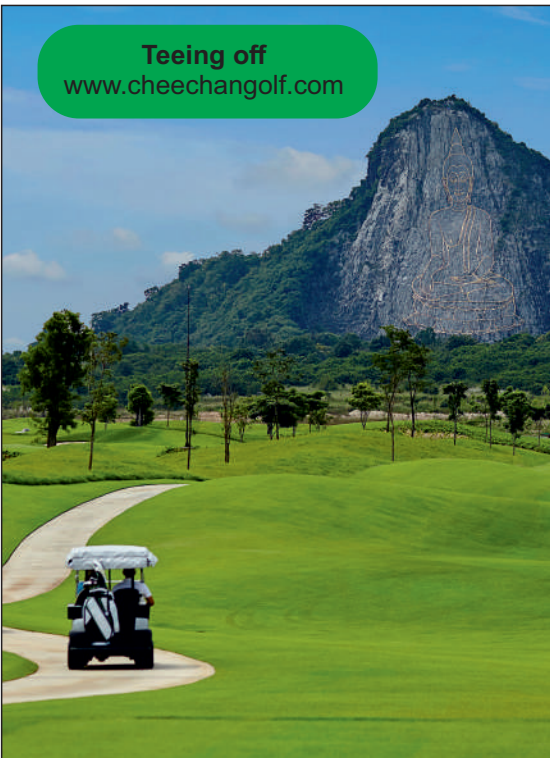
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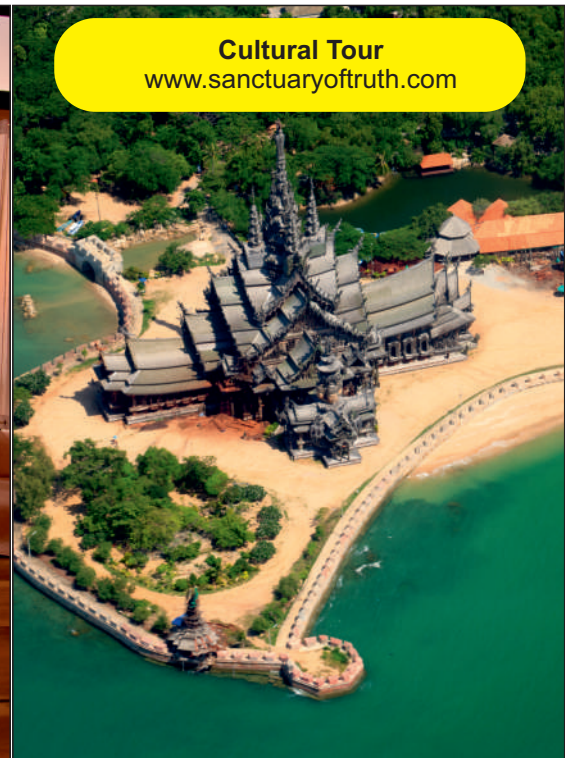
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A LENGTHY REPAIR

On February 23, 2021, Tiger Woods was hospitalized after a single-car collision. While in a stable condition he underwent emergency surgery to repair compound fractures sustained in each leg in addition to a shattered ankle. While the incident may have serious ramifications for Woods, he is not unfamiliar with medical situations with a never ending list of hospital visits.

As a boy Woods learned to manage his stuttering, he was also severely myopic and underwent two successful laser eye surgeries. In 2008, he underwent a knee surgery missing two months on the tour. Woods returned for the U.S. Open that year, struggling the first day but ultimately claiming a dramatic sudden death victory. Two days later, Woods announced additional knee surgery due to severe knee damage. End of 2009 Woods announced that he would be taking an indefinite break from competitive golf.

In 2011, Woods's performance continued to suffer due to medical issues. Woods had an elbow injury that he sustained at the Players Championship. In 2014, Woods sustained an injury during the final round of the Honda Classic and withdrew after the 13th hole, due to severe back pain.

On February 5, 2015, Woods withdrew from

the Farmers Insurance Open after another back injury.

Woods underwent back surgery in December 2016 and spent the next 15 months off the Tour.

Woods's back problems continued to hinder him in 2017.

On April 14, 2019, Woods won the Masters, his first major championship win in eleven years taking his tally of Majors to 15. He underwent a minor knee surgery to repair cartilage damage during the Tour Championship.

On December 23, 2020, Woods had microdiscectomy surgery on his back for the fifth time. The operation was to remove a pressurized disc fragment that was pinching his nerve and causing him pain during the PNC Championship.

While Tiger's health woes may match his wins on the various tours, overcoming adversity is second nature to Tiger and we wish the 'Greatest Golfer ever' speedy recovery.

Happy reading!

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March 2021

This month don't miss...



Feature

22 EMOTIONAL BRANDEN GRACE WINS PUERTO RICO OPEN

Branden Grace closed eagle-birdie Sunday to win, an emotional triumph. Grace holed out from a greenside bunker for eagle on the par-4 17th and birdied the par-5 18th for a onestroke victory over Jhonattan Vegas at windy Grand Reserve.

23 RORY MCILROY ELECTED PGA TOUR PLAYER ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Rory McIlroy has been elected Chairman of the Player Advisory Council (PAC) by the TOUR's membership for the 2021 calendar year. The 16-member PAC advises and consults with the PGA TOUR Policy Board (Board of Directors) and Commissioner Jay Monahan on issues affecting the TOUR.

24 CASEY CLAIMS OMEGA DUBAI DESERT CLASSIC TITLE

Paul Casey stormed to a four-stroke victory at the Omega Dubai Desert Classic, winning his 15th European Tour title at the iconic Emirates Golf Club. The win propels Casey inside the Top 15 of the Official World Golf Ranking for the first time since December 2019.

25 HATTON CLAIMS FOURTH ROLEX SERIES TITLE

Tyrrell Hatton became just the second player to claim four Rolex Series titles after a flawless performance in the final round of the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship helped him overturn the overnight lead of his playing partner Rory McIlroy and clinch a four-stroke victory.

26 COLLIN MORIKAWA: CLASSY FIRST WGC WIN

American star Collin Morikawa won the WGC-Workday Championship at The Concession Golf Club, by shooting a three-under-par 69 to finish at 18 under – three ahead of countrymen Billy Horschel and Brooks Koepka and Norwegian Viktor Hovland.

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35 HOW TO AVOID A TERRIBLE FIRST ROUND AFTER LOCKDOWN

Poor opening holes can sap your confidence and lead to a downward spiral. Conversely, a good start is often what creates the confidence and momentum that can help us produce a great round. Here, Steven Orr offers three keys to ensure you find your form fast when you start playing again.

37 WEDGE DISTANCES

Smart Practice with Gareth Johnston
Most golfers can hit a wedge fairly straight, but getting it pin-high is much trickier.

Getting on top of this is less about technique and more about understanding and using the wedges in your set. Here is a three-step practice routine that will help you...

PGTI

66 CHIKKARANGAPPA'S REMARKABLE WIN AT GUJARAT OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Bengaluru's Chikkarangappa took centre-stage in the final round as he shot a solid score of four-under-68 to earn a remarkable come-from-behind win. The 27-year-old Chikka, ended the week at the Rs. 30 lakh event with a winning total score of nine-under-279 to emerge triumphant by three shots.

68 RESILIENT FOUR-SHOT VICTORY AT GLADE ONE MASTERS

Om Prakash Chouhan of Mhow dominated the final day's proceedings to win the Glade One Masters 2021 with a massive four-shot margin at 17-under-199. Chouhan shot a five-under-67 at the magnificent Glade One Golf Resort in Ahmedabad in round four to make up for his heart-breaking loss on the PGTI the previous week.



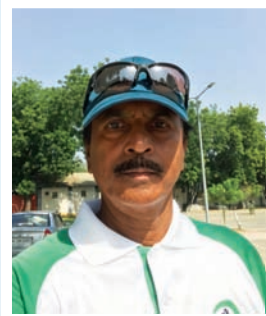
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ISHA MAHASHIVARATHRI

AN EVENT LIKE NO OTHER

Mahashivarathri at the Isha Yoga Center is a one of its kind event on the planet. It is not a religious event and is devoid of ritualism. There's no temple, there are no priests, there are no Bhajans.

This is a night devoted to accelerating one's spiritual ambitions by leveraging a celestial phenomenon that happens naturally and impacts everyone. The all-night event commences at 6 p.m. on the night of Mahashivarathri and ends at 6 a.m. the following morning.

“On this night, the northern hemisphere of the planet is positioned in such a way that there is a natural upsurge of energy in a human being,” says Sadhguru. “This is a day when nature is pushing one towards one’s spiritual peak. It is to make use of this, that in this tradition, we established a certain festival which is nightlong. To allow this natural upsurge of energies to find their way, one of the fundamentals of this nightlong festival is to ensure that you remain awake with your spine vertical throughout the night.”

There are several aspects to Isha’s Mahashivarathri celebrations at that lend it a distinct quality that makes it one of the most

unique and eclectic mixes of art, culture, spirituality and an uninhibited celebration of life.

An offering of Spiritual possibility for Humanity

Isha’s nightlong event is held in the majestic presence of the iconic Adiyogi, the Source of Yoga, a mesmerizing 112-foot bust, the largest on the planet. In Yogic lore, Adiyogi is considered the First Yogi who also became the Adi Guru or the First Guru. Not given to teaching morals, virtues or belief systems, Adiyogi chose to transmit the tools and technologies that can enable human beings to experience their ultimate nature – an experience that transcends the limited physical dimension that is the only experience available to most human beings. This egalitarian offering is available to every seeker and its promise of transcending physical limitations is assured for all who commit themselves to using the tools with competence and diligence. It is this all-encompassing, non-partisan

offering of spiritual possibility that Isha celebrates on the night of Mahashivarathri.

Mahashivarathri – the celebration of a Spiritual Science

“Why this day and night are held with such importance in the Yogic traditions is because of the possibilities it presents to a spiritual seeker,” says Sadhguru. “Modern science has arrived at a point today where they are out to prove to you that everything that you know as life, everything that you know as matter and existence, everything that you know as the cosmos and galaxies, is just one energy which manifests itself in millions of ways. This scientific fact is an experiential reality in every yogi. The word “yogi” means one who has realized the oneness of the existence. When I say “Yoga,” I am not referring to any one particular practice or system. All longing to know the unbounded, all longing to know the oneness in the existence is Yoga. The night of Mahashivarathri offers a person an opportunity to experience this.”

Isha's Mahashivarathri is the grandest event on the Isha calendar and is celebrated in a super-charged, high-voltage nightlong extravaganza. Because it has nothing to do with faith or belief, it usually attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world.

Yaksha – the Cultural precursor to Mahashivarathri

At Isha, Mahashivarathri celebrations are preceded by Yaksha. Named after celestial beings in Indian mythology, the 3-day Yaksha festival, the annual precursor to Mahashivarathri at Isha promotes the rich cultural heritage of Indian music and dance. Classical music and dance forms have been long used as a gateway to experience Yoga or oneness with existence in this culture. Some of the most well known classical and folk artists perform at Yaksha each year. The festival is held 3 days before the night of Mahashivarathri. It attracts audiences from all over the world for its vibrant depiction of music, dance and art.

Maha Yoga Yagna – the Fire signifying the spread of One Drop of Spirituality for all

On the night of Mahashivarathri, the Maha Yoga Yagna is usually lit by the Chief Guest at the celebrations. It signifies Sadhguru's wish and Isha's mission to spread one drop of spirituality to everyone on the planet. The first Maha Yoga Yagna was lit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2017 when Adiyogi was unveiled to the world. President Ram Nath Kovind and Vice President Venkaiah Naidu have also lit the symbolic fire when they participated as Chief Guests at the 2019 and 2020 celebrations respectively. With the lighting of the Yagna, millions of Isha volunteers (Yoga Veeras) worldwide commit

RANKED AMONGST THE FIFTY MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN INDIA, SADHGURU IS A YOGI, MYSTIC, VISIONARY AND A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR SADHGURU HAS BEEN CONFERRED THE PADMA VIBHUSHAN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN 2017, THE HIGHEST ANNUAL CIVILIAN AWARD, ACCORDED FOR EXCEPTIONAL AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

- SADHGURU ISHA FOUNDATION

to teaching a simple but powerful 5-minute Yogic practice to as many people as possible to facilitate a spiritual experience for even the completely uninitiated. When integrated into their lifestyle, these simple practices have the power to enhance the intensity of one's experience of Life in all aspects – health, profession, personal, mental and emotional, and energy aspects.

Explosive midnight meditation with Sadhguru

One of the highlights of Isha's Mahashivarathri celebrations is the Midnight Meditation with Sadhguru. Millions of people – in person and virtually – have experienced the energy of this powerful process led by Sadhguru. There are tools and technologies that one can internalize and prepare oneself physically and mentally to experience the explosive power and impact of the Midnight Meditation. This is usually done in the run-up to Mahashivarathri. One such simple but intense process is the Shivanga Sadhana.

Shivanga Sadhana

Shivanga literally means "a limb of Shiva". Shivanga Sadhana is an opportunity to bring our connection with the Source of Creation into our awareness. The Sadhana provides a strong physical and psychological basis for inner exploration. It is done for a pre-determined number of days (42 for men and 21 for women) and culminates on the night of Mahashivarathri. Those who have undertaken the Sadhana and participated in the Midnight Meditation have testified to indescribable inner experiences and an acute awareness of the energy upsurge within the system.

Prasadam – more than a takeaway

Volunteers from around the world come together to offer prasadam to every visitor who participates in person at the celebrations. The Maha Annadanam is a mini-event by itself. Hundreds of thousands of visitors are offered food that is supportive for their experience on this auspicious night. People from around the world contribute every year for the Maha Annadanam.

Rudraksha Diksha

Rudraksha Diksha is one of the most sought after prasadam of Mahashivarathri at Isha. Rudraksha literally means the "Tears of Shiva". Every year, on Mahashivarathri, visitors receive one Rudraksha bead as prasadam. The Rudraksha mala that adorns Adiyogi through the year is taken down and the beads are consecrated by Sadhguru and offered as Rudraksha Diksha.

"Rudraksha Diksha is a powerful instrument to become accessible to the grace of Adiyogi,"

says Sadhguru. Rudraksha is said to be a reminder to its holder that one can lead their life consciously and break away from compulsive patterns which keep them trapped within their limitations. It symbolizes the possibility of charting one's own destiny with the Grace of Adiyogi. This year, the Rudraksha Diksha is available to people around the world through a pre-registration process. Isha will ship the Rudraksha to all those who ask for it.

All night Satsangh with Sadhguru


With his infectious energy, Sadhguru engages the audience effortlessly in discourses and meditation sessions, wit and wisdom flowing with panache through the night. His involvement with the proceedings is complete. A soulful melody can move him to tears as much as a peppy beat can move him to shake a leg. Guided meditation sessions interspersed with his talks manage to keep tens of thousands of people riveted through the night.

An all-night cultural extravaganza

Livewire energy seems to encase the Isha Yoga Center on the night of Mahashivarathri where men, women and children dance the night away in unbridled exuberance. Several famous artists have performed at the celebrations including Mohit Chouhan, Daler Mehndi, Parthiv Goel, Karthik, Ananya Bhat and many more. Performers from around the world have featured in the all-night event. A music group from Azerbaijan and drummers from Lebanon who participated in previous Mahashivarathri events were stunned by the super-charged energy of the audience that never dampens till 6 a.m. They confess that they have never performed on a similar stage anywhere in the world.

Connecting to the Source of Creation within oneself

The Mahashivarathri event at Isha is structured carefully to heighten one's senses and make people receptive to become available to the naturally occurring phenomenon of energy upsurge. This rise in energy is a universal phenomenon and will happen to all regardless of whether one is aware of its occurrence or not.

"Mahashivratri is an opportunity and a possibility to bring yourself to that experience of the vast emptiness within every human being, which is the source of all creation," says Sadhguru. "It is our wish and blessing that you must not pass this night without knowing at least a moment of the vastness of this emptiness that we call as Shiva. Let this night not just be a night of wakefulness, let this night be a night of awakening for you." 



The Indian Golf Union

The governing body for Golf in India

WELCOME TO SRI CITY GOLF FACILITY

On 6th March 2021, Sri City, inaugurated its Driving range. His Excellency, Mr. Masayuki Taga, the Consul General of Japan in Chennai did the honors, in presence of Mr. R. Veera Reddy, Principle Advisor, Industries Investments, GoAP, this writer and Mr. Ravi Sannareddy, the energetic and enigmatic, M.D of Sri City. Sri City was founded in 2008 in one of India's most backward districts, has now become one of the coveted business destinations in the country with total investments close to 4 billion USD and total exports exceeding 500 million USD till date. Located 55 km north of Chennai, Sri City boasts of seamless connectivity by road, air and sea ports.

Spread over 7500 acres (with another 2500 acres acquired and ready to rumble) , Sri City includes a multiproduct Special Economic Zone (SEZ), a Domestic Tariff Zone (DTZ), a Free Trade & Warehousing Zone (FTWZ) and an Electronics Manufacturing Cluster. Sri City is home to over 185 companies from 27 countries

including multinationals like Kellogg's, Isuzu, Mondelez, Pepsi, Alstom, Kobelco, Foxconn, Danieli etc.

The master plan of Sri City has included an 18-hole Golf course spread over 180 Acres, designed by renowned Australian architects.

Realizing the need for a driving range, the advisor to Sri City, Coast Guard IG, SP Sharma (Retd) conceptualized and created a 6-bay driving range in 10 acres of land, with salubrious surrounds. The facility is managed by DJS Golf, IGU's delivery partner for its South Zone Junior Tour.



Ishwar Achanta
Hon. Treasurer, Indian Golf Union
Director - Asia Pacific Golf Confederation



Some of you may be familiar with our long-term strategy plan titled "Tee 20". The long and short of that plan is to have half a million golfers, playing the game, in short time.

A targeted area is establishing pitch and putt facilities much like this one and we are extremely excited and gratified that Mr. Sannareddy has established this facility.

Sri City is unique in that, more than a dozen villages form part and parcel of the 10000 Acres. While, primarily, this facility will be used by the employees of the industries located within the SEZ/DTZ, it is envisaged that IGU will work closely with the Sri City management to bring in the younger villagers and teach them skill sets that they could use to make a living, through the game of Golf.

With Krea University and IIT on site as well, the IGU hopes that a regional NGAI and Golf University will also be set up, for which a blueprint is ready and shared with the R&A as well.

Our Hon PM, Modi ji has shown us the way to Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Undoubtedly, establishing a facility such as this creates Employment and income





The Indian Golf Union

The governing body for Golf in India



The master plan of Sri City has included an 18-hole Golf course spread over 180 Acres, designed by renowned Australian architects.

benefits, both direct and indirect.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana and the recently announced, Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana, it is our intention to provide such opportunities.

Meanwhile for the employees, our method is to support such facilities with equipment and coaches and provide each participant with a World Handicapping System card, which will allow them to visit a nearby golf course, play 5 rounds of golf and acquire a temporary handicap. After that, the “golfer” is free to wreck mayhem on the fairways!

In another initiative, the IGU has teamed up with the R&A and an international organization which runs one of the largest poverty alleviation programs in India. The details of this program will be shared when the ink is dry!

We are, together, shortly launching pilot projects in Kolkata, Delhi NCR and Mysore



and we hope that we can join Sri City, to adopt the UN’s, Sport for Development Agenda.

The program’s endeavor will be to have a long-term impact on individual behavior around education, gender equity and life skills. The program is education based and uses sports and physical activities to engage participants in social-emotional learning.

The IGU wishes all those who live and work around this awesome facility, the very best and hope they have many pleasurable hours of hitting that little white ball, that keeps bringing us back to this wonderful game, as famous American coach Hervey Penick said “Your next shot is a new experience, it might be the best shot you ever hit in your life”. ^{GP}

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The Indian Golf Union (IGU) is the Governing Body for Golf in India recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports as the National Sports Federation for Golf.

Collaboration, partnerships and interdependence are keys to progress at every level. Our vision of "Grow, Sustain and Excel" will help realise our objectives of creating world class facility and to explore new possibilities for promoting the game in India. Our Past initiatives and development programmes have been very well received and has produced players and officials who have performed exceedingly well at both national and international levels.

Furthermore, our New initiatives are aimed at transforming the game of golf in our country. We will work closely with Golf Clubs Golf across the country to ensure that India becomes a leading golf nation in the world by providing all the information, infrastructure and technology support for betterment of golf.

The IGU is globally affiliated to the R&A and recognizes it as the Governing Body for Golf and is also a member of the Asia Pacific Golf Confederation (APGC).

