

Rory McIlroy wins THE CJ CUP for historic 20th PGA Tour Victory p25

MONTHLY

# GolfPlus

November 2021, ₹ 100

Registration No. UP/GBD-68/2021-2023

RNI No. UPENG/2008/25541

No.1 Golf Magazine  
in India



SUMIT  
RATHOR

Looking ahead!

Golf - Yesterday,  
Today &  
Tomorrow



## Feature

Grant clinches  
Terre Blanche  
Ladies Open  
Title

## PLAY BETTER

- Tiger Woods ● Lee Westwood
- Greg Norman

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MEDIA PARTNER



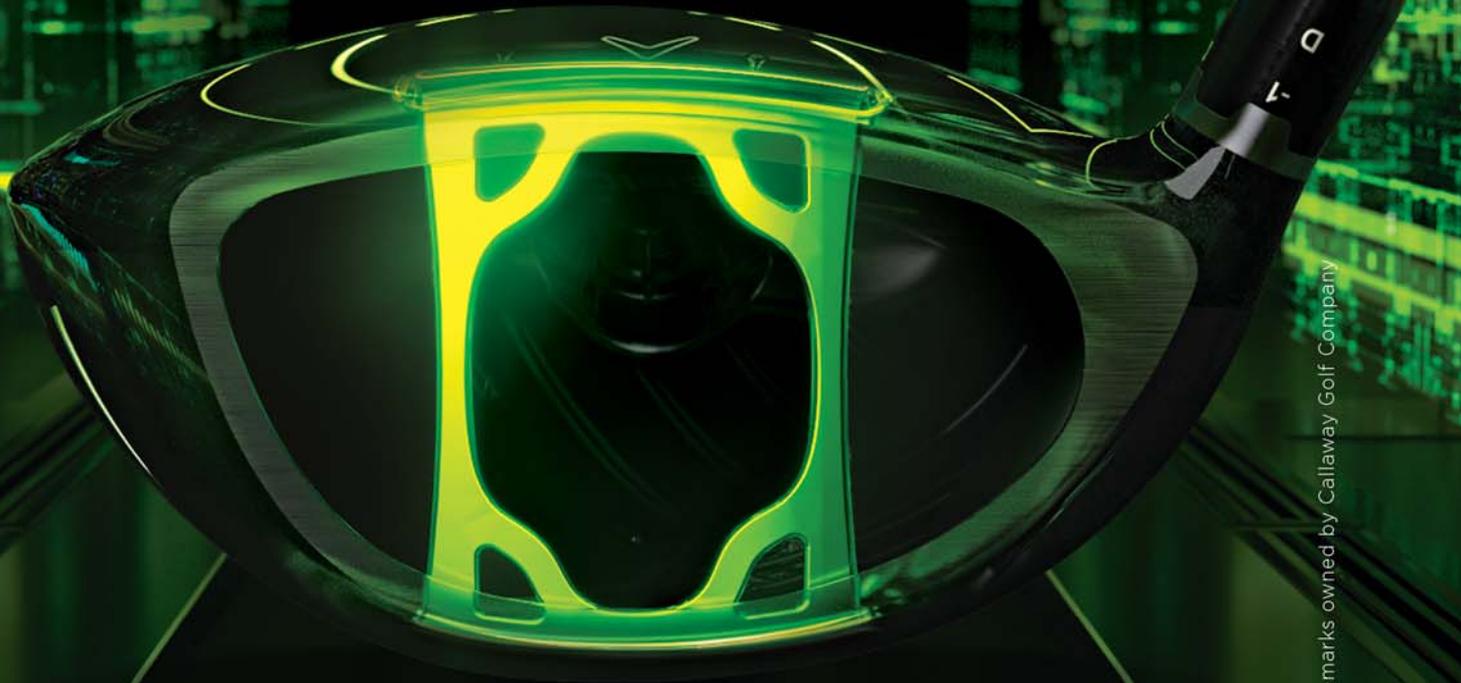
**DON'T MISS... NEWS // SNIPPETS // CLUB NEWS // FEATURES // INSTRUCTIONS  
TIPS // EQUIPMENT // DESTINATIONS // TRAVEL PLUS... PGTI // RANKINGS**