Inspiring Track Record

The IGU is the owner of the Indian Open, since 1964 (now sanctioned by the European Tour) along with Indian Classic and Indian Masters. Peter Thomson and Jyoti Randhwa are each 3 time winners of the Honda Indian Open. Anirban Lahiri, an IGU protegee was winner of the Indian Open in 2015 Two IGU products S. Chikkarangappa and Shiv Kapur are performing creditably in the domestic and international tours.



PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR CONTINUOUS PROGRESS



We conduct The Faldo Series (2017-18) and have initiated the program National Initiative for Golf in Schools (NIGS) and the program is currently conducted across the country.

The Junior Golf programme is organised with support to Clubs in the form of Coaches and equipment.



The Level 1 and Level 2 Rules School in collaboration with the R&A has been an ongoing activity for the past 7 years.



Level 2 Referee School at Hyderabad

Tournament Directors and Rules Instructors are trained and certified accordingly.



Junior Program at GIAL Cochin

There are over 250 Golf Rules Official in the Country certified by the IGU and the R&A.

A specialized Rules Programs for Caddies in the Local language is also conducted. Certificates are issued co-signed by the R&A. This training programme and certification for caddies guarantees employment under the Government of India - Hunar Se Rozgar Scheme.



We have produced a Technical Handbook - "All you wanted to know about setting up a Golf Course and running a tournament but were afraid to ask" - Now a Reference Guide in 40 countries of the APGC.



Along with the USGA, IGU conducts the Course Rating Program periodically. There are over 50 Course Raters in India who Course and Slope rate all our Clubs.

IGU provides the National handicapping Service with the USGA's GHIN, an essential tool going forward!



We select teams to represent India at all International events. We maintain a Merit list of the top performers (your Clubs top amateurs could be one of them). We organize such players into National Squads (by established Policy) and have special training camps for them.



Indian team at Eisenhower Cup



Indian team at Noretha Cup



National Squad Camp

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FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

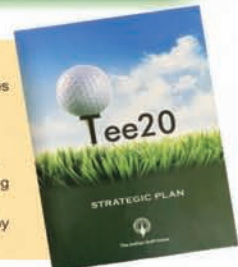
It is important to acknowledge that Clubs and golfers are at the heart of all of these initiatives at every level. We also appreciate that these initiatives require a collaborative network of people and support, to maximise their success.

Initiatives that are to be focused are on:

Schools and Community, Clubs, Government support for land, Golf Partnerships, Coaching and Developing Talent.

Ultimately, mobilizing the golf community and supporting activities that are focused on achieving our key outcomes will result in more people playing more often (in better quality environments) and realising their potential.

IGU is channelling all its resources and has authored a Vision Document "TEE 20" to ensure that India becomes a leading golf nation in the world by providing more opportunities for participants to start, stay and succeed in the game.



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TEEN AMATEUR AVANI STUNS TOP PROS TO WIN 3RD LEG

Teenaged Avani Prashanth rode on the wings of an eagle followed by some steady golf to join the elite list of amateurs who have won a pro title on the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour. A brilliant final round of 3-under 67 in the third leg of the Hero WPGT saw her overturn a three-shot deficit into a 2-shot win at the Bombay Presidency Golf Club.

Avani, just 14 years of age, started and ended the week with cards of 67 and in between shot even par 70 on the second day. Her three-day total of six-under 204 saw her top the charts ahead of the experienced Amandeep Drall (69) who aggregated 4-under 206.

Vani Kapoor (68) finished third at 208, while Seher Atwal, searching for her maiden win as a pro, struggled on the front nine with a 40 and carded 75 to drop to fourth place at 1-under 209. The top four players had under par totals.

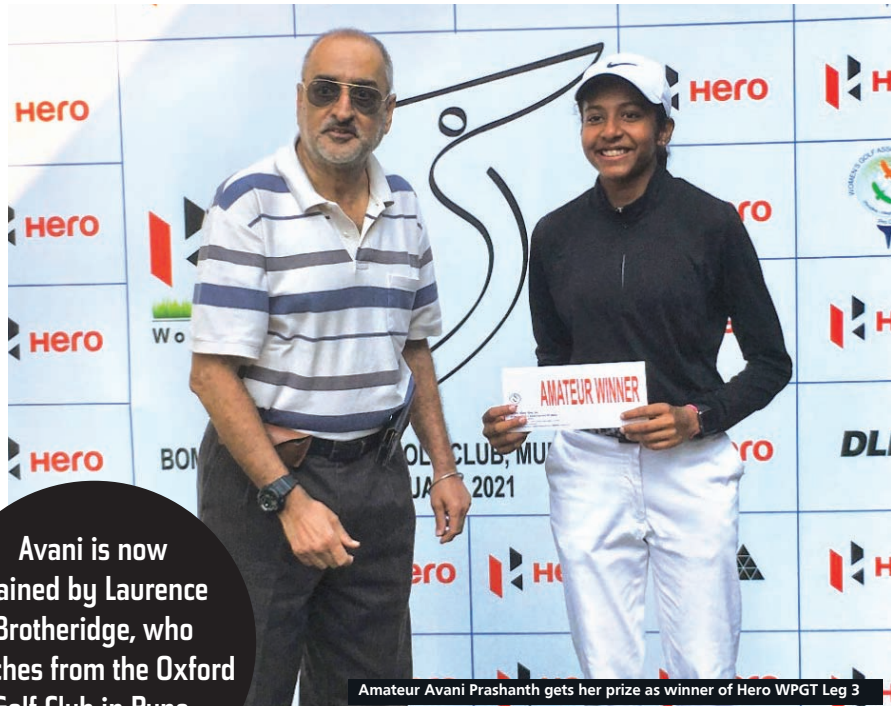
Sisters Jahanvi Bakshi (70) and Hitaashee Bakshi (71) were fifth and sixth, while Ridhima Dilawari (69), who herself won as an amateur back in 2018, ended seventh despite an eagle finish. Rhea Purvi Saravanan (74), Gauri Karhade (72) and Khushi Khanijau (75) occupied the eighth to 10th places.

Avani, who first wielded a golf club thanks to her father MS Prashanth, has been playing

Avani is now trained by Laurence Brotheridge, who coaches from the Oxford Golf Club in Pune.

competitive golf since the age of six and is well travelled, having also played at the UK Kids International events, including the one in Scotland. A product of the KGA, she is

now trained by Laurence Brotheridge, who coaches from the Oxford Golf Club in Pune. Avani was also picked by the Virat Kohli Foundation in 2019 and since then her career has been on the rise including a bunch of wins on the amateur circuit. **GP**



Amateur Avani Prashanth gets her prize as winner of Hero WPGT Leg 3

SEHER ATWAL GRABS MAIDEN PRO WIN IN 4TH LEG

Seher Atwal finally broke through for her maiden professional win as she held her nerve despite three bogeys on the front nine in the final round of the fourth leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Poona Club Golf Course. Niece of Indian golf legend Arjun Atwal, 22-year old Seher, who started the day with a two-shot lead, shot a final round of 2-over 73 but still emerged a three-shot winner over Vani Kapoor (74) and Hitaashee Bakshi (75).

On a somewhat chilly and windy day at the Poona Club Golf Course, there were no sub-par rounds and only three players shot even par 71.

For Vani, this was her best result since tying for second in the sixth leg before Covid hit last year. Hitaashee won the last event of 2020 and was runner-up in the second leg this year, indicating good progress.

Leader on the Hero Order of Merit Amandeep Drall, tied-second overnight, was unable to find any birdies in her round of 76 and slipped to Tied-4th alongside amateur Sneha Singh (73) and Jahanvi Bakshi (74).

Seher, who turned pro when the Hero WPGT Tour returned to golf after the break due to Covid, was playing in only her seventh start. "It's a big relief to get the job done. I will not lie. I was quite nervous at the start

"It's a big relief to get the job done. I will not lie. I was quite nervous at the start and it was the windiest of the three days."



Seher Atwal in action and on right gets her cheque from Mr. Andrew Pinto, Chairman, Tournaments PCGC and Mrs. Padmaja Shirke, Lady Captain, PCGC

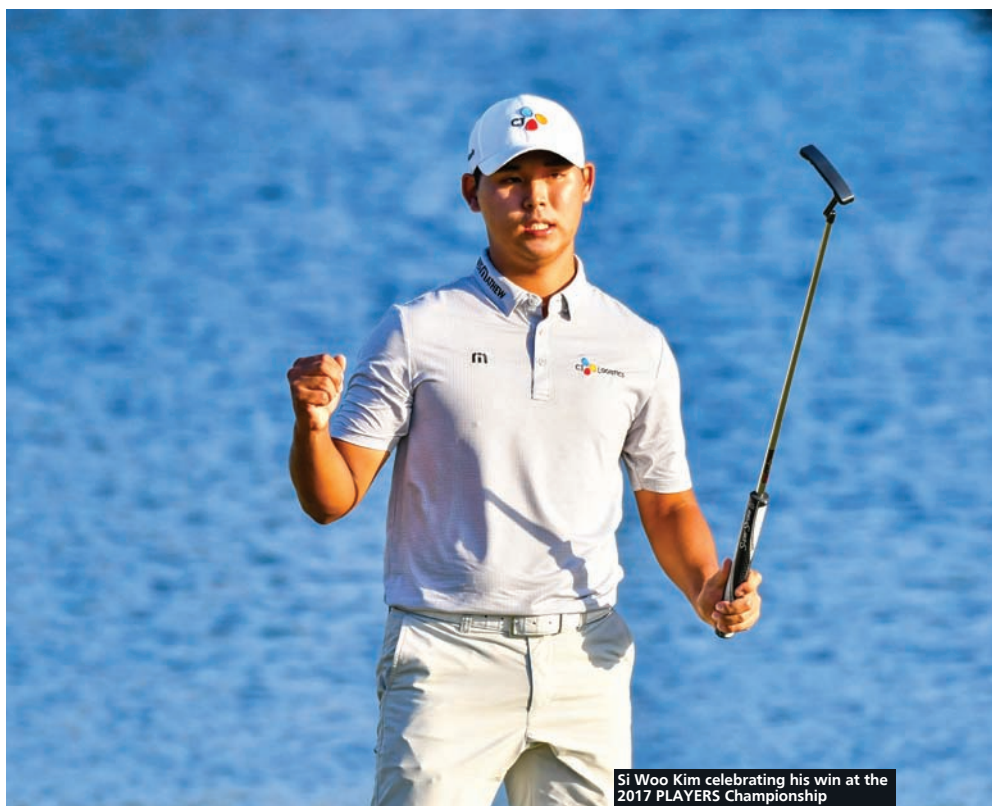
and it was the windiest of the three days. I am glad I could hold on," said Seher.

Seher, coached by Nonita Lall Qureshi, has finished in the Top-10 in each of her previous six starts, with a second place at the eighth leg last year in DLF as her best. She was also third at Classic in the ninth and last leg of 2020, and finished fourth in the third leg at BPGC last week.

"I came back from the US, where I was at Rollins, in March because of Covid and graduated in May. When I was in the US, I would often speak to Arjun uncle, and even played with him. With college and practice, it was not as often as I would have wanted, but yes I was in touch with him," added Seher. **GP**



As the PGA TOUR's Gold Standard, THE PLAYERS Championship in March stands apart from the rest as it showcases the strongest field in golf competing on an iconic theatre regarded as the purest test in the game.



Si Woo Kim celebrating his win at the 2017 PLAYERS Championship

CHOI, KIM REMEMBER DEFINING MOMENTS AT THE PLAYERS

by Chuah Choo Chiang

From the event's inauguration in 1974 to moving to its permanent home at the Pete Dye-designed The Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass in 1982, THE PLAYERS has since produced countless of defining moments in the sport and careers of the game's glory seekers that the brave-hearted and highly skilled have savoured the sweet taste of victory.

Over the past 47 years, great memories have filled the timeline at TPC Sawgrass, which every great feat and achievement serve only to further distinguish the TOUR's flagship tournament.

Who can forget the year when 1982 PLAYERS champion, Jerry Pate lived up to his promise by shoving former TOUR Commissioner Dean Beman and Dye into the lake hugging the 18th green or when Australian legend Greg Norman, aka the Great White Shark, devoured the elite field with his superiority in 1994 with a 72-hole tournament record of 24-under which has withstood the test of time.

And of course, there is the everlasting images of Hal Sutton in 2000 staring down the one and only, Tiger Woods, whom at

that point in time was in full flow in all his powers. Sutton sealed his place in history with the famous remark "Be the right club today" after he dispatched a glorious 6 iron from 179 yards to within eight feet of the pin on the 72nd hole which helped him see off Woods for a one-shot victory.

Woods would create his own PLAYERS' moment just a year later. During the third round, he stared at an impossible 60-foot birdie putt with a triple break at the treacherous par-3, 17th hole with the famous island green, which Mark Calcavecchia cheekily described as "... like having a 3 o'clock appointment for a root canal."

As Woods willed his ball into the cup in typical Tiger-esque fashion for the most unlikely of birdies, NBC commentator Gary Koch memorialised his "Better than Most" commentary, not once but three times as the ball took a few suspenseful turns, and eventually found the bottom of the cup. The American superstar went on to win the first of his two PLAYERS victory some 24 hours later.

Asian golf has savoured some of its very own defining moments in the history of THE PLAYERS. In 2011, Korea's K.J. Choi, the

man who coined the phrase "To be the best, you've got to play with the best", reached the peak of his illustrious career with a play-off victory over David Toms to become the first ever Asian winner at TPC Sawgrass.

Choi, now 50, recalled an intuitive feeling from his caddie, Andy Prodder who told him after the third round: "I think you can't go back to Korea this Sunday. I don't know why but I just feel it".

The Korean trailblazer calmly rolled in a three foot par putt on the first playoff hole on the 17th hole after Toms had missed from slightly further distance to seal his place in PLAYERS folklore. "I finally got to win THE PLAYERS. Of my eight wins, I cried the most then. I was genuinely thrilled. I think all the players around the world desire to win this championship. Becoming the first Asian and Korean player to win, I was proud and excited," said Choi.

As Asia's most successful player on the PGA TOUR to date, Choi inspired a new wave of talents to emerge, with youngster Si Woo Kim breaking out as a rising star. Battling back injury in the 2017 edition, Kim upset all odds to secure a stunning three-stroke win to become the youngest PLAYERS



Korea's K.J. Choi was the first Asian to win THE PLAYERS Championship in 2011

Images Courtesy : Gettyimages

winner at age, 21. He was the only player in the final round to be bogey-free.

“It is very special. I feel THE PLAYERS is a major tournament. When I played there for the first time, it was a very special feeling. K.J. won as the first Korean and I had the victory next. It means a lot to me and I’m very proud of the youngest title, since it’s hard to do that at my age. Hopefully nobody will break my record. I want my name to be remembered,” said Kim.

Following a third career win at the recent The American Express, Kim will no doubt

“**It means a lot to me and I’m very proud of the youngest title, since it’s hard to do that at my age. Hopefully nobody will break my record. I want my name to be remembered.**

- Si Woo Kim



Hal Sutton during the 2000 PLAYERS Championship

be one of Asia’s leading contenders at THE PLAYERS this month. Others including Japan’s Hideki Matsuyama, who has two top-10s and three top-25s in six visits to

TPC Sawgrass, the ultra-talented Sungjae Im of Korea, Chinese Taipei’s C.T. Pan and Xinjun Zhang of China will also be chasing for a win.

Zhang, who lived in nearby Jacksonville and practiced regularly at TPC Sawgrass previously, cannot wait for his PLAYERS debut. He said: “I’ve been longing to play in THE PLAYERS. I think if I can win the tournament, it will be a huge push towards China’s golf development.”

With two made cuts in as many appearances, Pan hopes to take advantage of The Stadium Course’s strategic design which does not favour any particular type of golfer. “THE PLAYERS Championship is definitely the strongest tournament we have on TOUR. Even when you compare it to the majors, if you look at the world ranking, we have 144 of the top ranked players in the world and it’s a very strong field. It’s a fair designed golf course and every player will have a chance to win.” **GP**

Chuah Choo Chiang is senior director, International Marketing and Communications, APAC for the PGA TOUR and is based in Kuala Lumpur.



TWO DECADES LATER, TIGER'S 'BETTER THAN MOST' MOMENT LIVES ON

by Mike McAllister



Twenty years ago, Tiger Woods stood on the tee box at the iconic par-3 17th hole at TPC Sawgrass. It was a Saturday, the third round of THE PLAYERS Championship in 2001, and Woods was chasing the leaders. Some 137 yards away - specifically at the back top shelf of the island green - stood Fred Funk, putter in hand. He had a long, speedy, multiple-breaking putt. Woods fixated his

gaze on the putt, curious to see the line and the result.

It was not good. Funk's putt quickly gathered speed, ran past the hole and ran off the green. He eventually four-putted, making double bogey despite staying dry. Tiger took note.

Don't hit it where Funk did. Don't leave yourself with an impossible putt.

One swing later and, of course, Woods found himself in nearly the same spot at the 17th green that Funk had just vacated. "Crap iron

shot" is how Tiger described it many years later. That's probably being kind.

NBC, the tournament's long-time broadcast partner, went to commercial. Commentator Gary Koch, in the TV tower behind the 16th green, used the break to give producer Tommy Roy a head's up. Not only had Funk just suffered a disastrous fate from that spot, but so did a handful of other players that day.

"Every single one of them had puttied the ball off the green," Koch recalled. "It comes



“I KNEW HOW QUICK IT WAS, SO I GAVE IT A LITTLE BIT MORE, IT BROKE LEFT A LOT AT THE TOP WITH THE OLD GREEN. IT BROKE LEFT A LOT AT THE TOP AND THEN IT JUST SNAPPED AT THE RIGHT.”

- TIGER WOODS

down that slope; they don't read enough break. It breaks to the right and the ball ends up in the fringe.”

Roy and Koch discussed the situation that Woods now faced. Back from commercial, Koch set up the scenario as Woods reached his ball and began visualizing the 60-foot putt and taking a few practice strokes.

Finally, Tiger made contact with his ball. NBC analyst Johnny Miller then asked Koch an on-air question. “How's that look?”

Koch noticed that Tiger's line and speed were different than the previous putts from that spot. He quickly answered Miller.

“Better than most.”

Twenty years later, Koch's response

remains the most famous line ever uttered in the 47-year history of THE PLAYERS Championship. And it describes the single most important shot of the 5,054 that Woods has struck in his 19 professional starts at the Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass.

That it happened at the PGA TOUR's most famous hole adds to the legend.

The highlight – with Koch's description and Tiger pumping his fist to a euphoric gallery after the ball rolled into the hole – is revisited every year. It's an indelible part of THE PLAYERS, a magical moment on a magical hole during a magical stretch of golf by the best player of his generation. And it fueled the first of Woods' two career victories at THE PLAYERS.

“I don't think anybody doesn't know it now,” said World Golf Hall of Famer Retief Goosen, in the field that week. “I think everybody knows. ... That line is going to always be associated with Tiger.”

Of course, to coax that line out of Koch, Tiger had to deliver the shot. Thanks to getting “a little teach” from Funk's initial putt, Woods realized he needed to make a slight adjustment.

“I knew how quick it was, so I gave it a little bit more,” Woods explained. “It broke left

a lot at the top with the old green. It broke left a lot at the top and then it just snapped at the right.

“Yeah, I hit my spot and I was just hoping that it would take the break because I saw Fred's, how much it went to the right at the end, and my putt was not going right. I'm like, would you start breaking? And as soon as it started to break, I'm like, stop breaking. And then it caught the low side of the hole and went in.”

Koch's call of the shot brought chills to the television audience because of his repetition of the “better than most” line. The first time he uttered it, Woods' ball has just left the top shelf and was veering left. The second time he said it, the ball had now swung back toward the right. The third time came as the ball found the bottom of the cup. Each time, his voice rose as the dramatic moment played out.

“As it got going down the hill, it was clear to me the ball was far enough to the left, way more so than any other ball had been all day long,” Koch said. “That was when the next ‘better than most’ came out. And then, of course, it went in the hole. ‘Better than most.’

“The great thing to me, if you go back and watch that, no one said a word for probably close to 45 seconds,” he continued. “It was all Tiger's reaction. And back then, at THE PLAYERS ... there weren't all the corporate



Images Courtesy - Gettyimages

Unlike most of his career-defining shots that came in the final round, Woods was not wearing a red shirt. Remember, this was the third round on Saturday, so Woods wore a white shirt with thin vertical black stripes. The birdie putt only moved him closer to tournament leader Jerry Kelly.

hospitality areas at 17. That hillside was absolutely packed with people and they erupted. ... When people ask about it, it was a classic Tiger moment.”

Bernhard Langer was inside the TPC Sawgrass clubhouse, having lunch and watching the moment on TV. He still remembers hearing the roars. And he - along with the other players in the field that week - remain impressed by the result two decades later.

“You could put Tiger Woods there 20 times, make that same putt and probably not come

close to making another one,” said Langer, who finished solo third that week. “That’s special, that much break and the speed. I mean, most guys would be just thrilled to get within 4 feet. He made it.”

“It started off and goes right, then it went left, and then it went right severely at the end,” added another competitor, Colin Montgomerie. “It was just about to miss but it just hung on. If it had missed, of course, I’m not saying off the green at the front but it was in the fringe because there’s nothing to stop it apart from the hole. But that’s Tiger. That was him, 20 years ago.”

“Everybody missed it down the right bottom,” recalled Ernie Els. “Tiger being Tiger, he gets it right most of the time. He showed us up yet again.”

Unlike most of his career-defining shots that came in the final round, Woods was not wearing a red shirt. Remember, this was the third round on Saturday, so Woods wore a white shirt with thin vertical black stripes. The birdie putt only moved him closer to tournament leader Jerry Kelly. Tiger eventually shot 66 that day, leaving him two strokes behind Kelly going into the final round. He followed with a closing 67 to beat Vijay Singh by one stroke in a Monday finish due to poor weather.

“It wasn’t for the win of the tournament necessarily,” Woods said when asked where

the putt ranked among his greatest. “I think I was still behind Jerry Kelly at the time, and so it was on a Saturday afternoon, but it definitely gave me some momentum. As far as some of my greatest putts, it will be up there on the lag putts.”

Of course, Tiger didn’t hear Koch’s description live. Neither did Kelly, who was back on the 16th hole. He had seen where Tiger’s tee shot had landed and wondered if Woods might drop a stroke with a three-putt. A few minutes later, he heard the roars. Instead of a shot lost, it was a shot gained.

He continues to hear the roars every time the highlight is shown.

“Seen that way too many times,” Kelly said with a smile. “I need a better than most.”

Don’t we all. Asked if this was the best call he’s made in 40 years as a broadcaster, Koch replied: “Absolutely, no question about it. I’ve had some others that I think have been pretty good, but they’re nowhere near that.”

Indeed, it goes down as being one of the greatest calls in golf, a moment when Tiger pulled off the impossible.

“I remember Verne Lundquist when Jack [Nicklaus] made that putt [in the 1986 Masters]. And obviously Jim Nantz, the bear coming out of hibernation,” Els said. “There’s been great quotes, but Gary’s is one of the all-time classics.” **GP**



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COLLIN MORIKAWA WIN AT WGC-WORKDAY CHAMPIONSHIP

7 Thanks to a lesson from a World Golf Hall of Famer, that was far from the case at the World Golf Championships-Workday Championship at The Concession, where Morikawa shot a final-round 69 to beat Brooks Koepka (70), Billy Horschel (70) and Viktor Hovland (67) by three.

“Short game and putting – I mean, that’s it,” J.J. Jakovac, Morikawa’s caddie, said of the big difference in his man this week. “He always hits the ball exceptional. I mean this week was really good, I’m sure he finished number one in Strokes Gained: Approach the Green, but that happens often. But it’s just putting making those putts. I mean he putted beautifully all week.”

Morikawa did lead the field in Strokes Gained: Approach the Green. Also in SG: Tee to Green.

His work on those greens, where he was 213th in Strokes Gained: Putting on the season, made the difference. He was 10th in SG: Putting at the WGC-Workday, not only holding his own but gaining strokes on the field. And he did it using a “saw” putting grip, rotating his right hand around to push the club through the hitting zone, that he picked up from Mark O’Meara.



“He always hits the ball exceptional. I mean this week was really good, I’m sure he finished number one in Strokes Gained”.

- J.J. Jakovac, Morikawa’s caddie

He also got a chipping lesson on site from NBC Golf analyst Paul Azinger.

“I heard about Mark O’Meara using this saw grip,” said Morikawa, who like the PGA TOUR Champions pro is a member of The Summit Club in Las Vegas. “And out of the blue for 18 holes at TPC Summerlin, I was like, let’s give it a shot. And I made nothing. Like I made zero putts. **GP**”

EMOTIONAL BRANDEN GRACE WINS PUERTO RICO OPEN

7 Branden Grace closed eagle-birdie Sunday to win the Puerto Rico Open, an emotional triumph following his father’s January death after a month-long fight with the coronavirus.

Grace holed out from a greenside bunker for eagle on the par-4 17th and birdied the par-5 18th for a one-stroke victory over Jhonattan Vegas at windy Grand Reserve.

“This morning I had a tear in the car when I was talking to my wife,” Grace said about father Peter. “It was an emotional day. I thought about him a hell of a lot out there, especially the last tee shot. I was really struggling the last hole, because I knew he was watching over me. I knew he was guiding me.” **GP**



GRAHAM DELAET TO UNDERGO ANOTHER BACK PROCEDURE

7 Former Presidents Cup International team member Graham DeLaet will undergo another procedure on his ailing back, keeping the Canadian Olympian away from the PGA TOUR for an undetermined amount of time.

“I am very hopeful that this will give me the day-to-day relief to enjoy more quality time with my family and friends,” he said. “I am also hopeful it will enable me to put in the time needed to practice again and get back to the PGA TOUR.”

“It’s definitely been a frustrating few years.”

The native of Weyburn, Saskatchewan (a town of about 10,000 people about an hour north of the U.S. border) has suffered a myriad of injuries over the last few seasons but was in the midst of returning to the TOUR via a Major Medical Exemption.

“I’ve been through this now so many times over the past 10 years and all the warning signs were there for me to shut it down and take care of my body,” said DeLaet at the time.

DeLaet flashed some brilliance at the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship in 2020, shooting a second-round 64 – his lowest TOUR round since a matching 64 at the Travelers Championship in 2017. In that season he notched six top-10 finishes – but has been away from the TOUR for the better part of two years. **GP**



“I am very hopeful that this will give me the day-to-day relief to enjoy more quality time with my family and friends” .

HOME SWEET HOME FOR MAX HOMA AT THE GENESIS INVITATIONAL

7 L.A. native Max Homa fell in love with The Genesis Invitational and Riviera Country Club at a very young age. Well he fell for their warm soft pretzels at least.

That inviting smell and salty taste kept young Max coming back year after year. And it wasn't long before a serious love of the game developed. He has been part of tournament scenery from the age of two, first as a toddler on his father's shoulders, then as a youngster seeking autographs and lastly as a high school and college star dreaming of forging his own path on the storied layout.

That dream came true on Sunday as Homa beat Tony Finau in a playoff to claim his second TOUR win – but not before a twist

That dream came true on Sunday as Homa beat Tony Finau in a playoff to claim his second TOUR win.

ending even the best Hollywood writers might have had trouble scripting.

With Finau scorching the course ahead of him Homa came to the par-5 17th hole needing a birdie to tie. But he lost his approach shot in a bunker on the right, leaving himself short sided. A clutch shot followed by a 6-foot putt sent him to the 18th hole knowing one more birdie could make all of those wild childhood dreams come true. **GP**



RORY MCILROY ELECTED PGA TOUR PLAYER ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN



on the Policy Board. McIlroy, 31, of Northern Ireland, joined the PGA TOUR in 2010. An 18-time PGA TOUR winner, including the 2019 PLAYERS Championship and four major championships, McIlroy is one of two players to win multiple FedExCup titles (2016, 2019). When he assumes his role of Player Director in 2022, McIlroy will become the first international player

7 Rory McIlroy has been elected Chairman of the Player Advisory Council (PAC) by the TOUR's membership for the 2021 calendar year.

The 16-member PAC advises and consults with the PGA TOUR Policy Board (Board of Directors) and Commissioner Jay Monahan on issues affecting the TOUR.

Rory McIlroy, who prevailed over Russell Knox and Kevin Streelman, will succeed Jordan Spieth as a Player Director on the PGA TOUR Policy Board next year, serving a three-year term (2022-24). He will join James Hahn (2020-22), Charley Hoffman (2021-23) and Kevin Kisner (2020-22)

McIlroy is one of two players to win multiple FedExCup titles (2016, 2019).

to serve on the Policy Board, which dates back to the TOUR's first season in 1969.

In November, the TOUR announced that the 2020 Player Advisory Council would extend its term through 2021 due to the vital role the PAC played in navigating the TOUR's response to the pandemic. **GP**

KOEPKA WINS WASTE MANAGEMENT PHOENIX OPEN FOR EIGHTH TOUR TITLE



7 Koepka, though, turned his comeback into a handcrafted, 20-pound "Chrystal Thunderbird" trophy of crystal on a mesquite-wood base. His pedal-to-the-mettle finish salted away his eighth PGA TOUR title and moved him from 73rd to 12th in the FedExCup. After battling a left knee injury for much of the last year and a half, he's finally 100 percent, and it showed. Shaking off a bogey at the second hole, he made two eagles, went 5 under for the last six holes for the second straight day, overcame a five-shot deficit, and won for the first time since the 2019 World Golf Championships-FedEx St. Jude Invitational.

"It feels like it's been forever," he said after collecting his second Waste Management Phoenix Open title (2015) – and breaking a streak of three straight missed cuts coming into the week.

Steve Stricker (67, T4), who at 53 was vying to become the oldest-ever TOUR winner, played with Koepka and was more than an interested observer. He will captain the U.S. Ryder Cup Team at Whistling Straits later this year, and Koepka is a mainstay on such teams. **GP**

CASEY CLAIMS OMEGA DUBAI DESERT CLASSIC TITLE

Paul Casey stormed to a four-stroke victory at the Omega Dubai Desert Classic, winning his 15th European Tour title at the iconic Emirates Golf Club.

The Englishman started the day one stroke ahead of Scotland's Robert MacIntyre but increased his advantage to two strokes after birdies on the third and fourth holes.

The 43-year-old finished the front nine in level par after bogeys on the sixth and eighth holes but three consecutive bogeys from the seventh hole ended MacIntyre's title tilt.

Casey steadied the ship with gains at the 11th and 13th holes and a closing birdie saw him sign for a final round of 70 and a total of 17 under par, finishing four strokes ahead of South African Brandon Stone.

The win propels Casey inside the Top 15 of the Official World Golf Ranking for the first time since December 2019 as he joins former and current European Ryder Cup Captains



Thomas Bjorn and Padraig Harrington - who finished in a tie for sixth at nine under par alongside Sergio Garcia and Bernd Wiesberger - on 15 European Tour titles.

Paul Casey: "I'm so over the moon. Not just 15 [victories]. The fact it's Dubai. It's an iconic event on The European Tour. You guys all know that. One of the coolest trophies around. **GP**

DOMINANT DJ CLAIMS SECOND SAUDI TRIUMPH



Dustin Johnson earned his second Saudi International powered by SoftBank Investment Advisers title in three years after holding off the chasing pack to secure a two-stroke victory at Royal Greens Golf & Country Club.

The World Number One started the day with a two-stroke advantage and he was pushed all the way by playing partner Victor Perez and compatriot Tony Finau, who briefly pulled level with Johnson on the back nine.

The reigning Masters Champion closed out victory by responding to his only dropped shot of the day at the 16th with a birdie at the 17th to finish with a closing two under par round of 68 for a winning 15 under total.

The triumph is Johnson's first victory since winning his first Green Jacket at the Masters Tournament in November and continues his excellent record in Saudi Arabia after winning the maiden edition of the event in 2019 before finishing second to Graeme McDowell in 2020. **GP**

EGD ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTION

European Golf Design Limited (EGD) is poised for a new direction following a change in the ownership structure of the renowned golf course design company.

A two-man syndicate comprising European Tour Chief Operating Officer Keith Waters and businessman Robert Birmingham has acquired 50% of EGD from International Management Group (IMG), who established the company together with the European Tour as a joint venture in 1992.

The syndicate and the European Tour will now work together to further develop EGD to design new courses and redesign existing member and resort courses, but particularly to host tournaments and The Ryder Cup.

The 2010 Course at The Celtic Manor Resort in Wales was designed by EGD to specifically host The Ryder Cup 11 years ago, while another of its projects, the new 18-hole stadium course at Marco Simone Golf and Country Club on the outskirts of Rome, will play host to the biennial contest between Europe and the United States in September 2023. **GP**



EUROPEAN TOUR, LPGA TOUR & LADIES EUROPEAN TOUR JOIN FORCES

The European Tour, LPGA Tour and Ladies European Tour will join forces for another innovative mixed tournament at the ISPS HANDA

World Invitational presented by Modest! Golf Management in Northern Ireland, hosted by Galgorm from July 28 – August 1, 2021.

The agreement heralds an exciting new chapter for the event, which has been elevated to European Tour status following a hugely successful inaugural edition on the European Challenge Tour in 2019. The 2021

event will continue to be played over two courses, Galgorm Castle and Massereene and will form part of the European Tour's 2021 UK Swing, taking in tournaments in Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland and England across July and August.

It will be the first time an event of this format is tri-sanctioned by the European Tour, LPGA Tour and Ladies European Tour in the northern hemisphere – following in the footsteps of the ISPS HANDA Vic Open in Australia which has the same format. **GP**

HATTON CLAIMS FOURTH ROLEX SERIES TITLE

Tyrrell Hatton became just the second player to claim four Rolex Series titles after a flawless performance in the final round of the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship helped him overturn the overnight lead of his playing partner Rory McIlroy and clinch a four-stroke victory.

The Englishman has now won two of the last three Rolex Series events, having lifted the BMW PGA Championship title last October, and his latest victory is timely with the European Points List restarting this week in the race to qualify for Pdraig Harrington's European Ryder Cup side.

Hatton's was another nerveless final round display as the 29-year-old cruised to three birdies on the front nine, while McIlroy dropped shots at the par three fourth and par five eighth holes, to lose any momentum created by the early birdies at the second and third.

Victory rarely looked in doubt for Hatton as he played assured and calculated golf down the stretch, three birdies on the way home wrapping up a flawless six under final round 66, an 18 under total and a sixth European Tour win. He now joins Jon Rahm as the only other player to lift four Rolex Series titles, and becomes the first Race to Dubai leader of the 2021 campaign. **GP**



ROYAL ABERDEEN TO HOST SCOTTISH SENIOR OPEN

Royal Aberdeen Golf Club will provide the setting for the 2021 Scottish Senior Open hosted by Paul Lawrie, when the Legends Tour returns to the venue for the first time in 26 years from September 10-12, 2021.

The 2021 Scottish Senior Open marks professional golf's return to Balgownie Links – one of two courses at Royal Aberdeen - after it hosted the first three editions of the Scottish Senior Open from 1993-1995, The 2005 Senior Open, the 2011 Walker Cup and the 2014 Scottish Open.

Aberdeen native and 1999 Open Champion Paul Lawrie, who is an Honorary Member of Royal Aberdeen, takes on hosting duties as well as returning to the event as defending champion, after winning his first Legends Tour title in the 2019 edition at Craigielaw Golf Club.

Royal Aberdeen Golf Club has a rich and storied history having been initially founded in 1780, making it the sixth-oldest golf club in the world, before receiving royal patronage in 1903. It was originally designed by the Simpson brothers, Archie and Robert of Carnoustie, and re-bunkered and lengthened by James Braid. **GP**

U.S. OPEN EXEMPTIONS AVAILABLE IN 2021

For the second successive season, ten spots in the U.S. Open Championship will be available to participants in a mini series of European Tour events.

The USGA has confirmed that the top ten aggregate point earners (not otherwise exempt) across the Betfred British Masters hosted by Danny Willett (May 12-15), Made in HimmerLand presented by FREJA (May 27-30) and the Porsche European Open (June 3-6) will earn places in the U.S. Open Championship at Torrey Pines Golf Course (South Course) on June 17-20, 2021.

The traditional U.S. Open final qualifying event in Europe will not take place once again this season due to the continuing impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic. Local qualifying will take place at 109 sites in the United States and Canada from April 26 – May 18.

The first opportunity for players to earn points towards a U.S. Open spot via the European Tour will come at The Belfry in Sutton Coldfield, England, when Major winner Danny Willett takes on hosting duties at the Betfred British Masters. Two weeks later, following the US PGA Championship, the action switches to Denmark for Made in HimmerLand presented by FREJA, before the final qualifying event, the Porsche European Open, at Green Eagle Golf Courses in Hamburg, Germany. **GP**



EUROPEAN ETOUR ANNOUNCES 2021 SCHEDULE

The 2021 European eTour schedule will feature five regular season events and a Global Finals as the popular golf esports series returns for a second year.

Three further events will coincide with European Tour tournaments from May to September before the final regular season event, the Nedbank Golf Challenge, starts in October. The season comes to a close with the second edition of the Global Finals in December.

American Payton Gordley, known by his in-game name golfx3, will be the player to beat in 2021 having won five regular season events last year and claiming the US\$30,000 grand prize in January's Global Final, as thousands tuned in to the livestream on the European Tour's YouTube channel. **GP**

COLLIN MORIKAWA: CLASSY FIRST WGC WIN

American star Collin Morikawa won the WGC-Workday Championship at The Concession Golf Club, in Florida, by shooting a three-under-par 69 to finish at 18 under – three ahead of countrymen Billy Horschel and Brooks Koepka and Norwegian Viktor Hovland.

Following a first round 70 on Thursday, Morikawa went on to birdie 20 of his next 45 holes to impressively pull away from the elite field and claim his first title since last August's PGA Championship.

"It shows that I can come out here and compete," said Morikawa, after his fourth PGA Tour win in just 39 starts.

"What a week. I was working on so much over the last couple of weeks ... My game felt so good. I'm so excited right now."

With much of the field dressed in red and black to honor Tiger Woods, after his near-fatal car crash earlier this week,

"Tiger means everything to me, Yes, he had the crash, thankfully he's all right and hopefully he has a quick and great recovery."

Morikawa was emotional in the end after his victory.

"Tiger means everything to me," said the 24-year-old. "Yes, he had the crash, thankfully he's all

right and hopefully he has a quick and great recovery. I don't think we can say thank you enough. I want to say thank you to Tiger ... Sometimes you lose people too early. You don't get to say thank you enough." **GP**



LIANG WEN-CHONG WINNING ON AND OFF THE COURSE



Former Asian Tour number one Liang Wen-chong, from China, has called for "everyone to work together to fight off the pandemic", and has taken a safe and sensible approach to the life-changing developments caused by COVID-19.

Speaking from his home in Hengdian, Zhejiang Province, China — where he is

currently celebrating the Lunar New Year with family and friends - he said: "In what has been a season of rest, for most of last year, I told myself to stay positive. The pandemic is something that will catch you off guard, but it has since become a norm for most. What we need to do is to adapt to it and make changes

"In what has been a season of rest, for most of last year, I told myself to stay positive".

to our daily lives.

"It's a new knowledge, so we need to have patience and face it with determination. Everyone needs to work together to fight off the pandemic, hoping life will return to usual in the near future.

"Thanks to this pandemic, I have learned how important it is to stay physically fit. Regular exercise can improve your resistance to virus. Therefore, golf is a good option too."

The 42-year-old played in the Asian Tour events at the start of last year, before the pandemic hit, and was able to compete in a couple of events in Japan, at the end of the year.

He succeeded his mentor Zhang Lian-wei —China's pioneering first world-class player — by recording achievements after achievements, including: winning three times on the Asian Tour; claiming two titles in Japan; becoming the first player from the mainland to compete in the US PGA Championship; and, at the Open in 2008, becoming the first Chinese golfer to make the cut at a Major. **GP**

THONGCHAI JAIDEE: MALAYSIAN OPEN AT THE DOUBLE

Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee successfully defended his Malaysian Open crown on this day, 16 years ago. Perhaps, more than any of his victories – to date he has claimed 13 on the Asian Tour, and eight on the European Tour – this event defined him as a player. We look back at those two memorable victories, both played at Saujana Golf & Country Club.

Thongchai Jaidee had already tasted victory on five occasions by the time he arrived at the Malaysian Open in 2004.

In fact, he had claimed the Myanmar Open the week beforehand – for the second time in his career – and so started the National Open of Malaysia as one of the favourites.

He faced a formidable field as, for the fifth year on-the-trot, the tournament was jointly-sanctioned by the Asian and European Tours. Ireland's Padraig Harrington – who was beaten in a play-off by Fijian Vijay Singh at the event three years before – Denmark's Thomas Bjorn, Irishman Paul McGinley and Sweden's emerging young star Henrik Stenson, were some of the headline acts.


It was, no doubt, the quality of the field that helped contributed to Thongchai's virtuoso performance.