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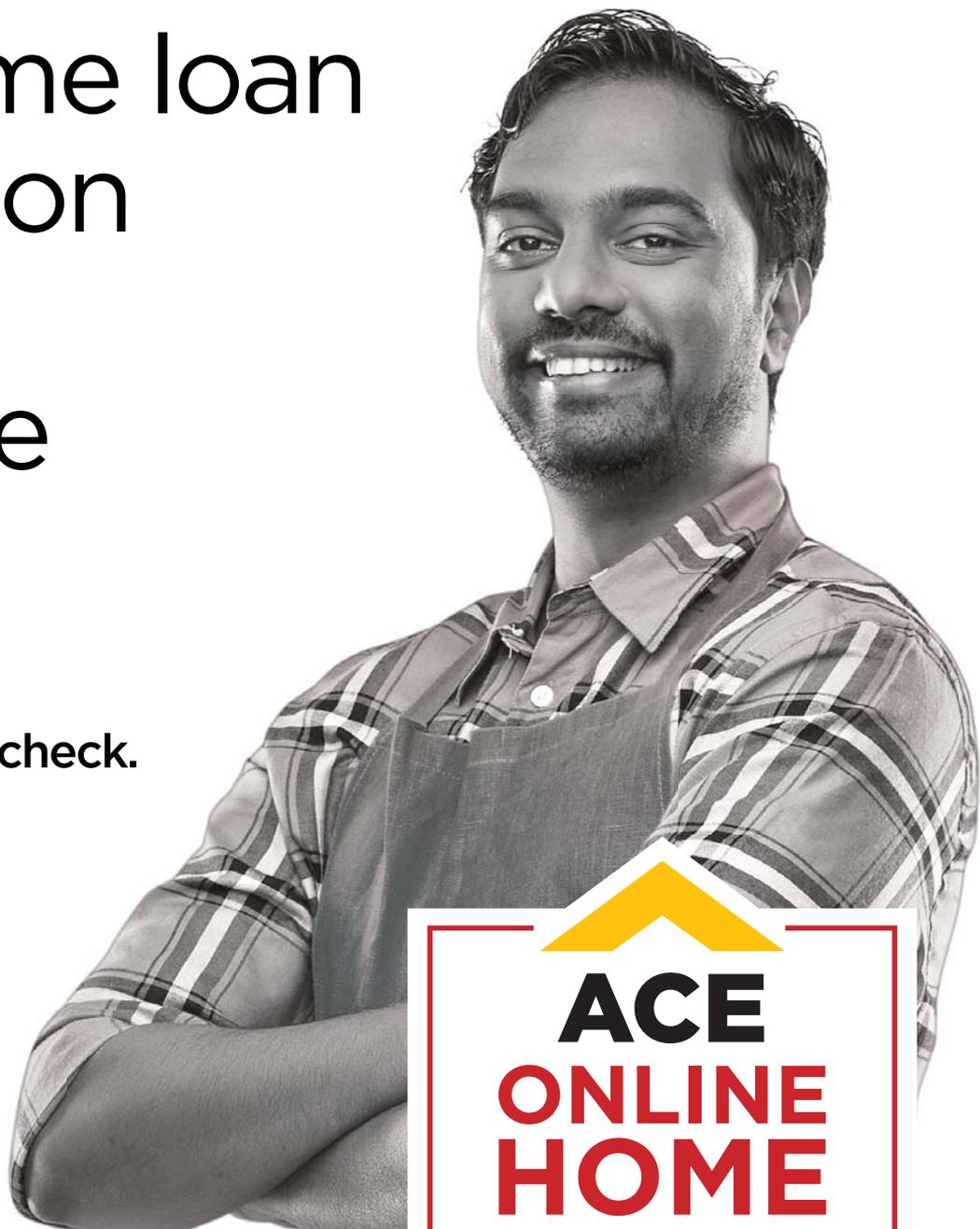
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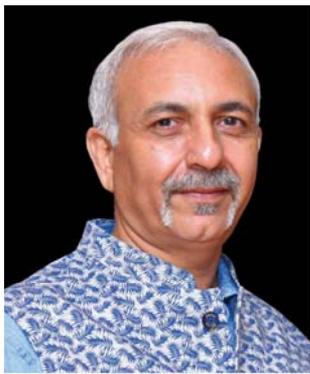
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Royal Springs Golf Course



Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi giving away prize at MP Cup



## EDITOR'S NOTE

# GREEN OCTOBER!

**T**he month of October was filled with Golf as we come out of the Pandemic slowly but surely heading towards normalcy.

The tours are not losing time getting back into action. The professional tour - PGTI staged two back to back events - one in Delhi at the Delhi Golf Club and the second one at the Rambagh Golf Club in Jaipur. The return to Golf comes as a relief for the Pro Golfers as this is their livelihood and they have seen some hard times in the last two years.

Golf Tourism is also making a comeback with domestic tourism taking lead in the absence of international travel. J&K played host to 3 events in this month. Kashmir Autumn Golf Cup was held at the picturesque Royal Springs Golf Course in Srinagar followed by the PHD Chamber event in Pahalgam and the annual Jammu Tawi Golf Cup at the Sidhra Golf Course in Jammu. World Over Golf Courses are witnessing unprecedented increase in rounds as Golfers are putting in revenge rounds.

People it seems are weary of negativity they have faced in the last two years craving for things to get back to normal. I urge my beloved readers to go ahead and enjoy the new tomorrow, treat life like a fresh scorecard wherein you can fill it with scores of a new round. Take that pending break, upgrade your equipment which has been put off, go to a pro and get the kinks taken out of the game to enjoy Golf more!

Happy reading!



Pahalgam Golf Course

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**Vol.-XIV, Issue - 11**

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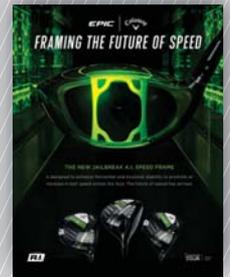
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November 2021

This month don't miss...



## Feature

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### 25 LUCAS HERBERT HOLDS ONE-SHOT VICTORY IN BERMUDA

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### 27 ASIAN TOUR UNVEILS 2021 RESUMPTION PLANS

The Asian Tour announced exciting and ambitious plans to stage a series of season-ending tournaments to finish its 2020-21 schedule, ensuring that the Tour can complete its Order of Merit, and crown a Merit list champion.

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### 31 THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE DEFEAT GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

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Here, we take a look at the techniques that make Tiger the best iron player of this or perhaps any generation. Build them into your own game to improve your ball striking, precision and consistency from the fairways.

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### 40 GET BEHIND THE BALL AT ADDRESS

You simply don't have time during the golf swing to process too many technical thoughts, so the simpler you can keep things the better as far as I'm concerned. Here's how Lee Westwood creates that power while keeping control.