That week, he created a piece of European Tour history when he became the first player from Thailand to win on the European Tour – the anniversary of which is on Monday, February 22 – with a two-stroke victory over Australian Brad Kennedy.

It was, no doubt, the quality of the field that helped contributed to Thongchai's virtuoso performance.



He had been tied for the lead with three holes to play and magnificently rose to the challenge by spectacularly sinking a six iron from 188 yards, for the second ace of his professional career. A birdie on the last gave him a closing round of 68, four under par, for a 14 under par total winning total of 274.

The winners' cheque of €58,153 (approximately US\$191,000) was the largest of his career at the time, and he also became the sixth player from the Asian continent to win on the European Tour, along with India's Arjun Atwal, Isao Aoki from Japan, Korean KJ Choi, Taiwan's Yeh Wei-tze and Zhang Lian-wei from China. 

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA BUOYED BY DUBAI; INSPIRED BY MAYBANK



India's Shubhankar Sharma feels he kick started his season with an encouraging performance in the Omega Dubai Desert Classic - where he finished in a tie for 22nd place.

"I was playing so much better than what the score showed," said the 24-year-old, who would have finished much higher if not for dropped shots over the closing holes. He three-putted the 15th for a bogey, dropped another

shot on the next, after failing to get up and down, and made the green in two on the par-five 18th but three-putted once more.


"It was kind of a bummer in the end but it is fine. You have to look at the bigger picture and take things into perspective: I had a decent week; I played pretty solid; I hit the ball really well. I obviously left a few shots out there, especially on the weekend, but I am really

happy with the way I battled hard," added Sharma, who had been paired with Jhonattan Vegas from Venezuela and Brandon Stone from South Africa in the first round of the Saudi International.

"We gave it our all and conditions were not easy, especially the last two days when it got really windy. We hung in there and I am pretty pleased with the result, considering it is only the second event of the season. There is still a long way to go but it gives me something to build upon now."

"It was kind of a bummer in the end but it is fine. You have to look at the bigger picture and take things into perspective".

The Indian star missed the cut in Abu Dhabi the previous week: which he says what partly because a fog delay on day one, which saw him get stuck in poor weather and meant he had to finish his first round on Friday, and also because he drove the ball badly.

He said: "I really worked hard on my driving after missing the cut, and it paid off as my driving was one of the best parts of my game in Dubai, and that is why I had some good scores." 

SHIRTS – A GOLFER’S SIGNATURE COMPONENT

Some players seek to stand out by wearing fluorescent lime or shocking pink. Others will only wear striped polos. A few just want to blend in with earth tones or solid black and white. Others will only wear a favorite brand like Tommy Bahama. One thing they all share, it’s through their shirt that every man will be able to most effectively underline their individuality within the classic golf fashion ensemble.

And while there are technical design components, fabrics and packability to consider, let’s tee off with color. What do the experts see trending?

“Black, white and grey are all traditionally popular colors,” noted Jamie Dion, the Head of Design at Blair Apparel, “(but) this Spring we are seeing all shades of blue really rise to the top. The color is easy for people to wear and matches with just about everything!”

Regarding splashes of hues and tones, vibrant and interesting check combinations always sell well. And although it can be a tricky guessing game, certain color combinations and stripes can sell exceptionally well too.

Still, in addition to ‘soft brights and pastels’, St. Croix’s General Manager Jessica

Huseboe-Narva sees emerging trends that ‘lean towards solid tones and timeless neutrals.’

When it comes to fabric – the lean is toward cotton, wool and synthetics.

Cotton is durable, absorbent, hypoallergenic, breathable and simply feels great, but sales for synthetic fiber shirts have gained in large part due to our change in lifestyles. With more constrictions on their time, tech apparel has evolved. Many people are more interested in the convenience factor versus the work it might take to feel, smell and look a bit better with a cotton shirt.

The reality is everything is about the now, the immediate. Players don’t have to put a warm iron to their clothes. It is that ease of care that has driven the performance wear side of the business.

In the constant drive for innovation, some apparel manufacturers also offer moisture-wicking synthetic filaments with cotton fibers to produce a blend of shirts, ‘where technology meets nature’ calling it ‘performance cotton’ where they hope the combination of nature’s comforts and hi-tech’s ease-of-care will fulfill a market need that has been demanding someone come up with the best from each world.

Far more people prefer wearing cotton to the

office and social outings than polyester. Cotton plays an enormous role in most areas off the course so you’ll see just as much if not more cotton garments as polyester in any golfer’s closet.

1



>> The Royal Bermuda Island Zone Camp Shirt from **Tommy Bahama**, available in a range of brilliant solid hues providing the golfer options on and off the course, uses a fabric that helps to regulate your body temperature with high-performance moisture evaporation.

2



>> **Tommy Bahama’s** iconic Emfielder knit polo shirt is updated in a camp shirt silhouette that offers a higher percentage of Supima cotton, making it softer and more comfortable than ever before. Designed to be worn in any climate or season, it is travel-ready and provides innovative moisture-wicking properties.

3



>> Easy to wear, easy to care for, easy to play in and easy to pack, **Foot Joy’s** Lisle Open Weave Print Self Collar shirt provides superior moisture control that quickly wicks away moisture, keeping you dry and comfortable.

For the experienced executives at St. Croix, a high-end apparel manufacturer that has long been a market leader in cotton blend tops, they know in the heat of a round that golfers don't want to have to worry about their shirts letting them down in the stretch.

"The moisture wicking properties of Microfiber transfer body moisture to the cotton for a cooler cling-free comfort. In addition, we heat set our fabric to assure a shrink-free fit every time," said Huseboe-Narva.

Another classic fabric from the natural world is wool.

"Merino wool is a highly prized natural fabric, but is particularly great for sports due to its breathability and moisture-wicking elements.

Golfers want a fabric that protects them from the outside elements, but also looks luxurious and stylish enough to go from the green to the clubhouse," explains Kia Zalewski, Director of Communications for Romeo Merino, a leading Italian clothing firm. "Though our pieces are 100% merino wool, which is a superior fabric for its natural properties, part of our 2021 line will include an ultra-light 16 gauge knit for unmatched breathability, and an ultra-soft feel that is ideal for outdoor activities and all-season wear."

Performance qualities such as sun protection, odor resistant, quick dry are other features guys look for; however, a most important consideration for most men when it comes

to golf shirts is fit and ease of care. Most manufacturers are well-aware of this as many clearly designate "Wrinkle Free" knowing how important that is for its customers. Ease of care is being achieved by blending cotton with polys, nylons and other synthetic fabrics to allow a wash and wear opportunity.

Stretch is another driving force in apparel today. Many manufacturers are adding various amounts of spandex into garments to better allow for movement. No doubt this aids in getting a shirt to fit just right as well. Freedom of movement is probably the most significant technical aspect in clothing today second only to fit.

Regarding fit, Blair's Dion added that golf

4



>> This colorful Lisle Camo Floral Print Self Collar shirt, part of a new line from **Foot Joy**, has an anti-microbial finish that helps inhibit odor build up when ambient moisture is present. 88% Polyester with 12% Spandex offering plenty of stretch for your swing.

5



>> Made from 100% sustainably-sourced **Merino Wool**, these soft, lightweight knit polos are machine washable and naturally antibacterial. They also are super breathable, luxuriously soft and temperature regulating thus can be worn year-round.

6



>> Part of **Blair's** Palmland line, this cotton/poly short-sleeve Banded-Bottom Polo features year-round wearability, easy comfort and easy care. Slightly dressed up or laid-back style this a versatile model for any man's wardrobe.

7



>> The Colorblock French Terry Polo from **Blair** is comprised of 60% cotton/40% polyester and thus easily cared for. It includes a button-through welt chest pocket, ribbed cuffs and bottom band.

8



>> A featured style in their 1905 Collection, this Tailored Fit Palm Leaf Short-Sleeve Polo Shirt from **Jos Bank** is made of 95% cotton, 5% spandex and is machine washable.

9



>> Bathed in soft cotton you'll feel 'in the pink' with this classic short sleeve polo in paisley print. Part of **Jos Bank's** Reserve Collection it is made of 100% cotton.

10



>> There are two things that really set this new Go-To Polo from **Adidas** apart: made partly by recycled polyester, it still has a very rich cotton-like hand feel, has an amazing 4-way stretch, is extremely breathable and absorbs moisture and still offers UV 50+ sun protection. Good for the golfer. Good for the environment.

11



From Down Under, this Sydney-based company specializes in the Big&Tall player. Lightweight and breathable, **Johnny Bigg's** Dangerfield Mustard Polo is crafted in cotton and is available in a range of colors and sizes.

12

>> This cotton and microfiber Mock-Neck from **St. Croix** comes in many solid colors. Lightweight for exceptional comfort on and off the course. Machine washable and handcrafted in America, it is comprised of 75% cotton and 25% microfiber.



13

Providing year-round lightweight comfort, this distinctive long-sleeve cotton blend polo is reflective of the luxurious line of clothing handcrafted in America by **St. Croix**. Using the finest quality yarns and fabrics in the world, it is available in a wide range of colors and features a hand-looped Never-Roll collar as well as a versatile banded bottom to wear in or out.



shirts 'have become slimmer and less boxy.' In making your chances of acquiring a poor product slimmer, we like to close out this story by having apparel experts, working for companies that enjoy a long-standing tradition of excellence, tell you what to look for when shopping for a quality golf shirt.

"I would say examine the details that describe the product. You want to hear things like "taped" or "reinforced" seams, product descriptions that call out any side vents or gussets, and lastly any fabric callouts like "pre-shrunk" or "stretch." All these descriptors point to a quality product," Dion said.

Romeo Merino's Zalewski emphasizes that the consumer really take a deep consideration regarding fabric.

"When looking for a great polo, ensure that the garment is high-performance. It shouldn't just be about the classic polo style, it should be about the material and gauge of the material.

Depending on the climate you live in (or are planning on visiting), you will want to get a fabric that protects you from the elements. With merino wool and knitwear, keep in mind that higher the gauge is, the lighter the fabric. Also, for the ultimate test, look into the fabric makeup. While many companies market their fabrics as merino wool, they are often merino wool blends. These are often made of synthetic materials, which as less breathable, don't offer the properties of merino wool, and won't last as long as a high-quality garment."

The seasoned-apparel executive points out some of those properties that quality wool provides.

"(It) naturally adapts to the outside to stabilize your body temperature- breathable in the summer and insulating in the winter: Merino wool fibers naturally adapt to the outside elements, giving them the unique ability to help stabilize body temperature, no matter the conditions. During cooler seasons, the fabric

insulates and keeps you warm. On hotter days, it transports sweat from the skin and releases humidity to help keep you cool and dry. With Merino wool, every piece is a year-round staple, providing one of the best investment pieces for any wardrobe."

For those that prefer cotton golf tops, the experts suggest players look at Pima, Egyptian and Peruvian-style first.

"We believe in using the highest quality of raw materials, such as Giza (Egyptian) cotton, in order to produce a high-quality shirt," stated Kathy Sula, Marketing Manager for St. Croix.

Regardless if one prefers synthetic, all-natural products or a blend, when it comes down to it, what fashion is all about is an expression of personal style and tailoring it to fit your needs.

So with the other parts of the classic ensemble being relatively static, it is through the shirt that golfers can vary the look, primarily through color and style types. **GP**

HERE
TO HELP
YOU SAVE
SHOTS

PLAY BETTER

MORE TIPS! ► MORE TECHNIQUES! ► MORE USEFUL!



YOUR COACH



ANDY TAYLOR
Andy Taylor Golf Academy,
Kirtlington Golf Club, Oxon.
andytaylorgolf.com

QUICK FIX

GO THE DISTANCE

↙ This is a great little drill to groove your feel for distance on the greens. Grab 10 balls - ideally the same brand and model you use regularly. Hit the first one 20ft or so away. Your goal for the next ball is to get it as close to the first ball as possible while leaving it short of it. Repeat that task for each subsequent putt. Ultimately, your goal is to fit all nine balls between that first one and the point you are putting from. To achieve that, you'll need to keep each gap down to no more than a couple of feet. That demands pure touch and feel. Make this game a regular part of your putting practise and your touch will improve dramatically. **GP**

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Smart Practice p37 **Mind Games** p38



CARD WRECKER

BLOCKED OUT? THEN BEND IT!



If a gentle dog-leg or overhanging branches block out your second shot on a par 5 or long par 4, you face a decision. Laying up is the percentage play, but it might be worth taking on the risk with a club that will reach if there isn't too much trouble around the green. Here's how...



DRAW IT AT THE GREEN

You have to move the ball from right-to-left through the air to get it into the green. A less lofted club like a fairway wood can actually help you in this situation because it's easier to apply sidespin with straighter faced clubs.



HOW TO PLAY IT

1



Set up for the draw

The face should point right of target at impact, with the clubhead travelling to the right of where the face is pointing. Your feet, hips and shoulders should face right of the target and the clubhead should be slightly open to target at address.

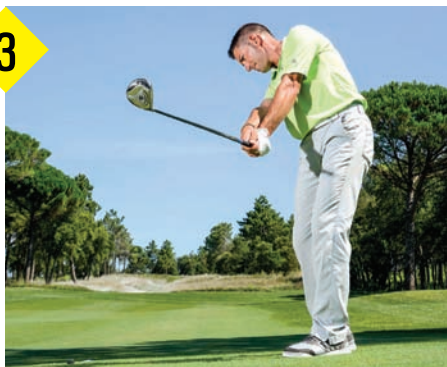
2



Shallow impact

You must make good contact. Hold the lag created by your wrist hinge as long as you can into the downswing to increase clubhead speed and encourage the club to sweep the ball off the turf with a shallow attack angle.

3



Rotate the forearms

You need to keep the clubface rotating through impact so you don't leave the face open and push the ball straight right. Feel as if your right forearm rotates over your left forearm through impact and into the follow-through. **GP**

YOUR COACH



ENRIC LOPEZ

PGA Head Professional at PGA Catalunya, Spain.

www.pgacatalunya.com

IT WORKED FOR ME!

'I've taken 10 shots off my scores since last spring'

GP reader
Mark Simmonds



My improvement began last May, just after the first lockdown. Struggling to break 100, I booked six lessons. I

recommend booking a batch of lessons; it makes you commit to the process and ensures you don't regress while moving into new areas.

The first couple of lessons were a struggle. My swing needed a lot of work. I had a backswing sway and my grip was causing me to hit my drives high and right. The changes were big, and my play got worse while I was working on them.

As a result, there were times when I felt a little despondent.

But I persevered. I was disciplined, practising the drills I was given three times a week. By the third lesson it felt different. I saw a change, and I could see my route to progress. The better I played, the more I enjoyed it. I also tried to relax more on the course. I put less pressure on myself and I became much less likely to follow a bad shot with another.

I continued to improve. The highlight came in September, when I briefly led the net section of the club championships, eventually finishing 4th. Today I am much more consistent and regularly shoot around the 90 mark. A 10-shot drop well inside a year shows what can be achieved through lessons, perseverance and a determination to enjoy the game the more. **GP**



GP CHALLENGE

BOX CLEVER



Here is a great game you can play to improve your distance control on the greens. It works by targeting the secret of pace control: stroke length. Making the appropriate backswing length for the putt's distance affords your stroke good rhythm and acceleration. The game includes a scoring element, which adds interest and simulates on-course pressure. Avoid thinking technically about your stroke as you try it; it will hinder your ability to develop feel. **GP**

2

Set up a series of balls on an angle to give some variation and to allow each a clear run at the hole. Use tee pegs to mark their positions; place the closest one 8ft or so from the hole, and go back in 2ft intervals.

1

Use shafts or alignment canes to set up a box around the hole. Place them as shown; these canes are 4ft long, so I've left myself 2ft either side of the hole and 3ft behind it.



RIGHT FOOT REFERENCE

As you work back up the line, away from the hole, your stroke will need to get slightly longer. So as you practise, use your right toe as a reference point for monitoring backswing length. You'll develop a feel for how far each position – for example 'toe cap' – sends the ball – and that's something you can take to the course.

3

Hit each putt in turn, starting with the shortest. Use the same routine and time frame as you would on the course; don't rush through the putts just because it's a drill. Your goal is to find the box with each putt. Award yourself 3pts for a putt that ends up inside, -2pts for hitting a cane or leaving it short, and 5pts for holing. Chart – and try to beat – your personal best.

YOUR COACH



CHRIS JENKINS

Fellow of the PGA, Essex Elite Squad coach and lead coach to the England East Region under-18 boys squad.

MY BEST ADVICE

'USE FAIRWAYS OR UTILITY WOODS TO CHIP'

Five Tommy Fleetwood tips that can really help your scores



1 I try to use as little loft as possible for any shot around the green. I like to see amateurs using fairways or utility woods to chip. Using a lofted wedge demands a lot of skill and precision. Bumping the ball

forward with less loft means you use a shorter and more controllable stroke.

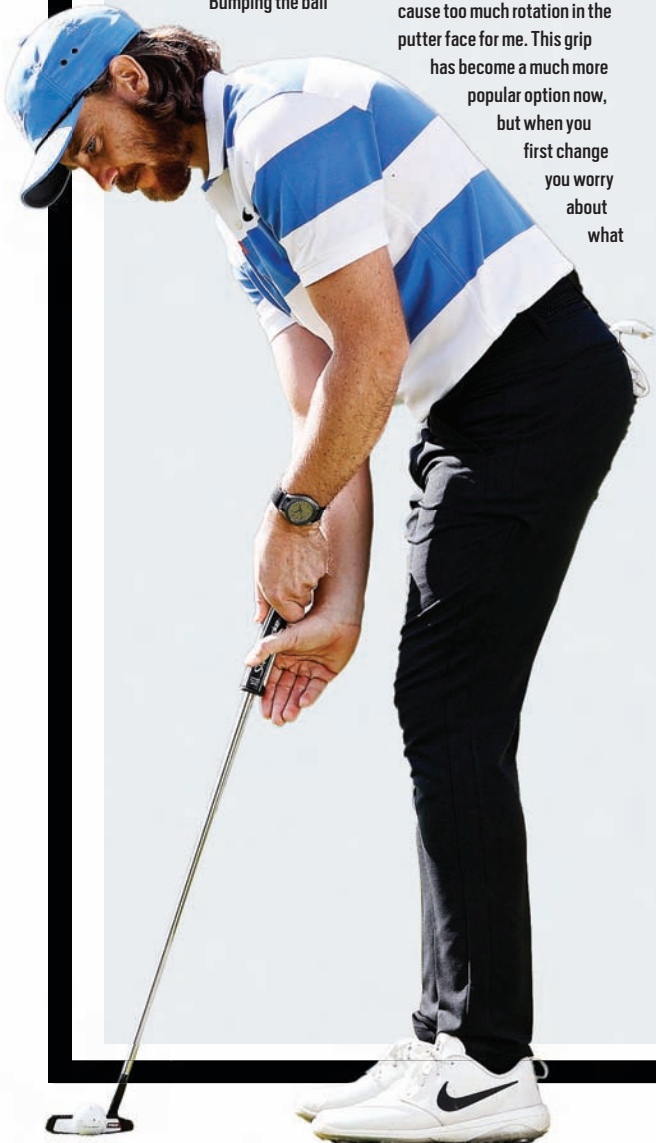
2 The key thing in putting is being able to start the ball consistently on the line you want it on. If you can't do that, you need to go back to basics and work on it. I use the claw grip because it takes my right hand out of the stroke, which is what used to cause too much rotation in the putter face for me. This grip has become a much more popular option now, but when you first change you worry about what

people are going to think. I changed in winter when I was pretty much doing nothing except putting on a carpet, so it didn't take me very long at all to get used to. I've putted with it ever since.

3 When I'm hitting a bunker shot, I turn the back of my lead hand so I can see only two knuckles. This helps the face stay open so the bottom of the club - the bounce - is the first part to touch the sand. The open face pops the ball out high and with plenty of backspin, while the extra bounce helps the clubhead glide through the sand instead of digging in.

4 From the sand, I also set up with my weight on my left side and keep it there as I swing. Control distance by where you impact the sand and your choice of club, not the length or swing speed. Less loft and hitting closer to the ball will make it fly further... and vice versa.

5 Once you can deliver the club squarely, you can work some shape into your irons with two canes or clubs on the ground to help you get your body and face aim right. A draw is great for working the ball to a left pin or for getting more release when the flag is at the back. A fade helps you work the ball to a right pin and land the ball softer if it's at the front. **GP**



TURNAROUND PLAN

How to avoid a terrible first round after lockdown



⚠ Poor opening holes can sap your confidence and lead to a downward spiral. Conversely, a good start is often what creates the confidence and momentum that can help us produce a great round. Here, Steven Orr offers three keys to ensure you find your form fast when you start playing again.