### 42 GIVE YOURSELF A WIDE BASE TO CONTROL YOUR IRONS

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## PGTI

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Viraj Madappa kept his nerve on a high-scoring day to lift the trophy at the Rs. 70 lakh MP Cup 2021. The Kolkata golfer thus bagged his second professional title and his first win in three years.

### 58 KHALIN JOSHI TURNS THE TABLES ON FINAL DAY

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### 60 LIVE PGTI COVERAGE FOR THE FIRST TIME

With its objective of promoting professional golf among a wider audience in India, PGTI tied up with ABP Network, a leading media network in India, for the Live Coverage of its events for the first time ever.



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## 9th INVITATIONAL ★ Fund Raiser ★ Tournament 2021

*In keeping with our objective of nurturing India's finest golf talent*

**Willingdon Sports Club, Mumbai**  
**Friday, December 17, 2021**

### Tournament Highlights

- Exciting format with lots of individual and team prizes
- Morning round followed by Prize Distribution and lunch

### Celebrities expected

**Neeraj Chopra**, Olympic Gold Medallist, Javelin Throw  
**Rakul Preet Singh**, Bollywood Actor

**Next in  
Delhi and  
Bengaluru!**

### TGF's Nationwide Talent Hunt (sponsored by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India)

TGF is shortly launching a talent hunt for young talent pan India. On the lookout for:

- Golfers from underprivileged backgrounds
- Annual family income < ₹5 lakhs

Please spread the word! The Foundation will pay all expenses for the junior players travel and stay for the selection process, likely to be in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Bengaluru.

Please call 08447775371 for details



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# HOW CAN A SEEKER DEAL WITH DOUBTS AND LAZINESS?

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

**I know that all the things I've sought in my life aren't "it" and I know there's something else, yet I don't have any idea what it is and there's all this laziness, complacency and doubt. So how do I deal with this?**

**Sadhguru:** There are two different aspects here – one thing is doubt, another thing is being complacent. Once you are complacent, laziness just follows – they are the same things with different labels. If you are burning for something, you will not be complacent, so there is no question of laziness.

But doubt is a different thing. Doubt is on many different levels. One doubt is whether there really is something called "beyond." Some people are blessed, who believe that there is a man sitting up there and doing things! But thinking people have doubt about everything. Thinking people have doubts about the very basis of creation. But one thing you cannot doubt is your own existence. You are here. When you are here, how are you here? If you look at yourself, you will have a doubt. The more you look at your life, the more you will have doubts about everything. It is very natural for your intelligence to have doubts.

The very nature of thought is so incomplete that thought is capable of producing millions of doubts about everything. Please start thinking about every aspect of your life.

You will see that it will produce millions of doubts. That is the nature of thought, because it is so incomplete in its perception.

You know, someone said, "I think, so I exist." This is ridiculous! I don't think, but I still exist. For most part of my life, I don't think anything. Only when I make a conscious effort, I think, otherwise I don't think. But I very much exist in a far bigger way than he could ever imagine, because one who depends on thought can only imagine life. He cannot live or know life.

## DOUBT VS SUSPICION

The very product of thought is doubt. The further you try to take your thought, the more doubts it will create in your mind. One level of doubt is about creation and the nature of creation – whether this is true or that is true, whether God exists or doesn't exist, all these kind of things. Another level of doubt for a spiritual seeker is about the methods, about the guru. The first level of doubt is healthy. The second level of doubt is very restricting. Questioning is okay. Doubting is also okay. But the problem is, doubt needs intelligence. And most people are incapable of doubt, they are suspicious.

A suspicion comes from a foregone conclusion. Doubt is simply: "Don't know" – you are looking. If you are looking, there is no problem. When you are looking, you are open. In that context, doubt is very healthy. It is a possibility. The more you doubt, the

more of a possibility you become.

If you are suspicious, you already have a conclusion, "Maybe, the whole thing is nonsense" – this is a suspicion, not a doubt. You have a conclusion already, and you are trying to work towards that conclusion. And now that you have a logical mind, a mind which is deeply conditioned by all kinds of beliefs, thoughts, philosophies and influences from the outside, you are not able to keep it aside. So, if there is a huge struggle every day about the methods that are given to you, about the person, about the possibility itself, I would say it is better you work one step at a time.

## ONE LIMITATION AT A TIME

Wherever you are, do you understand that right now, you exist within certain limitations? If there is a limitation – a boundary – there must be something beyond the limitation? Whether the boundlessness exists or not, at least you can perceive that if there is a boundary, there must be something beyond the boundary. Right now, your spiritual process is just to work from one limitation to another limitation. You break this limitation, move into the next level of limitations. You break that and move into the next level.

You do not know whether the Ultimate exists or not. You don't have to imagine or mentally create the Ultimate – this destroys many possibilities within you. Just see that



you are existing in certain limitations right now and how to break those limitations. If you break it, you will move into the next prison – a bigger one. If you break that, you will move into the next one. As you keep breaking it, let's see where the hell it

If you are suspicious, you already have a conclusion, “Maybe, the whole thing is nonsense” – this is a suspicion, not a doubt. You have a conclusion already, and you are trying to work towards that conclusion.

goes. At least let's move into a better prison. That's all you are trying to do with every aspect of your life – just trying to take one more step, isn't it? Even with the spiritual process, just take one more step at a time.

Some years ago, the Indian cricket team beat the Australian team in Australia, which had not happened for 22 years. I was reading in a magazine about the player – who comes from Bangalore – who scored 233 runs. When people asked him “How do you play? Do you play to win the game or the series or what?” he replied, “I try and play one ball at a time. I'm not playing the match. The most important thing to realize when you are batting is that the only thing that decides your fate, your score, your career or anything else, is that next ball.” He said, “If you can do that over a long period of time, you will succeed. It is not an easy thing to do, though.” This man got it, because you can only play one ball at a time. But he says it is hard because he is trying mentally.

### ONE BALL AT A TIME

So, right now, you just play one ball at a time. Right now, if your problem is you can't stand the person who is sitting next to you – you just work on that! Don't worry

about reaching God or attaining liberation. Just work on this little problem that you have. This is the way you will grow. If you imagine something big out there, it all feels great for some time, but you are back again. Whatever you might imagine, whether you are imagining God or you are imagining Devil, life will anyway give you the works! Learn to handle life. After all, the issue is life. Only when you begin to know life and understand the limitations of life, the longing to go beyond life arises. If you are not intimately in touch with life, your longing to go beyond life is just a falsehood; all you are looking for is a drink.

Just work one ball at a time. Right now, what is your limitation, how to go beyond this. Whatever methods have been given to you, are they breaking some of your limitations? That's all you have to see. If they are breaking, it's fine, continue to break. Don't worry about the ultimate. If it's one ball at a time, doubt is no problem.

And once you see that the methods are working to break the limitations in which you exist, there will be no complacency. Once you are not complacent, there is no question of being lazy. If you are lazy, don't go to work, do your pranayam and just relax! **GP**



The Indian Golf Union

The governing body for Golf in India

The Indian Golf Union (IGU) is the National Sports Federation for Golf in India and the Governing Body for the game in the Country.

IGU conducted five national categorized events in the month of October 2021. Mr Brijinder Singh, Vice President and Chairman Championship Committee, IGU said “slowly but steadily we are getting back to our new normal. While taking all precautions we are starting up our feeder tours and our main tour. The enthusiasm in the participants is infectious and numbers are growing. We are committed to developing golf at grass root level and pan India. We look forward to the support of Parents and golf clubs to encourage the development of golf.”

In view of promotion and developing the game at the grassroots especially in the North Eastern part of India, the IGU held its second national event in Shillong with the IGU North East India Ladies & Junior Girls Golf Championship from 19 - 22 October 2021. Mr Gaurav Bajaj, President, Meghalaya Golf Promoters Society and Governing Council Member of IGU mentioned “hosting of events of this magnitude keeps the course in good playing conditions and also provides a good level of exposure for our local Golfers who aspire to play the circuit.”

With a few more events to go before the season finale events namely the All India Amateur and Junior Championships, the IGU looks forward to hosting many more events in the coming year and producing champions from all corners of the Country. 



# IGU CALENDAR

## IGU CALENDAR MEN 2021

IGU Jharkand Amateur Golf Championship	Golmuri Golf Club	08 - 12 November 2021
IGU Eastern India Amateur Golf Championship	RCGC, Kolkata	15 - 21 November 2021
IGU Western India Amateur Golf Championship	BPGC, Mumbai	29 Nov - 03 Dec 2021
IGU 120th Amateur Golf Championship of India	Poona Club Golf Course	06 - 12 December 2021

## JUNIOR BOYS CALENDAR 2021

IGU Shillong Junior Boys Golf Championship	Shillong Golf Club	15 - 19 November 2021
IGU Eastern India Junior Boys Golf Championship	Tollygunge Golf Club	22 - 26 November 2021
IGU All India Junior Boys & Girls Golf Championship	Kalhaar Blues & Greens Ahmedabad	13 - 17 December 2021

## LADIES AND JUNIOR GIRLS CALENDAR 2021

IGU All India Ladies Amateur Championship	Delhi / NCR	22 - 28 November 2021
IGU All India Junior Boys & Girls Golf Championship	Kalhaar Blues & Greens Ahmedabad	13 - 17 December 2021



# IGU Results

## IGU NORTH EAST INDIA LADIES & JUNIOR GIRLS GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

22nd October 2021

Shillong Golf Club

LADIES		
1	Delhi	Smriti Bhargav
2	West Bengal	Chitragada Singh
3	Karnataka	Vrinda Yadav
4	Tamilnadu	Anaggha Venkatesh
5	Maharashtra	Ketaki Sood

CATEGORY A		
1	Karnataka	Rishika Muralidhar
2	Delhi	Renee Rane
3	Karnataka	Jasmine Shekar
4	Gujarat	Manya Saini
5	Delhi	Ragini Navet

CATEGORY B		
1	Karnataka	Saanvi Somu
2	Chandigarh	Mannat Brar
3	Delhi	Palakshi Siingh
4	Karnataka	Keerthana Rajeev
5	West Bengal	Anaahat Bindra

LADIES		
1	Karnataka	Rishika Muralidhar
2	Delhi	Smriti Bhargav
3	Delhi	Renee Rane
4	Karnataka	Saanvi Somu
5	Chandigarh	Mannat Brar

CATEGORY C		
1	Haryana	Riya Jadon
2	Maharashtra	Anuradha Chaudhuri

COMBINED A & B		
1	Karnataka	Rishika Muralidhar
2	Delhi	Renee Rane
3	Karnataka	Saanvi Somu
4	Chandigarh	Mannat Brar
5	Delhi	Palakshi Siingh



## IGU NORTHERN INDIA AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Noida Golf Club

22nd October 2021

CATEGORY B		
1	Rohan Dhole Patil	6 Raunil Kukar
2	Pranav Mardikar	7 Daksh Shokeen
3	Shaurya Bhattacharya	8 Rajesh Kumar Gautam
4	Mandaar Prashar	9 Arjun Bhati
5	Milind Soni	10 Rohit



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# WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR TEAM?