1. WARM UP BEFOREHAND

Arrive at the course early enough to warm up. Hit at least 20 balls on the range before you play in order to get warm and get familiar with your swing - this is about the number of full swings you'd make on a front nine of 45 shots without a warm up. Also spend at least 10 minutes chipping and putting to get a feel for the conditions and speed - a good early up-and-down or long putt can generate momentum and set the tone for your whole round.

2. THREE-HOLE TARGET

Set yourself an achievable goal for the first three holes, such as making a solid start by playing to your handicap, avoiding anything worse than bogey or something more specific like not making any three-putts. This helps you relax and prevents you from overstretching and trying too hard early on, which is a common reason for a bad start. If you break your whole round into six sets of three holes it can make your goals appear more achievable.

3. GET THE BALL IN PLAY

There is a difference between a 'bad' shot and a 'cost' shot. Everyone hits 'bad' shots but they don't always result in a dropped shot. 'Cost' shots, however, are those that put you in real trouble and cause bogeys or card-wrecking scores if you throw more than one of them into a hole. If you reduce the 'cost' shots you will improve your scores, so take a club that you know will get the ball safely in play on the first holes. **GP**

FAULT FIXER

PLUGGED LIES MADE EASY

Fried egg lies in wet sand are common right now... this is how to deal with them

1

Don't open the face too much

You want to have enough loft to blast the ball up in the air like a 56° or 60° wedge will, but don't open the face as you would for a normal bunker shot. Squaring the face will help the club dig to the bottom of the ball a little more, while its sole 'bounce' helps you splash the sand and maintain speed.

YOUR COACH



CHRIS JENKINS

Fellow of the PGA, Essex Elite Squad coach and lead coach to the England East Region under-18 boys squad.

2



Stable base and choke down

Take a wide stance and dig your feet into the sand for stability. Choke down to the bottom of the grip and lean the shaft forwards slightly to encourage a steeper attack angle than a normal bunker shot. The ball should be middle or just forward in your stance.

3



Hinge the wrists for more speed

Make quite a full backswing and use plenty of wrist hinge so you can generate the clubhead speed in the downswing that you'll need to explode the ball out on a cushion of sand. Keep the majority of your weight on the front foot throughout the swing.

4



Hit the sand three inches before the ball

For a normal bunker shot you enter the sand two inches before the ball and leave it four inches after it. But when it's plugged you need to get into the sand three inches before and leave three inches after. Aim to blast the whole six inches of sand forward onto the green. **GP**

SMART PRACTICE

WEDGE DISTANCES

It is no coincidence that all the top players possess top-class wedge games, routinely turning bogeys into pars and pars into birdies. But where they really excel is in distance control. Most golfers can hit a wedge fairly straight, but getting it pin-high is much trickier. Getting on top of this is less about technique and more about understanding and using the wedges in your set. Here is a three-step practice routine that will help you...

1

STEP 1 THREE EASY DISTANCES

When it comes to distance control with wedges, many coaches advocate a 'clockface'. My approach is easier to understand and execute. Begin by taking your PW and 10 balls. For each, make what you might call your 'typical wedge swing'. That means:

- A regular set-up, with ball position, shaft lean and weight distribution remaining constant.
- A uniform swing length, for most players around a three-quarter swing.
- A consistent speed.

Keep all these elements consistent and I'd hope those 10 balls should land in the same area. Note the length. Now repeat the drill with your gap and sand wedge. You'll end up with another two 'standard' shot lengths, with 10-15 yards between them.

2

STEP 2 THREE SHORTER SWINGS

We are now going to create three more 'stock' distances by changing as little as possible. Again, take your wedge and 10 balls. But this time alter your set-up.

- Grip down to the bottom of the rubber.
- Add a little more spine bend and knee flex.
- Narrow your stance.

Hit your 10 balls from this new stance. Aim to keep the same swing speed and length, though the swing will likely be slightly shorter. You should find this new 'matrix' of distances is around 5-10 yards shorter than your first set. So you have now created six distances without having to think about swing length or tempo. Most golfers will find this spread of yardages covers everything from around 65-120 yards.

3

STEP 3 THE RULE OF THREE

Of course you also need a sharp wedge game for shots from 25-60 yards. You can get some funny distances within this range, but a great way to train for them is by 'framing' the yardage.

Most ranges have a 50-yard marker. Make this your target yardage.

- Hit the first shot deliberately past it – go for 55 yards.
- Hit the second shot deliberately short of it – this time 45 yards.
- Split the difference for the third shot.

This little three-shot drill keeps your focus on your target, not your action. Select a variety of targets inside 60 yards and repeat the process – long, short, bang on. You'll quickly generate a feel for how to send the ball your chosen distance, from 25 yards right up to 120. **GP**



YOUR COACH



GARETH JOHNSTON

PGA Professional and Director of Golf at Calcot Park, Berkshire.

MIND GAMES

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR GAME WITHOUT PICKING UP A CLUB

Better golf begins in the mind, not on the course or range

⏪ This magazine is created for today's golfer, but the sad fact is today's golfer isn't playing much golf. As true lovers of the game, we all carry golf with us wherever we go; but with golf courses and driving ranges closed for the unforeseeable future under current lockdown regulations, keeping the fires burning becomes an increasingly frustrating pursuit. But in this article I want to share with you three ways you can do just that. Not only will they stoke your enthusiasm for the game; they also have the potential to make you a happier, better and more fulfilled golfer, better equipped to suck the marrow out of the game when the fairways do eventually reopen. Let's take them in turn.

1. Read There is some incredible golfing literature out there, and lockdown presents the perfect opportunity to take advantage of it. Here are four books I heartily – and objectively – recommend:

- **Extraordinary Golf** by Fred Shoemaker. A genuinely groundbreaking work, this book goes beyond the superficial, technical layers of performance to address the deeper elements that influence it. You will be asked at times uncomfortable questions about your relationship with the game – why you play, what motivates you. You will learn how Performance, Enjoyment and Learning form a triangle that becomes unbalanced when we are struggling with the game. And you will also discover how to bring out the instinctive knowledge and ability that gets buried by the golfer's culture of constantly trying to fix technical flaws.
- **Wherever You Go, There You Are** by Jon Kabat-Zinn. An insightful introduction to the world of mindfulness, this is not a golf-specific book but it does address one of the keys of golf performance – staying in the present. Kabat-Zinn demonstrates how bringing your awareness to your body, which resides in the present, can help you achieve that. As we so often see in this column, there is so much of golf that is not actually hitting a

ball. This is a book that will tell you how to fill that other time effectively.

- **Be a Player** by Lynn Marriott and Pia Nilsson. The latest work from this respected duo, *Be a Player* cogently makes the case that if you want to improve, you need to spend less time on the range and more time on the course itself. If you have been a range rat but not seen the benefits of your labour, or are simply someone who habitually searches for answers to their poor play on the range, this book will give you a different and, quite possibly, more useful perspective.
- **Redirect** by Timothy Wilson. This influential work explains how we live according to the narratives we use to explain ourselves – narratives that can imprison us, or set us free. Again this is not a golf book as such, but its principles

absolutely relate. What are you... a poor putter? Good at matchplay but rubbish at strokeplay? Streaky? A solid 15-handicapper? Redirect will help you become aware of your own narratives, evaluate them, and adapt them into something more useful to you.

2. Seek inspiration You can't play golf, and there is precious little to watch. But the internet is full of incredible moments you can relive, and be inspired by. Why not search out your top five? I'll spot two of mine for starters – Seve's chip between the bunkers on the 72nd hole of the 1976 Open (below) – a shot Henry Longhurst described as impossible – and Tiger's "In your life" chip from the back of the 16th at the 2005 Masters. Watch this clip carefully and you can see Tiger creating the shot; even his lips move, as if describing it to himself. Both clips are inspirational, but also educational.

3. Develop gratitude In these difficult times it's so easy to dwell on what we haven't got, but this is not a useful place to have your attention. At the end of each day for the next two weeks, spend five minutes writing down things you are grateful for. They could be as banal as the fact the boiler is still working, to more profound things like loved ones, or health. The idea here is to break that habit of having to wait for something good to happen before you can feel good. And that's totally relevant to golf. We tend to think that if we play great golf, we will feel good; but if you can feel good before you start, you'll have created a mindset that actually promotes that great play. 🧠

YOUR COACH



KARL MORRIS
www.themindfactor.com
Karl has worked with multiple Major winners. Check out his BrainBooster Podcasts for free on iTunes





PAGES

FROM MY DIARY...

MARCH 2021

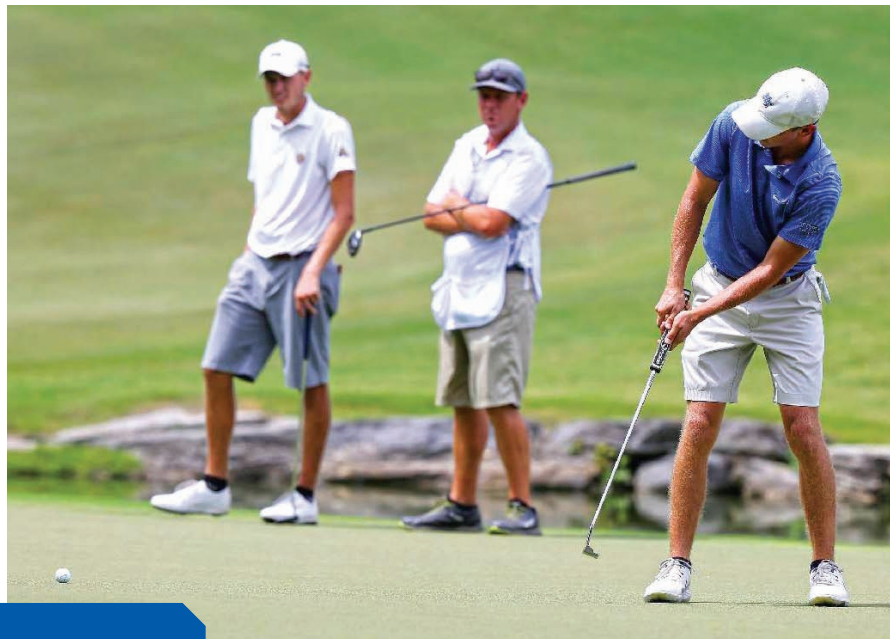
By Brandon de Souza

The amateur golfer is set to be redefined if the proposed changes to the Rules of Amateur Status are to go by. It is a step in the right direction as we need to differentiate the person from the professional. While the Rules play an important role in protecting the integrity of our self-regulating sport, the code must continue to evolve and that is what is the proposal.

The Covid-19 is here to stay it seems, as the new strain detected in the United Kingdom has spread and a lot of countries are seeing a fresh wave of positive cases. Even in India, we have seen a surge over the past month but the second phase of vaccinations starting this month, should see some respite I am hopeful. Let's be careful for a few more months even with the Covid fatigue being at an all time high.

The impact on professional golf has been negative and can be seen in Asia particularly as the Asian Tour is yet to restart. Even in India, the Professional Golf Tour of India is stuttering with the paucity of events on the calendar. I am sure every effort is being made by the tour to organize more events and efforts can be seen with the Glade One Masters making an entry on the calendar. But the fact remains our professionals are hurting especially the ones who ply their trade in Asia costing them ranking points in an Olympics year.

What we do learn from cricket is, despite the challenges, we carry on business as usual in our own bubble. Should we have more number of professional events at lower prize monies so as to keep our guys match fit for when they get an opportunity



ONE POSITIVE WE ARE GOING TO WITNESS THIS MONTH IS THE LAUNCH OF T GOLF FOUNDATION IN HYDERABAD.

internationally, they do not need time to get used to competition? Last year's Women's Open winner Sophia Popov is a prime example of the possibilities of regular match practice. Her grinding it out and winning on the

Cactus Tour before the big one should serve as a reminder that tournament golf is most important to build up confidence and cultivate the winning habit.

The other thoughts that keep making their presence felt in my head are of packaging golf in our country. Making it television worthy so that we have our own Krishnappa Gowthams who, even though are less known, get grabbed by a team/

sponsor for a fortune. It could be game changing even though I am aware that whenever we have tried it in the past, it hasn't delivered the eyeballs.

One positive we are going to witness this month is the launch of T Golf Foundation in Hyderabad. They have big plans for growing the game in Greater Hyderabad and Telangana region to start with especially amongst the caddies and course workers who could take up the game and make good of their life. We are happy to manage the inaugural fund raiser planned at Boulder Hills on 7th March. Their endeavor is to support the talent in the region and drive them to get better and make a name for themselves. More power to them! **GP**

Brandon de Souza is the President of Golf Industry Association. He is the Chairman & Managing Director of Tiger Sports Marketing & Brandon de Souza Management Services. He advises brands on using golf as a platform.

FUTURE LOOKING BLEAK FOR TIGER



Tiger Woods is “recovering and in good spirits” after receiving further procedures on the injuries he suffered in a single-car accident earlier this week.

Woods underwent unspecified follow-up procedures at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles after being transported from the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center on Wednesday night.

Cedars-Sinai has catered to professional athletes on numerous occasions due to a renowned Sports Medicine Institute and a rehabilitation program for sports-related and orthopedic injuries.

“Tiger has moved to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and received follow-up procedures on his injuries this morning. The procedures were

successful, and he is now recovering and in good spirits,” a statement on Woods’ twitter account said.

“Tiger and his family want to thank you all for the wonderful support and messages they have received over the past few days. We will not have any further updates at this time. Thank you for your continued privacy.”

PGA TOUR commissioner Jay Monahan said the entire TOUR community had Woods’ well-being in their thoughts.

PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan met with the media at the World Golf Championships-Workday Championship at The Concession on Wednesday morning in

the wake of Tiger Woods’ single-car accident in Los Angeles.

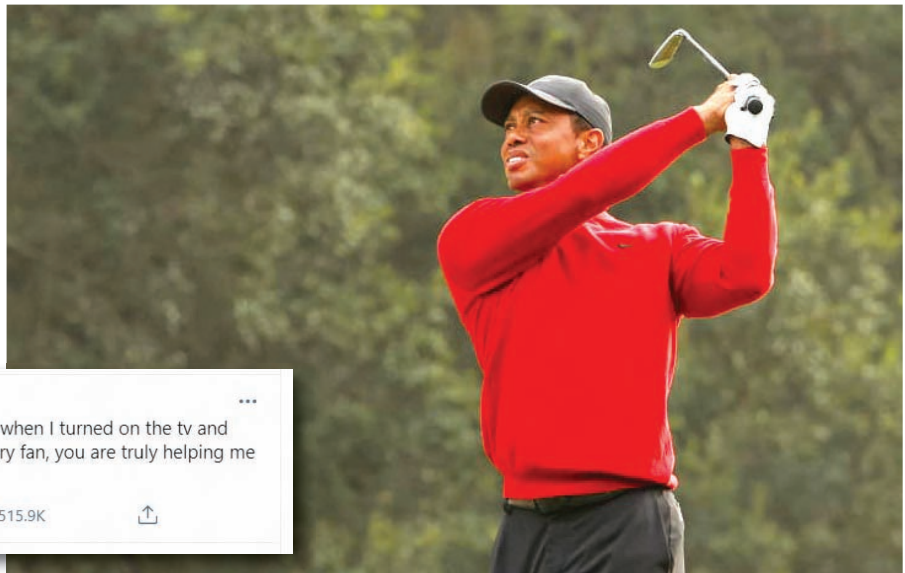
Woods suffered compound fractures to his lower extremities and remains hospitalized in L.A. He was already sidelined as he worked to recover from a fifth back surgery and had missed starts at the Farmers Insurance Open and last week’s Genesis Invitational, where he serves as the tournament host. He had remained in Los Angeles to fulfill sponsor and media obligations.

“I was in my office on a Microsoft Teams call,” Monahan said, when asked how he learned about the accident mid-day Tuesday. “I answered my phone and I guess my

reaction was shock, I was shocked. I kind of had to sit down and ask the same question I had asked a second time because I wasn't sure I completely heard what I was being told."

"The driver and sole occupant was identified as PGA (TOUR) golfer Eldrick 'Tiger' Woods. Mr. Woods was extricated from the wreck ... then transported to a local hospital by ambulance for his injuries."

The Sheriff's Department said Woods was conscious when first responders reached his



side and was calm and lucid. He was extricated with the help of a Halligan tube (pry bar) and an axe to get him through the front windshield before being transported to the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

"We have been made aware of Tiger Woods' car accident today. We are awaiting further information when he comes out of surgery. On behalf of the PGA TOUR and our players, Tiger is in our prayers and will have our full support as he recovers," Monahan said via statement.

CAN TIGER RECOVER FROM HIS INJURIES TO RETURN TO THE COURSE?

It's too early to say, but he undoubtedly faces a long and arduous recovery from his injuries. He was already dealing with debilitating back injuries. On Dec. 23, he underwent his fifth back procedure to alleviate pain and discomfort.

Woods' last official start was at the 2020

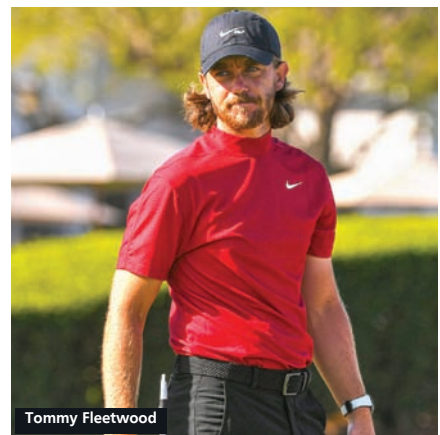
Masters, which was played this past November after being postponed from its typical April date because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He tied for 38th. Woods is 50th in the world ranking after playing only nine times during the 2020 season. In December, in his last public golf event, the PNC Championship, Woods played with his 12-year-old son, Charlie, before undergoing his latest back surgery.

PLAYERS PAY TRIBUTE TO WOODS, SHOWS SUPPORT BY WEARING SUNDAY COLORS

Many around the professional golf world are rallying to show their support for one of the game's greats on Sunday.

Billy Horschel had "TW" written on his cap while Matt Kuchar, Jason Day and Bryson DeChambeau played with golf balls stamped with "TIGER."

Day, Rory McIlroy, Tony Finau, Patrick Reed, Tommy Fleetwood, Scottie Scheffler, Carlos Ortiz, Sebastian Munoz and Cameron Champ each wore black slacks and dark red golf shirts – Woods' traditional Sunday attire. Other shirts were of lighter red tones, including those worn by Justin Thomas and Cameron Smith. [GP](#)



Tommy Fleetwood



Cameron Champ



Sebastian Munoz



Rory McIlroy

POST BREXIT - RYDER CUP FEARS OVER EUROPEAN DISUNION

By Michael Wilson

Great Britain eventually left the European Union at 11pm on 31st December last year, severing over 50-years of political, economic and cultural co-operation having joined the year after the European Tour - the primary professional golfing vehicle for the continent - was formed.

Six-years-later, after 25-years of USA domination over Great Britain & Ireland, the Ryder Cup was reconfigured to include players from mainland Europe, resulting in a period of intense, close competition where the balance of power shifted perceptibly towards a reinvigorated Europe.

But now, with no Ryder Cup possible on UK soil for at least a decade, Bunker Mentality examines what the impact of the political and economic isolation brought about by Brexit might have on both the European Tour and its cash-cow spin-off, the Ryder Cup and concludes that, whatever Wentworth might say, whilst ties with the UK will never be completely severed, the gravitational pull of the biennial transatlantic event may well drift away from the small island in the edge of Europe that Samuel Ryder called home.

That the Ryder Cup has in the past found itself buffeted by crosswinds over which it and its two prime movers, the PGA of America and the European Tour have had marginal influence was already in no doubt, having found itself forced into a year-long delay in light of the horrors of the 9/11 attacks on New York, which unfolded on the eve of the 34th staging of the event in 2001, and that was due to take place over 5,000km to the east in England, the postponement made - rightly so - on the grounds of safety, image and politics with a small 'p.'

Almost 20-years on and the Ryder Cup, this time scheduled for the US side of the Atlantic Ocean has once again found itself a hostage



to fortune, postponed anew, courtesy of events entirely outside their control, this time, Coronavirus.

The global pandemic that has already seen 100-million infected around the world (a quarter of those in the 2021 Ryder Cup host country alone) taking 2-million lives worldwide and counting, the grizzly landmark of half-a-million deaths in the USA alone recently passed, despite organisers insisting plans for the rescheduled 43rd Ryder Cup this fall are well underway, given the predictable unpredictability of COVID, with six-months to go, it's still too close to call.

Rightly so, sport in general and golf in particular are vulnerable to exposure to events beyond their control - World War II was the last significant cause before 9/11 - now with Coronavirus, it's clear golf's powerbrokers are becoming, by necessity bolder, more media savvy, prepared to be proactive where necessary, taking control of what fragments remain within their control.

But 9/11 was relatively transient, a one-off, the passing of time blurring the immediate trauma and a year on from the New York atrocities, the 34th Ryder Cup was underway at The Belfry and a jolly fine event it was too, partly out of respect for the thousands killed in the World Trade Centre attack and in a far better spirit than the previous Battle of Brookline.

However, the impacts of COVID, grim though they are may lighten somewhat as science comes to the rescue with fast-tracked vaccines and therapeutics, allowing mankind to work around and deal with the virus ultimately as an inconvenience.

However, there is a fresh, dark storm cloud

lurking overhead for the Ryder Cup, one that is not a passing inconvenience but - potentially - a strike at the very fabric of the event.

That's Brexit, the departure of the UK from the European Union, under whose flag many of the 12 triumphs Team Europe has celebrated since 1979 when the inclusion of continental Europe had the desired effect of spicing-up an event that was dying on its feet.

Following the surprise, narrow instruction by UK voters in 2016 for their government to exit the EU, the European Tour was at pains to play down the potential impact of the split, a 'Nothing to see here, move along' attitude taken, but five-years-on and a tortuous, acrimonious split by the UK from the other 27 members of the EU, the harsh realities of what was a very messy divorce are becoming clearer.

That the next two Ryder Cups on European soil are not in the now-isolated UK but at the Marco Simone Golf & Country Club in Italy in 2023 and, four-years-later at Adare Manor in Ireland is

That's Brexit, the departure of the UK from the European Union, under whose flag many of the 12 triumphs Team Europe has celebrated since 1979 when the inclusion of continental Europe had the desired effect of spicing-up an event that was dying on its feet.

- by good fortune rather than forward planning – advantageous, the rift with the UK camouflaged to an extent.

But Brexit still begs the question, after 18 Ryder Cups hosted by the UK on British soil – 15 of those in England, the country that was the driving force behind Brexit – when, if ever, is the UK likely to see the Ryder Cup back in its natural ‘home?’

Meanwhile, Wentworth is without question going to have to reconfigure the Ryder Cup qualification system as the European Tour looks set to become less and less attractive to the pool of 20 or so candidates for a place in the 12-man European team.

Ask any of the elite European players, perhaps with the exception of Harrington and Westwood, from Rahm to Casey, Rose and Poulter, Garcia and McIlroy, Stenson, McDowell et al why they love playing in the USA so much and you’ll inevitably get two answers.

First, ‘Prize money,’ and, second, ‘The ability to travel freely, unhindered across the USA,’ by plane or car, state to state with no borders, no queues, no passports, visas or customs, players, families and friends, caddies, the entourage, it’s seamless, hassle-free and lucrative.

But now, with European Tour prize funds dwindling, post-Brexit, whilst elite golfers may be afforded exemptions from the need for either an EU or UK visa, they and their ever-growing band of retainers will require – if British – to queue-up at EU border control /immigration, along with Australians, Americans, Indians; and, for European players, heading for The Open Championship, the Scottish Open or the BMW PGA Championship, the same in reverse, passport control – with six-months minimum before expiry - customs checks, valid health insurance, international driving license, along with yet-to-be-announced punitive tax measures.

Don’t forget, these are young men who, whether playing in the USA or Europe enjoyed far greater freedom of movement than your Ordinary Joe, many rarely flying commercial, ushered through immigration to a waiting luxury limousine, but when they and their flunkies are forced into compliance – and into two-hour long queues at immigration - that won’t go down at all well.



And looking forward to the next Ryder Cup but one, in Italy, the 44th staging of the most emotive of all team events in the sport, British members of the European team will be able to spend time with their American rivals in the same ‘Non-EU Aliens’ immigration queue at Rome’s Leonardo da Vinci-Fiumicino Airport, while their Team Europe teammates get fast-tracked through the frictionless border reserved for EU citizens, hardly the foundations on which team cohesion is constructed.

Meanwhile, the Ryder Cup, wherever it is played can be a raucous, tribal affair, the ‘Get in the hole’ brigade when on US soil, the more informed but equally cacophonous Brits who, statistics show, form the majority of the 35,000 – 40,000 spectators each day will - unlike Paris in 2018, the K Club in 2006 and Valderrama back in 1997 – require the full bureaucratic suite of documentation, passport and visa, health insurance, international driving license.

Indeed, UK-based fans traveling to the Marco Simone Golf and Country Club, will be treated exactly as visiting USA supporters and quite differently to their fellow Europeans arriving in Rome from fellow-EU countries.

And sponsors, the lifeblood of the Ryder Cup, both commercial backers and governments and their destination marketing agencies will inevitably take stock, not only taking a view on how, ‘European’ their see themselves, but also demographically geographically and commercially analysing their constituencies and customer bases.

Then there’s the delicate matter of the Ryder Cup iconography; on the USA side, it’s simple, fly the Stars & Stripes as the band blasts out, ‘The Star-Spangled Banner,’ but in the ‘new Europe,’ it’s all a bit more complicated.

Since 1979, Team Europe has coalesced under the iconic blue flag with golden stars of the ‘Flag of Europe’ and united under the ‘Anthem of Europe,’ but post Brexit, expect European anthems and flags to come under increasing scrutiny.

But, as a relatively conservative, conventional organisation, the Europe Tour – which took no formal position during the 2016 Brexit debate – expect the Union flag and ‘God Save the Queen’ to re-enter the arena in some shape or form, perhaps even taking parity with the Stars &



Stripes and the Flag of Europe.’


And, lest we forget, the women’s equivalent of the Ryder Cup, the Solheim Cup, due to take place as scheduled at the Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio, USA a fortnight after the Ryder Cup will be similarly affected by Brexit, perhaps a degree or so less given its roots are sunk deeper in mainland Europe than in the UK, but effects there will certainly be.

Looking ahead, given the hostility caused in the UK and to a lesser extent in Europe over Brexit especially during the 2016 referendum and subsequent withdrawal negotiations and beyond, it’s hard to envisage any UK government sanctioning an English bid to host the Ryder Cup anytime soon while the scars and wounds of an acrimonious five-year battle that was almost entirely, from a British perspective, all about national identity, an issue still not healed as Scotland – the Home of Golf – heads consistently closer to the UK exit door.

Like everything related to Brexit, the devil really will be in the detail and the full effects are unlikely to be known until Italy 2023 is wooing inbound fans from the UK, because golf in Italy alone won’t sustain the numbers required to make the event commercially viable.

And, on top of that, there is the philosophical facet of a Team Europe with arguably its most influential element – Great Britain - ideologically sitting noticeably outside the core concept, begging serious questions over cohesion, togetherness and team spirit.

Both the Ryder Cup and the Solheim Cup are very much framed in Blue (Europe) versus Red (USA) and will, post Brexit, remain so, but one cannot help but sense the potential for a gradual gnawing erosion of the blue side of the debate with the UK and its players in effect partially outside the European tent and everything it stands for.

Only time will tell, come late afternoon, Eastern Time, Whistling Straits, Wisconsin, USA on Sunday 26th September 2021 – COVID permitting – when the outcome of the 43rd Ryder Cup becomes apparent, but, win, lose or draw, Team Europe, will be draped in the flag of the European Union, the strains of ‘Anthem of Europe,’ with the Union flag and ‘God Save the Queen’ conspicuous in their absence. 





by Wg Cdr Arun Kumar Singh (Retd)
President, GCS&MAI

TOP DRESSING IS A VITAL PRACTICE

Golf course maintenance has changed over time and especially so in the last 70 odd years. Construction of new courses with spectacular undulations and landscapes by using the heavy earth moving machines in the post war years led to lot of expenses. Necessity of selling memberships at high rates became essential to recover the high costs. The new membership in turn demanded good views, rich colour and yearlong playability with good putting surfaces. The cultivation practices necessary to provide this perennial playability (mowing, fertilising, aeration, topdressing etc.) underwent changes and among them, it was topdressing which underwent a transformation in the past 50 years.

Top Dressing – The Meaning

Top dressing is a term used to define the process of covering any turf with a thin layer of soil or fine granular organic material for rejuvenation of turf and levelling specific sports turf. The practice has been used to recharge the top soil and top dressing with

manure has been commonly used in lawns after seeding or in growing season to retain moisture. George Filipksi, a well-known agronomist was of the opinion that an inch of top dressing every year would give a nice top soil layer for healthy lawns over few years.

Golf courses with their origin at links were blessed with natural top dressing with sand being swept in from the dunes with wind and helped in keeping the turf healthy with rejuvenation of desired grasses. The natural and periodic coverage with sand also promoted good drainage and warded off invasion by common meadow grasses. This process of natural topdressing of golf courses in the older links courses kept the short wiry grasses like Bent or fine fescues thriving and provided healthy golf turf. Courses located inland did not have the fortune of natural top dressing with wind swept sands and relied on top dressing with other materials by using manpower. Golf courses and their green keepers experimented with different materials and results were never consistent. The process kept the putting greens reasonably levelled though and the golfers could hope to have

decent putting surfaces.

Early Years

Early green keepers appreciated the value of topdressing to provide smooth putting surfaces. The golfers enjoyed the game for its vagaries and expected only a level ground to tee off and reasonable putting surfaces with whatever area lying in between. The green keepers responded by providing decent putting surfaces through topdressing. The topdressing material was not standard and it ranged from sand to soil, clay, silt or even farm manure with widely varying results.

Mechanisation

Mechanisation of topdressing by machines (tractors, spreaders etc.) instead of shovels changed the entire process of top dressing. It became possible to create premixed material offsite and transport it to location for topdressing. This also ensured that the operation could be planned well in advance and executed in pre decided intervals. All round year golf became a reality and disruption to playing became minimal. A





boom in construction of new golf courses with architects devising expensive and ingenious ways only added to the pressure on books. Selling expensive membership to offset the financial burden brought in newer demands and specially the one for making it all year-round activity with similar turf conditions. The cultivation practice of top dressing changed dramatically and much more than any other practice.

Levelling and Topdressing

Topdressing is the best way of levelling putting greens and other playing surfaces (cricket, tennis etc.). Methods such as rolling have limitations as they need absolutely uniform soil surfaces to be really effective as patches of drier soils in between can cause ridging which is undesirable. This problem is taken care off, to a reasonable extent, in sand-based greens. Levelling of putting greens through topdressing also facilitates close mowing, drains the surface better and improves the turf by building better root zones.

Topdressing Material is Sport Specific

Topdressing is the best practice for levelling any sport surfaces such as Cricket, Tennis, and Lawn Bowling etc. The material though will differ and should be chosen after considering the requirement of the specific sport. In Cricket and Tennis for example, the ball has to bounce and that too truly which is not the desired outcome in golf. The topdressing material in those sports will require much more silt and clay to have firm and bouncy surface. A lack of understanding about the requirement of specific sport led to a blunder in the aeration and top dressing of

an international cricket pitch few years ago. The process employed was suitable for golf but created a disastrous cricket pitch leading to abandonment of games for a while. Requirement of drainage which is less critical in some sports also will determine the quantity of sand or clay in the topdressing mixture.

Topdressing Mixture – Sand is the Major Constituent

Topdressing material for golf should primarily comprise sand and in correct sizes and shapes. Ideally the sand should neither be very coarse nor very fine as it has the following disadvantages -

- (a) Very coarse sand contains large particles (more than 1 mm diameter) which do not get absorbed easily and cause damage to mowing machines and ruins their blades.
- (b) Very fine sand (less than 0.125 mm in diameter) gets absorbed quickly but is harmful to surface drainage as it will flow and accumulate in the channels. They can also lodge themselves in the pores of clay soils and cause clogging to reduce the porosity for both air and water.

Ideally, the mixture must have about 80% of particles to be between 0.25 to 0.7 mm in diameter.

Shape of the sand particles is as important as the size. Water can permeate and roots

Sand is a depleting resource and it's availability will diminish. Prices will rise and topdressing will need extreme judiciousness.

can grow only if they find spaces in between particles and semi rounded shapes provide the best space between particles. Absolutely rounded or spherical particles on the other hand would not settle and create unstable surface. Sand comprising angular particles would be at the other end of the spectrum and would lock together to block all spaces to become impermeable.

Sand should be free of lime to prevent alkalinity and should be washed free of clay and silt for providing a good topsoil coverage.

Clay or Silt

A small percentage (3 to 5%) of silt or clay is permissible as it will provide some adhesion. It should not exceed such percentages unless the requirement is for surfaces needing bounce (such as cricket pitches). Golf turf requires drainage and porosity which will be compromised by clay or silt.

Humus

Humus is added by finely milling easily available organic material and must be easily wettable (non-hydrophobic) so that it retains moisture. The material should not be decaying quickly as the release of nutrients would then be irregular and moisture retention will also suffer.

The humus also acts as a binding material and quick decomposition will make the surface prone to aberrations. Humus is best added by weight in the proportion of 3% to 5% but many courses find it difficult and a rough guide of 20% by volume can also be used. It's obvious that with the spotlight on golf courses for their negative impact on environment, the humus would have to come from recycled organic wastes in the future.

A Crystal Ball

Top dressing will continue to be a very important cultivation practice for the golf courses to level the putting surfaces, provide healthier turf of desired grasses and to control thatch. Building of expensive courses and sale of expensive memberships to recover costs will make it necessary for the golf courses to strive to provide similar conditions throughout the year. New class of members joining mistakenly for networking or to look socially fashionable will generate demands for colour rather than healthy turf. All this will require turf to be top dressed even more frequently. It's almost certain (unless popularity of the sport declines) that top dressing materials will be available in premixed form through commercial sources and the costs will only increase with sand becoming a limitedly available commodity. **GP**

NOIDA OPEN LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP

Noida Golf Course on 4th and 5th March hosted two days of its annual event – 7th Noida Open Ladies Golf Amateur Championship 2021. Ladies from all over the country including Pune, Bhubaneswar, Indore, Chandigarh, Panchkula and Delhi NCR participated in the event and enjoyed two days of competitive golf.

On account of the guidelines prevailing due to the pandemic Covid 19, the field was limited.

The players appreciated the smooth conduct and the hospitality shown by Ladies Section, Noida Golf Course particularly the captain Madhu Sharma, who along with her team put in her best efforts to make this event successful and a good experience for all the participants.

Ladies from the age of 14-76 years took part in the event and the field comprised of 12 Gold Division Golfers as well. The winner of best card returned Sharanya Sah representing Delhi Golf Club played over 36 holes over a period of two days.

Ladies of NGC also played with great enthusiasm and bagged quite a few prizes in various competitions like Stableford, Sr. Citizen (65 years and above), Silver and Bronze Division Spot Prizes, Straightest Drive, Nearest to the Pin. **GP**



Q&A with **MADHU SHARMA** Ladies Captain, NGC

GP: How was this year different from other years?

MS: The year 2020 as we all know has been very difficult for everyone on account of the pandemic and no tournament could be organised last year. This event was one of the first such event organised after the relaxation in the lockdown restrictions and became special because of the overwhelming response received for participation from the Golfers all over the country.



GP: Any changes you would like to have within the Ladies Section?

MS: Firstly, I would like to highlight that the

Ladies Section has been very supportive in making this event a success. The one of the change that I can think of is that I would like to encourage and increase participation by young women.

GP: Challenges you want to highlight?

MS: We had to organise the event keeping in mind the COVID protocols and restrictions and at the same time had to put up a great show for the ladies. Keeping everyone's safety as a priority, we had to limit the field to avoid over crowding due to which a lot of golfers who wanted to participate could not take part in the event. Lastly, getting sponsorship also seemed a difficult task initially but with the help of sponsors like Mr. Harish Kumar, MD Empire Home Appliances Ltd, Golf Plus and Pzza Box, we were able to pull it off. **GP**

MILIND A CLASS ABOVE

The Young Master Golf Tour held its first ever WAGR tournament in Hyderabad at the picturesque Boulder Hills Golf & Country Club from 10th to 12th March '21.

The event hosted by Brandon de Souza Management was a great success. The course which was in immaculate condition was set up with a mixture of difficult and easy holes, to make the game interesting.

Day 1: Belonged to Milind Soni who shot an amazing 7 under par round of 65 and sounded an alert to the field that he is not going to let anyone catch him over the next 3 days, Suraj Joshi struggled a bit but managed to shoot a 76 to stay one shot ahead of Shreyas Kumaresh 77 and Dhruv Bopana 78. The Girls event looked as if Drishti who shot a one over 73, was going to be tough to beat. Other notable scores in the Girls category were Srihitha 78 and Amritha 79, she was followed by Jasmine Sachdev & Vidushi Keni with 77.

Day 2: Milind weathered the tough conditions and managed to shoot a one under 71 for a total of 8 under par 136, Tej Gagavarapu shot a creditable one over 72 to move up to second place 152, three shots ahead of Suraj Joshi 155. In the Girls category, Drishti increased her lead with a par round of 72 for a two day total of

145, followed by Srihitha who shot a one over 73 for a two day total of 151, with Jasmine another 4 shots behind at 155. Saatvic K.Singh with an 80 was one shot ahead of Zayaan who shot an 81, and trailing Zayaan was Aran Atamakuri. Vedansh in the 10-11 category shot an 89 to lead Samarth Lamba 94 and Raghav Modukuri 98. In the girls 7-9 category Aarya shot an amazing 89 to lead Sanjana by a huge margin.

Day 3: Milind showed that he is ready for the pro tour by shooting a Course record of 10 under par 62 for a 54 hole total of 18 under par 198. Tej who shot a 76 on the last day was a distant 2nd with a 54 hole total of 12 over 228, which increased Milind overall 3 day lead to 30 strokes. Suraj, Vishesh and Shreyas shot rounds



of 79, 77, 74 respectively for a 54 hole total of 234. In the Girls category Drishti Karumbaya played a creditable 75 for a 3 day total of 4 over par total of 220 followed by Srihitha who shot a 80 for a 3 day total of 15 over par 231 with Jasmine coming third after shooting a 79 for a 3 day total of 18 over par 234.

The boys 7-9 category was won by Saatvic who shot a 83 for a 2 day total of 163. The boys 11-12 category was won by Vedansh who shot a 80 for a two day total of 169.

The girls 7-9 category was easily won by Aarya who shot an amazing 83 for a two day total of 172. **GP**

SHUBHAM PROVES HE IS THE BEST

The first of the Delhi NCR WAGR Series tournament - The Young Master Links Classic was held at the Golden Greens Golf Club from 3rd to 5th February 2021.

All the rules and regulations for the safety of players and parents were followed.

Day 1 witnessed some great golf despite the windy conditions and some tricky greens. The event saw some under par scores by Shubham(70), Jai Bahl(71) other notable scores were by Rohit Boken(74) with 5 birdies, Rachit Poddar(75), Rajyveer Sultania(76), Aryan Kaila(77), Kretien Gandotra(77) and the best scores amongst the girls were Ragini Navet(79), Ishita(81) and Gia Lamba(81).

Day 2 with the breeze picking up and the conditions cooler than the first day still produced some exceptional scores with Shubham again leading the way with a 69(-3) bringing his 2 day total to 5 under par. Aryan also

weathers the conditions to shoot a 1 under par 71. Other notable scores were Jai Bahl (74), Rohit Boken (75), Zoravar Singh Randhawa(79), and in the girls category Riya improved by 6 strokes from day 1 to shoot a 78 with Gia Lamba and Ragini Navet (80) and Tanisha (83).

Day 3 was set for a duel in the sun with the top 3 boys and top 3 girls playing in the last two groups of the day. The course was playing at its longest with all the tee markers at the back and the pin positions set in



tough plaves. The featured groups were Shubham(139), Jai Bahl(145), Aryan Kaila(148) and Gia Lamba(161), Riya Yadav(163), Tanisha Kalyan(165).

The front nine saw the challengers putting up a great fight but come the back nine the leaders showed us their mettle. Aryan (71) and Rohit (72) tried to catch Shubham but due to the first two rounds Shubham had a comfortable lead.

Gia had a few shaky holes but she steadied herself in the middle and pars made her job easier, while Ragini missed a few small putts and could not apply pressure. Notable scores on day 3 were Aryan Kaila(71), Rohit Boken(72), Shubham Jaglan(73), Gia Lamba(77), Riya Yadav(78) and Tanisha Kalyan(79).