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.



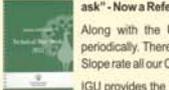
Junior Program at CIAL Cochin

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 Indias -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 Nomura Cup



National Squad Camp

## WHAT CAN THE IGU DO FOR YOU?

Helps improve your golf



NGAI Campus, Chandigarh



Through the National Golf Academy of India (NGAI) we train and certify Golf Coaches. We make available more than 450 trained coaches and coaching!

Enables and connects you to a Nation wide Network of Golfers and Golf Courses

We give you access to over 230 Golf clubs in the Country who are affiliated to the IGU and connect you with over 12500 Life members of the IGU

Upto 25% Discounted Offers on Green fees at various Clubs around the country for IGU Members



Participants in National and International events organized by IGU are eligible to be considered for appointment to Government jobs under sports quota

Gets you golf equipment at concessional rates



We import Golf balls, Range balls, Golf clubs and green keeping equipment at concessional rates.

Benefit from contributing to development of Golf in India



Your contributions towards development of golf infrastructure gets you benefits under CSR and exemptions under the IT Act.



## FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

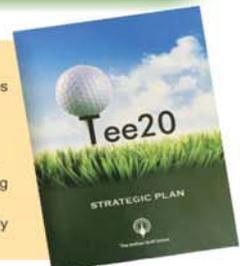
It is important to acknowledge that Clubs and golfers are at the heart of all of these initiatives at every level. We also appreciate that these initiatives require a collaborative network of people and support, to maximise their success.

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 chanelising 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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# LOOKING AHEAD

## GOLF – YESTERDAY, TODAY & TOMORROW

By **Sharath Bhat**

*A freelance advertising writer and long term associate of Sumit Rathor, and*

*Anusha Rathor, a freelance content writer and editor*

### Success Mantras

Sumit has given more than ten years of honorary service to his home club, KGA, as committee member, honorary secretary, captain and president of the club. As President, he also had the honor of hosting the Indian Open at KGA – the first and only time the Open was hosted in south India. As someone who understood first-hand the hardships of playing professional golf in India, he has championed development through sponsorships and logistical support. He encourages amateur golfers and budding talent by providing opportunities for them to gain experience and progress. In 2007, he accepted a fund for the personal and professional support of caddies. >>

Image Credit : D. Muralidharan (dmurali.com)



Sumit is always on the lookout for budding talent, and seeks to develop quality training facilities in India. This is a dream and passion project of his – he wants the youth to have every opportunity to succeed at golf professionally, and for India to produce more champions in the coming years.

**In this interview we catch up with Sumit on issues connected to the pandemic, and look back at his early years. We close looking to the future, and how he sees things evolving.**

**How do early milestones influence a golfer's process of growth?**

Early milestones are fundamental in a golfer's

growth story. Good training by the right coach at good training facilities – practicing more than playing initially – lays a solid foundation. The later you come to the course and the more time you spend at the range, the better. When one has a strong base, practicing the same swing over hours at a driving range is a good recipe for success. This is how champions are made.

**How are achievement milestones a good source of encouragement?**

I have seen good golfers looking at winning in a fiercely competitive way while still being friendly and supportive. As you need to repeat in golf, you also need to win consistently – keep at it. Winning one off is not a big deal; doing it again and again is how you know you are

champion material. The lower your handicap, the better your game and hence, better are your chances of winning.

**How are low periods are invaluable to the learning process?**

Low periods are inevitable, in life and in golf. The important thing here is to introspect during the lows, derive learning from the experience and improve your game subsequently. The mantra of golf is to be consistent. If your game is bad, stop playing – find a good coach and keep practicing. Refresh your fundamentals and rebuild your confidence before you venture out onto the course again.

**What is the importance of setting your sights on being a better golfer than yesterday?**

Fine tune how you approach your game and make course corrections. Reduce your margin of error and play percentage golf. Concentrate on keeping the ball on the fairway. Hitting long, outside the course and fairway will make the hole more difficult. Remember your fundamentals and practice. Strong fundamentals are important in golf. Your true competition is yourself and the course - consistency and practice will make your game improve over time.

**How is it useful to push yourself a little harder on fitness levels?**

Golf calls for a tremendous amount of energy and stamina, and one needs to be flexible to

**Sumit on the leaderboard!**

Having trained at the David Leadbetter Academy in Florida and the Claude Harmon Academy in Dubai, Sumit won the order of Merit at Dubai Creek recently. His other wins include:

- **Winner** - Sir Michael Bonallack Trophy – 2014
- **Winner** - Audi Quattro Cup – 2012
- **Gross Winner** - Ballentines Golf Challenge – 2012
- **Gross Winner** - Tourism Authority of Thailand Invitational Golf Tournament – 2010
- **Winner** - Mercedes Trophy – 2010
- **World Champion Individual** - World Golfers Invitational – Marbella, Spain – 2009
- **Winner** - Standard Chartered Corporate Golf Tiger – 2006 & 2007
- **Overall Winner** - British Airways Executive Challenge – 2005
- **Winner** - Johnnie Walker International Club Championship - International Final – 1999



play golf. The more flexible you are, the wider your range of movement and the smoother your swing can be. And it's never too late! At 53, I have a consistent workout routine every single day. I definitely see the benefits of mobility and strength translate as improvements to my game.