The 10-11 juniors had their final round with Prince playing an exception level par round(72) and run away with the trophy with Naina coming in a very creditable second place. **GP**

KGA HOSTS CHARITY GOLF EVENT



By **Sharath Bhat** - freelance advertising writer based in Bengaluru, and an associate of Rathor Sports Content Syndicate

The 14th edition of the KGA Richmond Fellowship Charity Golf Tournament was held on Friday, 5th February 2021 at the Karnataka Golf Association (KGA), Bangalore. All proceeds raised at this charity golf event go towards the care and support of patients and clients with severe mental illness.

The Richmond Fellowship Society (India) Bangalore Branch [RFS] provides help through its facilities like the halfway home (ASHA), day-care centre (Chetana), and the long-stay home (Jyothi). What began in 1986 as a humble beginning to provide psychosocial rehabilitation and support for those suffering from severe mental illness, has visibly grown in terms of reach, access and consolidation of resources.

In our post event session, we talk to Dr S. Kalyanasundaram – the man with a mission, and the architect behind the organization. The KGA Richmond Fellowship Charity Golf Tournament is a good example of how an NGO with little support outside its walls, works at creating a community of passionate people who will lend a hand for a good cause.

When did the tournament start, and how did things first fall into place in terms of event, location, and early sponsors?

In 2007, I discussed the possibility of a charity

golf tournament with the (then) office bearers at KGA -Ramesh Venkateswaran President, VS Thyagarajan, Treasurer. The basic objective here was to garner support and raise funds for our NGO, which does not receive financial assistance from any other source.

The committee was warm to the idea and allowed us to run our first event at the KGA golf course. Around the same time, I approached my golfing friend Sumit Rathor to help us turn this dream into an action plan- and there was not stopping us after that.

Sumit is a much-respected figure in golfing circles, and helped put things into the right perspective – he also introduced me to the concept of skins. Though we achieved moderate success for a fledgling charity golf event, we were enthused by our endeavor and soon planned to make it an annual event. For the last three years, we have been talking online entries and this year we had 125 entries in a matter of 24 hours!

What feedback have you received from the sponsors, office bearers at KGA, and participating golfers?

The popular opinion here is that this is one of the best run private golfing events at the KGA – largely going by how the event is managed on the course, and extended sponsor support.

While there is visible awareness for special needs areas such as blindness, HIV and



education for rural children (all very good causes) very few are aware of NGOs offering rehabilitation services for people with chronic and severe mental illness. Our sponsors take pride in supporting our NGO and tell us that they are happy that the funds will reach the deserving beneficiaries. They have also expressed their desire to visit our centre, to see the kind of work we are engaged in.

For us it is also important to receive feedback from our host club – the Karnataka Golf Association (KGA). And I am happy to say that committee members were unanimous in their feedback saying that this popular event was conducted with precision and warmth. They are deeply appreciative of the dedication and commitment of the entire event support team to make it a big success. Members of the committee are also keen that we continue to run this tournament in the coming years.

Our participants, of course, want us to carry on with the show - and some have even said that they are willing to pre-book in advance for the next three years to be assured of a playing slot. It is a popular tournament so they want to make certain that we will not omit or forget them.

Would you like to briefly mention the names of people who have given you their wholehearted support?

I have received assistance and support from many quarters, and the following need special mention. Mr. Sumit Rathor's name comes first to mind as he helped us get off the blocks. He is continuing to support us in many aspects - including networking for sponsor participation and prizes. Always saying "yes" to requests for help, he has been an enabler



and well-wisher all these years.

This year we are particularly grateful for the generous contributions from Mr. Satyaprasad and Mr. Rajgopal Reddy. Their munificence took us by surprise, and we feel humbled by their spontaneous support. Rathor Associates, Brand-comm and Diamond Signages have also provided continuous support over the years. Mr. Shankar Gopalan, Joint MD of PEPS, deserves special mention here as his organization has been supporting us with complimentary items from their large range of products – given to participants as prizes. I must add here that for more than a decade, we have had some key trophies donated by a well-wisher who wishes to remain anonymous.

So all's well that ends well this year. Especially coming from a situation where we were not even certain of conducting the event – initially expecting a 25% response from participants. When the KPL happened without creating ripples, it gave us the confidence to open a new chapter in 2021. Like we said earlier, the overwhelming response bowled us over.

The Richmond Fellowship Society (India), Bangalore is a Non-Governmental, Not-for-Profit Organisation looking after the rehabilitation needs of people with chronic and severe mentally illness, for the last 35 years.

RESULTS

OPEN: WINNER: CHARU SHARMA, RUNNER UP: DAVID D`SOUZA

0-18 LOW HANDICAP: WINNER: LENKA N K, RUNNER UP: SUKUMARAN. C S

19-28 HIGH HANDICAP: WINNER: RAJU SHAHANI, RUNNER UP: RAJAN SOOD

SENIORS (65 YEARS PLUS): WINNER: MURALI CS, RUNNER UP: SRINIVASAN PS

LADIES: WINNER: SANGEETA VARMA, RUNNER UP: ANUPAMA VATAL

STRAIGHTEST DRIVE: WINNER: ARUNA RAO

CLOSEST TO PIN: WINNER: RAMESH VENKATESHWARAN

LONGEST DRIVE: (MEN) WINNER: ASHOK GOWDA

LONGEST DRIVE: (LADIES) WINNER: PRIYA ALEX

RFS (I) has three branches in the country, with two in Karnataka: Bangalore, Delhi, Lucknow and Sidlaghatta (Chickballapur District in Karnataka)

The Bangalore branch of the Fellowship runs the following facilities:

- * **Halfway Home – (short stay) 'Asha' for 21 residents (both men and women)**
- * **Long stay Home – 'Jyothi' for 17 residents (men and women)**
- * **Day Care Centre with Vocational training – "Chetana" for 50 clients**

The Charity Golf Tournament is organized to raise funds to meet the running expenses of our NGO and help deserving clients who are unable to help themselves due to financial difficulties. The Bangalore Branch has provided rehabilitation services to around 1250 people at our residential and day-care centres as on date. 📍

Donations made to the Fellowship are exempted under 80G (5) (vi) of the Income-Tax Act. Email: rfsbangalore@gmail.com Ph: +91-80-22446734/26645583

CHAMPION FAMILY 2021

The tournament took place on 20th & 21 February as part of the Skoda Stellar - Go Golf 2021 calendar.

The tournament as the name suggests “Champion Family” was fulfilled to the fullest, as saw pairs of Grandparent pairing with Grand children, Parents pairing with Kids, Siblings competing together and the list goes on. **GP**

RESULTS:

- Winner** - Umang Shah & Nandish Shah
- Winner** - Rohit Razdan & Advait Razdan
- Runner Up** - Vihar Patel & Neev Patel
- Winner** - Gautam Aptel & Arhaan Amin
- Runner Up** - Vishal Amin & Arhaan Amin
- Best MGS Pts by JR** - Neil Dave & Arhaan Amin
- Best Looking Family** - Sidharth Mavani & Juhi Mavani



HDFC BANK-GO GOLF 2020 GULMOHAR GOLFER OF THE YEAR

The Covid year did not stop the Golfing Spirit of our Golfers and helped us complete all the 11 Gulmohar Golfer of the Year tournaments.

The Winners & Runners Up were presented with the coveted “St. Andrews Claret Jug” replica and “Nickel plated Silver plate” respectively.

The HDFC Bank-Go Golf 2020, saw 15 tournaments being played through the year despite losing out on more than 3 months. **GP**



RESULTS:

LOW HANDICAP:

Winner – Avtar Singh Panesar
Runner Up was Mihir Sheth

MID HANDICAP:

Winner - S. P. Singh
Runner Up - Tamanjyot Singh

HIGH HANDICAP:

Winner - Rahul Sanghani
Runner Up - Nirav Prajapati

QUTAB GOLF COURSE CONTRACTS TO DIGITIZE

Under the agreement, Thriwe will provide the Qutab Golf Course with its own proprietary real time booking platform. This will enable complete digitization of the journey of the Golfer in terms of pre booking the available tee time slots. Thriwe will provide a dedicated mobile app for the Qutab Golf course which will have the ability to manage bookings, capture scorecard, Tee-time Inventory Management (TIM) etc.

Col. Irshanjit Kohli – Secretary, Qutab Golf Course, said, “We are excited to work with Thriwe and are all set to launching our own state of the art booking platform which will allow Golfers to enjoy a seamless booking journey. Thriwe is a global player in building platforms for many international brands and we are confident that this partnership will be a great one”.

Apart from Qutab Golf course, Thriwe is also managing the technology platform for the marquee ITC Group Golf course, Classic Golf & Country Club, Gurgaon along with prestigious golf courses such as Golden Greens Golf & Country club, Gurgaon, Karma Lakelands, Gurgaon and numerous other Golf courses in India and South East Asia. **GP**

GROVER VINEYARDS INTER -CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

A RESILIENT AND DOMINANT 'WILLINGDON SPORTS CLUB' WON THE GROVER VINEYARDS INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP AFTER 7 YEARS

25
Glorious
Years



Tournament hosts Mr Kapil Grover, Mrs Jayashree Grover & Neha Grover

And just like that '25 years' of this event have gone by and what a journey it has been. Over the past two and a half decades if there is anything that has glued the entire Western India Club Golf fraternity together it's the 'Grover Vineyards Inter-club Golf Championship'. Several long lasting friendships, camaraderie unlike any sporting event, rivalries that have grown old together and several glasses of wine are all symbolic with this very special golf event.

This year one with so much uncertainty the possibility of hosting the event was looking uncertain till a few months before. Then slowly along with lots of caution, planning, support and enthusiasm all the four participating clubs (Bombay Presidency Golf Club, Willingdon Sports Club, United Services Club and Poona Golf Club) along with the tournament sponsors the event was planned and executed successfully. The host club Willingdon Sports club with an extremely efficient and hands-on golf committee provided every support needed to run the event safely as well as being a very welcome host to the other visiting teams for their practice rounds and preparation. The event was held on the 13th and 14th of February 2021.

The Willingdon Sports Club was anything but hospitable when it came to competition time and they led a near flawless and dominant campaign. Over the last 5-6 years they have narrowly missed out on winning the event including losing in a playoff a couple years ago. This year their preparation, planning and

execution were on-point resulting in an excellent victory after a long 7 year gap. Dinesh Vaswani was the only golfer in the competition to get a maximum of 5 points over two days. Their inter-club Captain was Mr Pradip Patel and the club Captain is Mr Akshay Kilachand. They jointly collected the winning trophy.

Defending champions Bombay Presidency Golf Club got off to a slow start on Day 1. They were lying in fourth place after day 1. A more comprehensive showing on Day 2 by the team ensured they finished in runner-up spot. Their team was led by their Golf Captain Mr. Shashank Sandhu.

The United Services club had won this event when the tournament was last held at the Willingdon Sports Club beating the host club by a narrow half point margin. This year they got off to a good start of Day1 but failed to capitalize and finished in 3rd position. The team was led by Brig. Neelkamal Brar.

In fourth place was the Poona Golf Club that

had many super stars in their team including plus handicappers such as former India No1 Rohan Dholepatil and top star Pranav Mardikar. They were the lowest average team handicap and maybe that didn't do them any favours on a short and tricky layout such as the Willingdon Sports Club. Poona Club always plays the game with the highest value system and were winners of the 'Fair Play Award'. Their team was led by Mr Ikram Khan.

A special thank you to all the sponsors/partners who have stood by the event for the last many years (Ameya Logistics, Ador Fontec, Rajesh Batra, Titleist (Zaverchand Sports), Evolution Sport, Golf Plus Monthly), Kingfisher Ultra. Next year the Grover Inter-club Championship will be held at the Poona Golf Club.

RESULTS:	
Willingdon Sports Club	39.5
Bombay Presidency Golf Golf	26.5
United Services Club	22
Poona Golf Club	18



Winners with Caddies



Captains with replicas as a momento 25 years



Winning Team 2021



Winning Club Captain & Interclub Captain

FIA-JCB GOLF TOURNAMENT 2021



DATE: 21ST FEBRUARY 2021, VENUE: ARAVALLI GOLF CLUB, FARIDABAD

The annual golf tournament enters its 12th edition this year. India's leading manufacturer of Earthmoving and Construction equipment, JCB India Limited, continued its association with the Faridabad Industries Association for the 12th edition of FIA-JCB Golf Tournament at Aravalli Golf Club. The tournament aimed to bring together people of the industrial city of Faridabad and attracted over 70 golfers from the Delhi-NCR region. The tee off began at 7.30 am and was followed by the prize distribution ceremony. The Inaugural Ceremony and welcome address was done by Shri OP Singh, Hon'ble Police Commissioner, Faridabad. The prize distribution saw Mr Deepak Shetty, CEO & MD, JCB India Ltd giving away the prizes to the winners.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Deepak Shetty, CEO & Managing Director, JCB India Limited said, "Faridabad holds a very prominent place in JCB's journey of over four decades in the building of an

Atmanirbhar India. JCB India's oldest factory is here, which is also the world's largest for Backhoe Loaders and also houses our India Headquarters. We are delighted to hold the 12th edition of this Golf Tournament along with the Faridabad Industries Association (FIA). JCB and FIA go back many decades and we have always had a very meaningful relationship with one another. We look forward to many more industry and community initiatives together, which will ultimately benefit the industrial city of Faridabad."

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. B.R. Bhatia, President, Faridabad Industries Association said, "FIA is the oldest industry association of Faridabad and JCB India has been our member for close to four decades. We thank JCB India for their continued association with FIA and also for this golf tournament which is now an annual feature of the city of Faridabad. This collaboration is truly a long-term commitment and we look forward to creating new milestones together. GP



“Faridabad holds a very prominent place in JCB’s journey of over four decades in the building of an Atmanirbhar India. JCB India’s oldest factory is here, which is also the world’s largest for Backhoe Loaders and also houses our India Headquarters. We are delighted to hold the 12th edition of this Golf Tournament along with the Faridabad Industries Association (FIA).

- Mr. Deepak Shetty
CEO & Managing Director, JCB India Limited



RESULTS

WINNER GROSS	SHIV KHANNA
RUNNER UP GROSS	SIDDHART KHURANA
WINNER NETT	LOKESH MALHOTRA
RUNNER UP NETT	AMUL MEHROTRA
WINNER JUNIOR	PRINCE BAISLA
CLOSEST TO THE PIN	R K GUPTA
NEAREST TO THE CENTERLINE	SUKHDEV SINGH
LONGEST DRIVE	UDAY SOOD



STAGE SET FOR ROYAL PREMIER GOLF LEAGUE KNOCKOUTS



Gladstone (in black) cheering on



Bazaar Kolkata Bashers with the momentum



Hettich Patriots just about made the cut



Cleantek United blazing the RPGL

The Ballantine's Golf Retreat Royal Premier Golf League concluded its group stage matches in February in thrilling fashion at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club. After seven rounds and eight weekend which saw 24 teams battle it out to be crowned the RPGL Champions, eight qualified for the Championship knockouts while the next eight will face off for the Challenge Cup.

The two months of non stop action saw fancied teams losing out on the Championship qualification while a couple of teams made it just by the skin of their teeth.

While three teams were unbeaten at the half way stage, none could maintain their perfect record with joint defending champions Cleantek United & rookies Gladstone winning six out of seven league matches to take the top two positions.

Interestingly, the final round of matches saw

lots of permutations and combinations in play with Exide White Walkers sinking Devils to a second defeat in as many matches to ensure their qualification. Aces, needing just a point to ensure their qualification with two matches to play lost their two matches to be relegated to the Challenge Cup from a position of strength. Jutify Jets won their must win match against them followed by a heartbreak against Cleantek United.

Hettich Patriots were the biggest beneficiaries of the Aces meltdown as they qualified by just doing enough in the 8th place and will be geared up for the knockouts having gotten a chance to go for glory.

While positions matter at the end of the group stage, it is now all about momentum, which Emami and Bazaar Kolkata Bashers will carry into the Championship quarterfinals as Devils and Verdant Colts await.

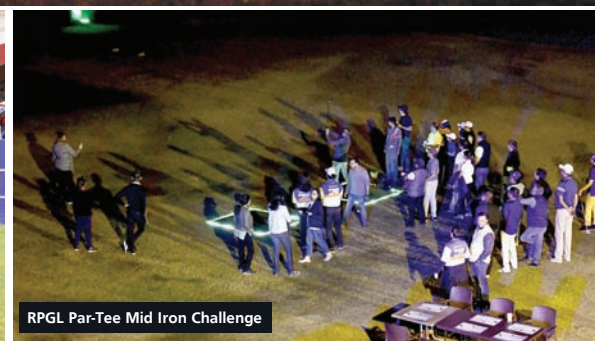
The top pair of the group stages was NK



Agarwal & Pranshu Poddar of Eagle Eye as they won 5 of their 6 matches. Individually, Jayanta Gohain of Bazaar Kolkata Bashers logged in a perfect six out of six wins. The others who clocked six points were Akshay Butta (Aces), Rudraksha Bannerjee (Cleantek



Talking to the ball!



RPGL Par-Tee Mid Iron Challenge



Leaderboard - Top 8

No	Team	P	W	L	A/S	ND	Points
1	Cleantek United	7	6	1	0	15	18
2	Gladstone	7	6	1	0	9	18
3	Devils	7	5	2	0	11	15
4	Verdant Colts	7	5	2	0	4	15
5	Bazaar Kolkata Bashers	7	4	1	2	10	14
6	Emami	7	4	1	2	8	14
7	Exide White Walkers	7	4	2	1	3	13
8	Hettich Patriots	7	4	2	1	1	13

QUARTERFINAL FIXTURES:

Championship:
 Cleantek United vs Hettich Patriots
 Gladstone vs Exide White Walkers
 Devils vs. Emami
 Verdant Colts vs. Bazaar Kolkata Bashers

Challenge Cup:
 Royal Flamingos vs. Hillbillies
 Aces vs. D Company
 Eagle Eye vs. Jutify Jets
 Purti Golfers vs. Dalmia Juniors

United) & Shreevardhan Poddar (Jutify Jets).
 The RPGL is a pioneer in amateur golf premier leagues in the county. Since its inception in 2016, it has grown its influence over the Kolkata golf culture every year. More than 5000 unique HNIs and their families from Kolkata come to support their favourite team.
 Each year the event sees an amalgamation of partners who bring their value additions making RPGL a heady mix of who's who of Kolkata. The 2021 edition of the Ballantine's Golf Retreat Royal Premier Golf League is co-sponsored by Tata Housing & HDFC Bank, Audi Kolkata is the luxury partner, Toro, Official Scoring partner Grant Thornton, Outdoor Partner Balaji Ads along with Travel Partner Travellers Paradise, Hospitality Partner JW Marriott Kolkata, App Partner Ace ERP & Magazine partner Golf Plus Monthly. The event is managed by Tiger Sports Marketing.



RPGL Par-Tee under the stars!



PROMOTING
GOLF IN
NORTH EAST
INDIA

KAZIRANGA GOLF FESTIVAL

GolfPlus organised the Kaziranga Golf Festival in the northeast of India highlighting the Upper Assam region and the planters' passion for the game of golf. The Golf tournament was played on 14th February 2021 with participation from golfers all over India. The golf tournament

supported by Incredible India-Ministry of Tourism, saw golf enthusiasts competing for the Gross trophy. The Tournament was followed by a Tea and Golf Tourism Conclave and a gala prize distribution ceremony. Winner Bhupinder Pal Singh lifted the Winner's Gross trophy in an

extraordinary tie-breaker round. The event was a great knowledge platform where the tea culture meets the golf culture for the local businesses and tea estate in the Upper Assam region. Strict social distancing norms were followed as per the guidelines of the government witnessing some great golf. **GP**



RESULTS:

0-12 HANDICAP

Winner Gross - Pritom Dutta
Winner Nett - Dr. Upendra Singh

Runner up Gross - Dr. Deva Kumar Duarah
Runner up Nett - Lt.Col Ashen Meitei

13-24 HANDICAP

Winner Gross - Bhupinder Pal Singh
Winner Nett - Hero Thockchom

Runner up Gross - Dr. Abhik Malpani
Runner up Nett - Col. CM Bopanna

Ladies Winner - Agnish Meitei
Longest drive - Pritom Dutta
Closest to the Pin - Lt.Col Hitesh Kaushik

Senior Category (65+) - JN Goswami
Straightest drive- Bhupinder Pal Singh



THE LK CUP

The 7th edition of Lallan & Kallan Cup was played at Noida Golf Course on 19 February 2021. Connected to the grass roots as the name suggest, it always evokes rustic courage to compete for the prestigious LK Cup. Lallans were led by Maj Gen Bhushan whereas Kallans captain was Col Subhash Sharma. The two teams comprised of some elite golfers from Noida Golf Course, Jaypee Golf Course and Army Golf Course.