### **Is it important to be transparent and ethical in the game?**

Golf is a gentleman's game, and is a portrayal of how you are in real life. How you speak to a caddy, how you interact with your four-ball and the way you take a free/penalty drop – these are all reflections of your character. Integrity is critical - there is no point of cheating or mis-recording your score. You are playing against yourself, and it's important to be true to yourself.

### **How is golf bouncing back after the pandemic?**

Golf is an extremely safe game. You are in an open outdoor space with only a handful of people, and caddies are tested regularly. After not one but two lockdowns, people are showing up to golf courses in numbers greater than pre-pandemic. During the previous lockdowns, I made use of the lawn at home to practice chipping. Even if golf courses and driving ranges should close again, make use of a carpet at home to practice putting and stay in touch.

### **Tell us about your first brush with the game of golf?**

When I was 5 years old, thanks to my father, late Mr BS Rathor, an avid golfer himself, I got introduced to the game. Fortunately, I did my schooling at La Martinere, which had the Lucknow Golf Club course as a part of the campus. I got a chance to represent the club when I was 10 years old.

### **On a lighter note, you are a single digit handicapper for more than three decades now. Why didn't you choose golf as your career?**

When I started golf, there was hardly any opportunity. I wanted to continue to develop

Shubhankar and Aditi. The landscape is different now, with efforts from golf enthusiasts like myself - I've sponsored PGTI Tour events for two years and hosted the Karnataka Golf Festival, for instance. Initiatives like these provide opportunity for youngsters to compete on a different level.

### **Sumit's secret for perfect golf?**

Repetition and the right coach. Find the best coach you can and learn the right way. Practice, practice and practice. Don't experiment too much – hitting a stationary ball straight to a target in this manner requires high precision, this is what makes golf so challenging.

### **How do you manage your time despite a hectic schedule?**

I have many things on my plate at any given point in time. I work 24/7 to cater to the different time zones my work stretches across, even adding more to my plate. There are many good causes that are brought to my attention such as the Richmond Fellowship, which I have been supporting for the last 15 years, and I feel it is my duty to give back in all ways possible. Recently, I supported Enable India in



**At 53, I have a consistent workout routine every single day. I definitely see the benefits of mobility and strength translate as improvements to my game.**

my business while playing golf, and maintain a healthy balance between both even now. Things have improved now, and I sincerely hope that India produces more champions like Anirban,

their initiative to start and develop Blind Golf in India. These are wonderful opportunities for the development of the sport and recognition of talent in India - I can always find the time. **GP**



# IMMELMAN EXCITED AT VAST TALENT POOL AHEAD OF 2022 SHOWDOWN

by Chris Cox/PGA TOUR

*Array of international stars has International Team captain thinking upset over U.S. in Presidents Cup.*

**H**ideki Matsuyama may have captured the hearts and imaginations of golf fans across the world in April when he won The Masters Tournament, but his victory was no surprise to Presidents Cup captain Trevor Immelman.

The tournament was one of 11 events won by potential International Team participants during the 2020-21 FedExCup season. So, yes, it may have been a breakthrough victory for Matsuyama and Japanese golf, but it was also just the latest reminder that Immelman now has the talent necessary to take down the United States team next September at Quail Hollow Club.

“There’s a number of players I’m excited about right now,” Immelman said, “and for the last year or so we’ve had a squad of about 20 or 25 guys that we’ve often tried to get together to create a bunch of camaraderie and have a good time together, get to know each other a little better.”

History is not on Immelman’s side. The U.S. Team has dominated the still-young history of The Presidents Cup, winning all but two of the 13 matches played thus far. The Americans tied with the Internationals in 2003, and lost for the only time in 1998, when International Captain Peter Thomson guided the Internationals to a 20.5–11.5 triumph.

In the most recent iteration, the 2019 event held at Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Australia, Captain Tiger Woods spearheaded a stirring 16-14 comeback over Ernie Els on the final day, which saw the International Team leading in each of the first three days of competition.

“We understand what a huge mountain we have to climb,” Immelman said. “The American team showed (at the Ryder Cup) exactly what their potential is, playing some really fantastic golf, and they’re going to have a lot of confidence and the crowd behind them here. You know, that’s what gets you excited as a competitor, to have that opportunity to go up against the best, so it’s going to be a lot of fun.



Captain Trevor Immelman with the Presidents Cup at Quail Hollow. Image Credit PGA TOUR

Can’t wait.”

And yet, hope still remains. The International Team was in position to pull off a shocking upset two years ago, taking a lead into Sunday’s singles matches only to be overwhelmed by the U.S. squad.

Matsuyama, expected to be a key cog on the upcoming team, helped lead the way with 2.5

“The hurdle for us is quite clear: We represent a large portion of the world. Last time in Australia we had eight different regions represented”.



Trevor Immelman with Adam Hadwin in the 2019 Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne. Image Credit Getty Images

points, going 2-0 in Foursomes while earning half a point in singles. Mexican Abraham Ancer contributed 3.5 points-he went 2-0 in Foursomes and 1-0-1 in Foursomes-while Korean superstar Sungjae Im matched Ancer's point total thanks to a 3-1-1 overall record in his debut appearance for the International Team.

"All corners of the globe are really producing some special talent," Immelman said. "We've got some youngsters, Joaquin Niemann has been playing some great golf since he got on to the PGA TOUR. He's in his early 20s. On the other side of the planet you've got a guy by the name of Sungjae Im from Korea. He's come on to the PGA TOUR and really impressed people with his ball-striking. There's a number of guys, Abe Ancer, Cameron Smith. These are guys that came into Australia as rookies and performed quite well."