There was too much excitement in the air as the matches started and truly in the end it turned out to be a live wire situation where the lost putt on the last hole swung the scales in favour of Kallans.

A gala function was held in the evening at NGC

Lawns where the prizes were distributed by Mrs. Kavita Bhushan and Mrs. Nivedita Sharma. Ashish bagged the best player award for Kallans whereas Amit Singh was adjudged the Best Player for Lallans. Tarun Mengi was awarded the valuable player of the tournament. The LK Cup was awarded to Col Subhash Sharma and his team Kallans. **GP**

It was one of the toughest fight ever between Lallans & Kallans where the Kallans emerged winners three times in a row. Well fought Lallans.





KALLANS

- Col Subhash Sharma
- Ashish
- Lokesh Malhotra
- Kesar Singh
- Suresh Venkatraman
- Vijay Mohan
- Pankaj Saxena
- Tarun Mengi
- Dheeraj Jha
- IPN Shekhar

LALLANS

- Maj Gen B. Bhushan
- Anuj Matoo
- Amit Singh
- Amar Singh
- Col Kothiyal
- Ravi Nanda
- Amul Mehrotra
- VP Singh
- Manish
- Aseem Prakash

CORPORATE TEAM CHALLENGE 2021



The golfers saw some action in Mumbai at the Corporate Team Challenge at Kharghar Valley Golf Course on 27th February 2021. The tournament was played on Strokeplay format over 18 holes on Gross & Nett basis with the event being managed by SLW Golf Management.

After a whole week of bright sun the day greeted the golfers with a pleasant weather on the course. The quality conditions and the blooming state of the course had appreciations from the participants and the guests.

Strict social distancing norms were followed as per the guidelines of the government witnessing some great golf. The day ended with a beautiful prize distribution ceremony which saw the presence of around 60 golfers getting used to the new normal. **GP**





RESULTS:

Closest to the pin – Salil Murthy
Longest Drive – Arjun Nohwar
Runner Up Nett – Masood Baig
Winner Nett – Nadeem Khan
Runner Up Gross – Tejaswi Sabhrawal
Winner Gross – Nadeem Khan

Runner Up Team Gross
 - Team Petro Challengers
 a) Vinay Kumar
 b) Nadeem Khan

Winner Team Gross
 - Team Air Golf
 a) Masood Baig
 b) Sanjay Kumar




INTERTEAM GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP - 2021



Date: 06th March, 2021

The GolfPlus Monthly InterTEAM Golf Championship was a major golf event held in Jaipur. The event supported by Incredible India-

Ministry of Tourism saw golf enthusiasts competing for the prizes in various categories at the Rambagh Golf Course. The event was played strictly following all Covid protocols prescribed by the government of India and Government of Rajasthan. The weather was amazing for a perfect golfing day in the beautiful setting and the prize distribution ceremony. The gala prize distribution ceremony saw DG Dr Ashok Gupta, Captain, Rambagh Golf Course; Mr Rajiv Gandhi, Secretary, Rambagh Golf Course and Kunal Kuchhal, Tournament Conveyor giving away the prizes to the winners. 





RESULTS

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY PRIZES

- Winner Gross - Rudra P Singh
- Runner Up Gross - Manish Agarwal
- Winner Nett - Som Kapoor
- Runner Up Nett - Arun Goyal
- Winner Ladies - Jaswinder K. Saluja

INTER TEAM PRIZES

- Winner Team Gross - Prakhar & Deep Karan
- Runner Up Team Gross - Samridh Sharma & D.S. Rajawat
- Winner Team Nett - Rajkumar Nain & Gyanesh Sharma
- Runner Up Nett - Sanjay Meel & Rakshit Poddar
- Longest Drive - Shantanu Sanghi
- Straightest Drive - Siddharth Sharma
- Closest to Pin - Geeta Chanana





CEO's Message Uttam Singh Mundy

Greetings and best wishes from the entire team of PGTI.

After the resumption of events on the PGTI last year in November, the tour has successfully staged six events by following all the guidelines relating to Covid-19 issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, for the smooth conduct of sporting events.

The month of February was extremely encouraging for the PGTI as two new events were launched during the month, both supported by new sponsors. These

are very promising trends for the PGTI which is now slowly but surely getting back on track after the challenges posed during the height of the Covid-19 Pandemic last year.

The fact that the state of Gujarat is rapidly emerging as a major golfing hub in India was reiterated with PGTI staging its first two events of the year in the state.

We thank Gujarat Tourism for partnering with PGTI in such testing times in launching the Gujarat Open Golf Championship Presented by Gujarat Tourism. The tournament

will help promote Gujarat as an ideal golfing destination. We also thank the Sports Authority of Gujarat and the magnificent Kalhaar Blues & Greens in Ahmedabad, where PGTI returned after three years, for their support to the event.

Chikkarangappa S earned a remarkable come-from-behind win at the Gujarat Open Golf Championship 2021 Presented by Gujarat Tourism to strengthen his position in the race for qualification to the Tokyo Olympics 2020 and the PGTI Order of Merit standings.

We were delighted to add a new venue to the PGTI schedule with the staging of the inaugural Glade One Masters at the pristine Glade One Golf Resort in Ahmedabad. We thank Glade One for their support to PGTI in these

challenging times.

Om Prakash Chouhan showed great resilience to register an impressive win at the Glade One Masters 2021 and make up for his disappointment the previous week.

Best Wishes & Happy Golfing

**We thank
Gujarat Tourism,
Sports Authority of
Gujarat, Kalhaar
Blues & Greens
and Glade One
Golf Resort for
partnering with
PGTI in such
testing times.**

TATA STEEL PGTI ORDER OF MERIT

PROFESSIONAL GOLF TOUR OF INDIA

TATA STEEL PGTI Order of Merit as of Glade One Masters 2021 (Event - 9)

NO.	PLAYER	LOCATION	PRIZE
1	KARANDEEP KOCHHAR	CHANDIGARH	₹ 3726580
2	CHIKKARANGAPPA S	BENGALURU	₹ 2899380
3	UDAYAN MANE	PUNE	₹ 2002300
4	ANIRBAN LAHIRI	BENGALURU	₹ 1962000
5	KHALIN H JOSHI	BENGALURU	₹ 1828825
6	VEER AHLAWAT	GURUGRAM	₹ 1772850
7	MANU GANDAS	GURUGRAM	₹ 1731050
8	AMAN RAJ	PATNA	₹ 1678400
9	VIRAJ MADAPPA	KOLKATA	₹ 1558350
10	AKSHAY SHARMA	CHANDIGARH	₹ 1556250
11	AADIL BEDI	CHANDIGARH	₹ 1207200
12	SSP CHAWRASIA	KOLKATA	₹ 1079450
13	OM PRAKASH CHOUHAN	MHOW	₹ 1003300
14	YUVRAJ SINGH SANDHU	CHANDIGARH	₹ 957150
15	RAHIL GANGJEE	BENGALURU	₹ 898650
16	AMARDEEP MALIK	GREATER NOIDA	₹ 897900
17	MUKESH KUMAR	MHOW	₹ 739550
18	SUNIT CHOWRASIA	KOLKATA	₹ 726650
19	ABHINAV LOHAN	FARIDABAD	₹ 706950
20	SACHIN BAISOYA	DELHI	₹ 662825
21	ARJUN PRASAD	DELHI	₹ 598200
22	M DHARMA	BENGALURU	₹ 566600
23	SHAMIM KHAN	DELHI	₹ 559700
24	ANGAD CHEEMA	MOHALI	₹ 554200
25	C MUNIYAPPA	BENGALURU	₹ 541905

Content Editor: Nikhil Kalaan, Manager - Media, PGTI



Island Green on the 9th hole - Glade One Golf Resort



Island Tee on the 6th hole - Glade One Golf Resort



Chikkarangappa performs the cartwheel

AHMEDABAD DIARY

Here are some interesting snippets from the two PGTI events held in Ahmedabad in February – Gujarat Open Golf Championship 2021 Presented by Gujarat Tourism and Glade One Masters 2021.

Chikkarangappa's cartwheel delights the spectators

The supremely fit Chikkarangappa is known to show a lot of emotion on the course during tournaments through his animated gestures whether he is playing well or not. He came up with another such celebratory gesture, a cartwheel, something one doesn't see often on a golf course, to the surprise and delight of the gallery of spectators following him during the final round of the Gujarat Open Golf Championship 2021 Presented by Gujarat Tourism. Chikka performed the impromptu cartwheel on the 18th fairway after he landed his approach shot on the edge of the 18th green at the tournament's finishing hole, a moment that almost confirmed his win. Chikka later said that he performed the cartwheel in honour of the spectators who were cheering him on through the day.

Kalhaar Blues & Greens – A Birder's Paradise

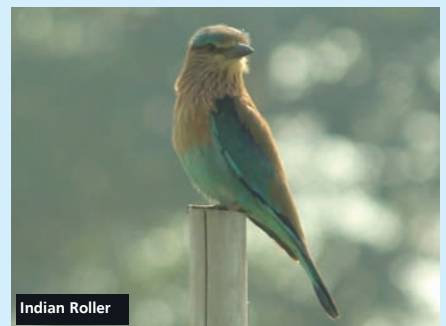
One can spot a wide variety of bird life at most golf courses across the world. The Kalhaar Blues & Greens Golf Club in Ahmedabad is no different. With the Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary, one of the largest wetland sanctuaries in the country, in close proximity, the Kalhaar Blues & Greens is indeed a birder's paradise with various kinds of indigenous and migratory birds making their presence felt in and around the golf course. During the Gujarat Open 2021, we were lucky to capture two captivating species of birds on camera – the Indian Roller and the Ibis.

Glade One Golf Resort – Home to an island green and an island tee

The magnificent Glade One Golf Resort, the latest venue to be added to the PGTI schedule with the launch of the Glade One Masters, stands out from other golf courses in India thanks to some of its unique features. Two of its most striking features besides the numerous water bodies are the island green



Ibis



Indian Roller

on the closing ninth hole and the island tee on the sixth hole. India's leading professionals participating at the Glade One Masters were often heard raving about these two features of the Gary Player-designed course. The signature ninth hole has a very intimidating tee shot with water running up the entire left side. Although a short approach shot, it is definitely a daunting one. Accuracy and positioning off the tee is a must to maximize the approach shot to this island green. **GP**



CHIKKARANGAPPA'S SOLID FINAL ROUND 68 EARNS HIM REMARKABLE COME-FROM-BEHIND WIN AT GUJARAT OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 2021 PRESENTED BY GUJARAT TOURISM



Chikkarangappa (2nd from right) is seen receiving the winner's cheque from Ms. Khyati Nayak, Manager - Marketing, Niche Tourism, Gujarat Tourism (centre), Mr. Devang Shah, MD, Navratna Group (2nd from left) and Mr. Samir Panchal, Coach - Sports Authority of Gujarat (extreme left). Mr. Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI (extreme right), is also seen in the picture

Bengaluru's Chikkarangappa took centre-stage in the final round as he shot a solid score of four-under-68 to earn a remarkable come-from-behind win at the Gujarat Open Golf Championship 2021 Presented by Gujarat Tourism being played at the Kalhaar Blues & Greens Golf Club in Ahmedabad.

The 27-year-old Chikka, a two-time winner on the Asian Development Tour (ADT) and an Asian Tour regular, ended the week at the Rs. 30 lakh event with a winning total score of nine-under-279 to emerge triumphant by three shots at the inaugural Gujarat Open

Golf Championship Presented by Gujarat Tourism and register his 13th win on the PGTI. It was his 14th career title.

Kolkata's Viraj Madappa fired the last day's best score of seven-under-65 to finish runner-up at six-under-282.

Om Prakash Chouhan of Mhow, the leader for the first three days who was ahead by a comfortable five-shot margin at the start of the final round, carded a disastrous six-over-78 which saw him drop to tied third in the final placings at five-under-283.

Delhi's Sachin Baisoya (68) and Kolkata's SSP Chawrasia (71) also took a share of



Rookie Jairaj Singh Sandhu, playing the first ever round of his professional career, sank three eagles including a hole-in-one during round one to equal the PGTI record

third place along with Chouhan. Chawrasia was the only player with four sub-par rounds during the week.



Chikkarangappa (69-72-70-68), who began the day six shots off the lead in third place, had a profitable front-nine as he scored birdies on the first, fourth and seventh thanks to his accurate approach shots and consistent putting.

The tournament witnessed a dramatic turn when Om Prakash Chouhan found the water hazard twice with his tee shot on the par-3 seventh hole which had an island green. Chouhan thus dropped a quadruple-bogey (7) there as his lead came down to just one shot.

The setback at a crucial time on the seventh took a toll on Chouhan's game as he struggled on the greens thereafter missing short putts on the 10th, 11th and 17th for bogeys on all three holes that put him out of the contest.

Meanwhile, Chikka, who was three-under at the turn, seized the advantage as he added three more birdies on the back-nine at the cost of two bogeys to ease to victory. He sank a 15-footer for birdie on the 13th, an important 12-footer for bogey on the 14th and landed his approach within a few inches of the pin for birdie on the 17th.

Chikka, who earned five Official World Golf



Chikkarangappa - Winner

"I recently met the legendary Rahul Dravid in Bengaluru who's been my mentor for a long time. I told him my plans about how I'm working on my game and my fitness."

Ranking (OWGR) points for his win, as a result jumped 89 spots in the world ranking from 434 to 345.

The extremely fit Chikka said, "Overall, it was a great week for me as I didn't shoot an over-par round despite the tough conditions at this venue. The win comes at an important stage for me as we're in an Olympic year and the race for qualifying is on.

"I recently met the legendary Rahul Dravid in Bengaluru who's been my mentor for a long time. I told him my plans about how I'm working on my game and my fitness. He complimented me on my fitness and that was a big motivation for me. Just getting to meet him and talking to him has often helped my confidence."

Viraj Madappa's (69-74-74-65) brilliant 65 propelled him 14 places up the leaderboard to the second spot. Madappa, a winner on the Asian Tour, made a 30-foot eagle conversion on the 12th and also found the hole from 15 to 20 feet on the fourth and 11th. He recovered well from the trees on the 10th for another birdie. Viraj's card featured four more birdies and two bogeys.



Om Prakash Chouhan equaled the course record with his first round of nine-under-63

Earlier in the week, two records were equaled.

In round one, Om Prakash Chouhan shot a nine-under-63 to match Khalin Joshi's previous course record which the latter had set in 2015.

On the same day, 23-year-old rookie Jairaj Singh Sandhu of Chandigarh made a dream debut on the professional stage with an outstanding 66 that featured another record-equaling feat of three eagles in a round including a hole-in-one. The left-handed Sandhu, playing the first ever round of his professional career, sank three eagles to equal the PGTI record previously jointly held by two-time Indian Open champion Ali Sher, Veer Ahlawat and Yashas Chandra MS. [GP](#)



Viraj Madappa - Runner-up



Om Prakash Chouhan receives the winning cheque and trophy from Mr. Rajesh Bhrambhath, Chairman, bSafal (3rd from right), Mr. Rupesh Bhrambhath, Managing Director, bSafal (2nd from right), Mr. Himanshu Madan Mohan, Director, bSafal (extreme left), Mr. Arshpreet Thind, General Manager, Glade One Golf Resort (extreme right) and Mr. Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI (2nd from left)

RESILIENT OM PRAKASH CHOUHAN MAKES UP FOR PREVIOUS WEEK'S HEARTBREAK WITH MASSIVE FOUR-SHOT VICTORY AT GLADE ONE MASTERS 2021

Om Prakash Chouhan of Mhow dominated the final day's proceedings to win the Glade One Masters 2021 with a massive four-shot margin at 17-under-199. Chouhan shot a five-under-67 at the magnificent Glade One Golf Resort in Ahmedabad in round four to make up for his heartbreaking loss on the PGTI the previous week.

Gurugram's Manu Gandas took second place at 13-under-203 after firing a one-under-71 in the final round of the Rs. 30 lakh event.

The unique format for the inaugural Glade One Masters being played at the 9-hole Glade One Golf Resort was as follows. The first two rounds consisted of nine holes each. The cut was applied after 18 holes. The third and fourth rounds comprised 18 holes each. The tournament was played over a total of 54 holes.

Om Prakash Chouhan (35-33-64-67), the overnight joint leader along with Manu Gandas, was off to a flying start with birdies on the second and third. Om Prakash all but ran away with the match after his eagle-birdie on the eighth and ninth gave him a six-shot lead over nearest rival Manu Gandas.

Chouhan produced a magical pitching wedge shot from the fairway bunker on the eighth for the second day in succession as he once again found the hole from 115 yards and picked up an eagle-two just like he had done in round three.

Interestingly, 'OP' as Chouhan is fondly referred to by his fellow professionals, had also dominated the previous week's event at Kalhaar Blues & Greens in Ahmedabad having led for the first three days. However, a quadruple bogey after finding the water on the seventh hole in the final round put paid to his chances there and saw him finish tied

third.

The 34-year-old Chouhan said, "I'm relieved to have won today especially after the disappointment of last week. I had told myself at the start of this event that I will not repeat the mistakes of last week. The previous week was one of the rare occasions when I played in the leader group during the final round and did not win.

"I have now won six times while playing in the leader group in round four. When I'm in a good position I generally don't let the opportunity slip away. But that didn't happen last week so that was a big lesson for me.

"I must thank Mr. Ragesh Vasa who is a leading amateur golfer here in Ahmedabad for all his inputs about this course. He played a round with me in Kalhaar after the tournament last week and helped me regain my confidence by giving me some





Om Prakash Chouhan dominated the final day's proceedings to make up for the previous week's heartbreak with a massive four-shot victory

“I’m relieved to have won today especially after the disappointment of last week. I had told myself at the start of this event that I will not repeat the mistakes of last week.”

vital tips on how to tackle the challenges posed by the Glade One Golf Resort course. He helped me on all kinds of information about the Glade One course including the layout, yardages, green speed and reading the line on the greens. He was motivating me through my round today.

“I would also like to thank my wife Sheetal who gave me a pep talk after I missed out on a win last week. It was my marriage anniversary on the 24th of February and she said her biggest gift would be my victory at Glade One.”

Chouhan’s sixth career win earned him a prize money cheque of Rs.4,84,950 and lifted him from 23rd to 13th place in the PGTI Order of Merit. He also earned three Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) points for his win that pushed him up 207 spots in the world ranking from 823 to 616.

Manu Gandas (35-30-67-71), the other overnight joint leader, did not pose any threat to Chouhan in the last round as he posted a 71. However, the 24-year-old Gandas ended up matching his previous best result on the PGTI with his runner-up finish.

Delhi’s Rashid Khan (69), Faridabad’s Abhinav Lohan (68) and Gurugram’s Veer Ahlawat (69) took joint third place at eight-under-208.

Chandigarh’s Karandeep Kochhar kept his lead intact in the PGTI Order of Merit after his tied eighth finish at six-under-210. **GP**



Manu Gandas ended up matching his previous best result on the PGTI with his runner-up finish



Om Prakash Chouhan is jubilant after holing out from the fairway bunker for an eagle-two from the same spot on the eighth for the second day in succession, he shot a 67 in Round 4 to capture his sixth title



It is always greener this side
Gujarat's lush green

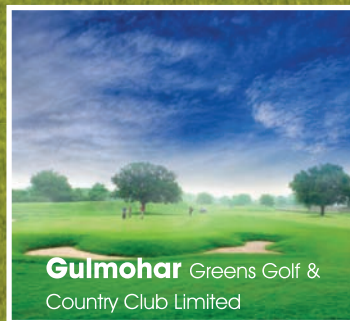
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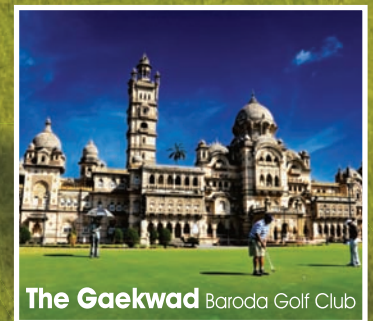
Kalhaar Blues & Greens Golf Club



Kensville Golf & Country Club



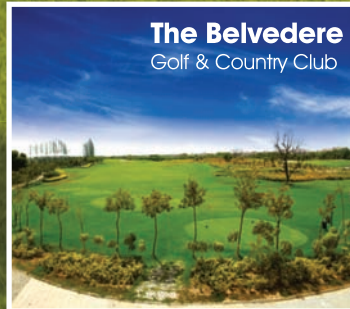
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