Of course, such a diverse array of talent represents its own unique challenge, as varying languages and cultures come into play. Captain Els took the first steps toward erasing those impediments in 2019 by uniting the International Team under one banner and team logo.

"The hurdle for us is quite clear: We represent a large portion of the world. Last time in Australia we had eight different regions represented," Immelman noted. "So we have to try and bridge those gaps from a communication and culture standpoint, so those are the things that we work really hard on."

Those differences were already being mended

by the time the Presidents Cup concluded in 2019. Whether it was their close-defeat or the weeklong karaoke performances by South African Louis Oosthuizen, the International Team managed to come together like never before in Australia.

That has Immelman optimistic for the future.

"It's things you remember forever, just to have the opportunity to let your guard down for a week and really get to know people and get to know their families and meld together for one common goal," he said. "It's extremely exciting, and it's so enjoyable. You spend most of the time just laughing, laughing at each other. You start to see people's personalities."

Those personalities-and their own unique talents- will need to be at their peak if the

International Team is finally to get back on the winning side of this rivalry. The U.S. team proved its mettle once more at the Ryder Cup, dominating in a lopsided 19-9 romp over the Europeans.

Immelman, nevertheless, is undeterred.

"For us as international players, those weeks during the Ryder Cup you would always sit at home going, 'Man, I want something like this, I need a piece of this kind of action, team play, representing something bigger than yourself, match play,'" Immelman said. "We've got to find a way to play a little better and match up with these guys. Really thankful the way it's grown and the way it's planning out."

"I think this next one is probably going to be the best one yet." 

**ELEVEN PGA TOUR EVENTS DURING THE 2020-21 FEDEXCUP SEASON WERE WON BY POTENTIAL PRESIDENTS CUP PARTICIPANTS.**

Carlos Ortiz (Mexico)	Houston Open
Si Woo Kim (Korea)	American Express
Branden Grace (South Africa)	Puerto Rico Open
Matt Jones (Australia)	Honda Classic
Hideki Matsuyama (Japan)	Masters Tournament
Marc Leishman and Cam Smith (Australia)	Zurich Classic
K.H. Lee (Korea)	AT&T Byron Nelson
Garrick Higgo (South Africa)	Palmetto Championship at Congaree
Cam Davis (Australia)	Rocket Mortgage Classic
Erik van Rooyen (Australia)	Barracuda Championship
Abraham Ancer (Mexico)	WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational



# LOVE HOPES TO CONQUER ALL

by Chris Cox/PGA TOUR

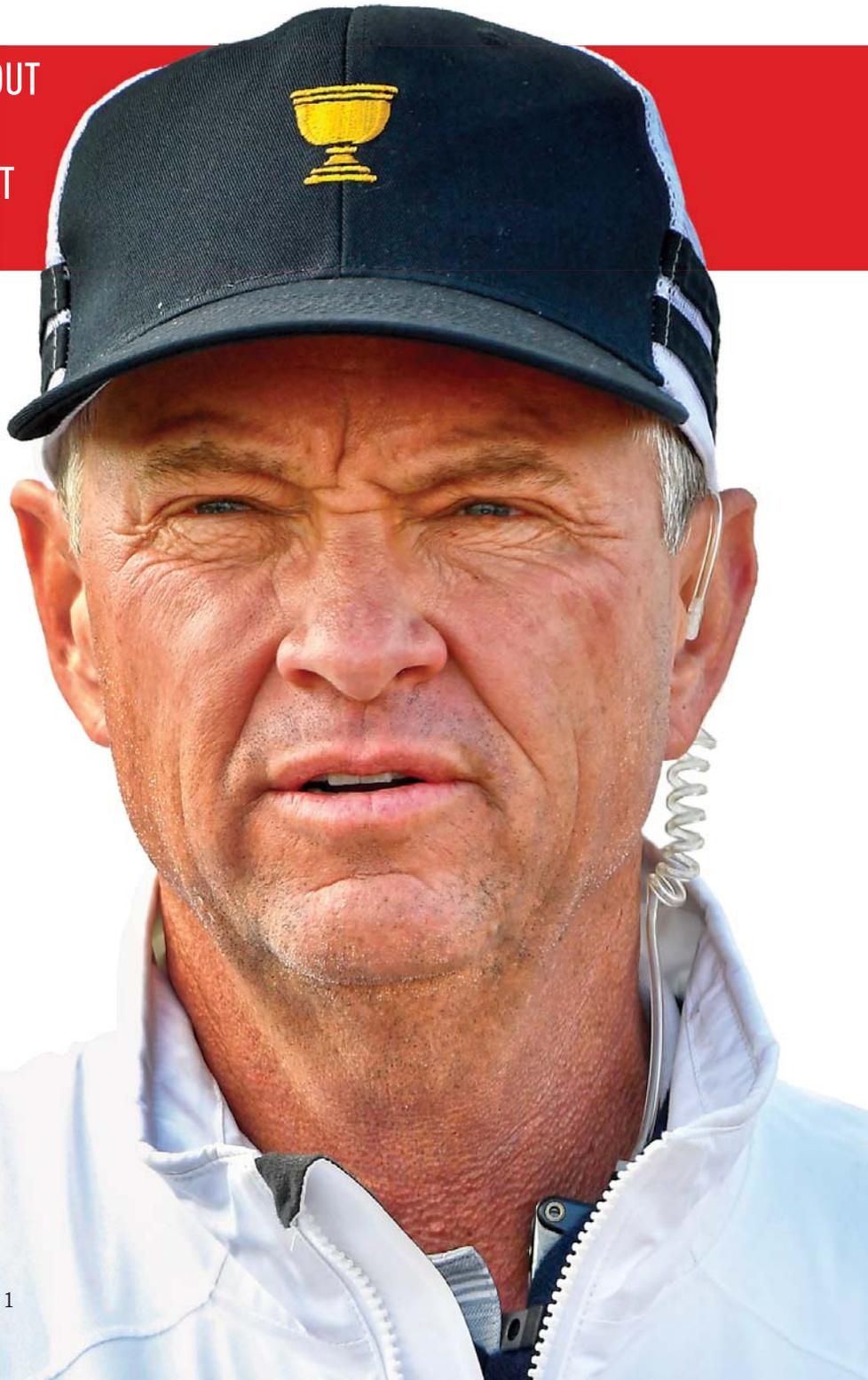
FRESH OF 19-9 RYDER CUP ROUT OF EUROPEANS, AMERICANS SET SIGHTS ON DOMINANCE AT QUAIL HOLLOW .

**D**avis Love III understands the supreme advantage his United States Presidents Cup Team has enjoyed over its outmanned International counterparts over the years. But the captain of the 2022 squad makes no secret of the fact that, despite what the prognosticators may think, the gap between the two teams is still closing.

“Over the last couple Cups, these guys have figured it out,” Love said.

International Team captain Trevor Immelman is “ahead of the game,” he continued. “They’re building their team. We learned it in 2015 (when the U.S. narrowly escaped in a 15.5-14.5 decision). We have fun, and we always get along, but we haven’t built a program to win, and I think they’re catching on a little too much, frankly.”

In the most recent iteration, the 2019 event held at Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Australia, the International Team carried the lead into Sunday singles, only to see U.S. captain Tiger Woods



Davis Love III. Image Credit - Getty Images



Davis Love III with Tiger Woods at the 2017 Presidents Cup at Liberty National.  
Image Credit - Getty Images

spearhead a stirring 16-14 comeback over Ernie Els on the final day.

The United States has dominated the still-young history of The Presidents Cup, winning all but two of the 13 matches played thus far. The U.S. tied with the Internationals in 2003, and lost for the only time in 1998, when

**“I THINK IT WAS JORDAN (SPIETH) OR JUSTIN (THOMAS) WHO SAID IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE – A LOT OF THEM HAVE BEEN PLAYING TOGETHER SINCE GRADE SCHOOL. IT’S A GROUP OF GUYS THAT ARE YOUNG AND THEY’VE PLAYED A LOT OF GOLF TOGETHER, THEY HANG OUT TOGETHER.”**

**- Davis Love III**

International Captain Peter Thomson guided the Internationals to a 20.5– 11.5 triumph.

But Love, soon tasked with building out the next U.S. Presidents Cup roster, understands that history by no means dictates the future. He has seen firsthand how the International Team—and the event as a whole, for that matter—has grown since the first iteration in 1994 at Robert Trent Jones Golf Club.

Love was arguably the best player on that roster, earning a team-best 4.5 points in the United States’ 20-12 victory.

“Obviously we’re kind of partial to it because we win it a lot more than the Ryder Cup,” Love said, “but it’s incredible how much it’s grown since 1993, and it’s become a favorite of our fans and of our players, and it’s a big goal for our players to make these teams. I’m just glad that I saw the start of it, and now hopefully this ends my Presidents Cup career. I’ve been at it a long time. ...

“But what an honor to see it come this far since 1993.”

Love is the ultimate representative for the Presidents Cup. He has competed on behalf of the U.S. team six times in his illustrious

career, including that inaugural 1994 event when he compiled a 4-0-1 record. He holds a 16-8-4 all-time record in Presidents Cup play while accounting for 18 points in 28 total matches played.

He has spent the last three versions of the event serving as an assistant captain, including the 2019 event under Captain Woods.

“I was on an airplane with Hugh Culverhouse from Tampa and (former PGA TOUR Commissioner) Tim (Finchem) going to a board meeting, and Tim says, Hey, I’m going to have this idea brought up at the board meeting about having a Presidents Cup opposite years of the Ryder Cup,” Love recalled. “... I was lucky enough to make the first team and see the beginnings of it.”

Love’s vast experience as a Presidents Cup player and assistant captain couples nicely with his extensive knowledge of playing the leading man. He has captained two Ryder Cup teams, both on U.S. soil, going 1-1 in those events. He lost in 2012 to Europe’s “Miracle at Medinah” before returning four years later to lead the winning side at Hazeltine.

He earned the rare chance to captain a second



**“OBVIOUSLY WE’RE KIND OF PARTIAL TO IT BECAUSE WE WIN IT A LOT MORE THAN THE RYDER CUP, BUT IT’S INCREDIBLE HOW MUCH IT’S GROWN SINCE 1993, AND IT’S BECOME A FAVORITE OF OUR FANS AND OF OUR PLAYERS, AND IT’S A BIG GOAL FOR OUR PLAYERS TO MAKE THESE TEAMS.”**

team despite that loss thanks in part to the task force formed following the Americans’ 2014 loss in Scotland, which was designed to assess the ails which had plagued the American side.

“We kind of a half a rebuilding program for the Ryder Cup, but we turned that into more like Team USA golf,” Love said. “We are fortunate that we get to do this every year. We just got done with the Ryder Cup and the guys said, ‘Are you going home? What are you doing?’ I go, ‘No, I’m going to Presidents Cup. Midnight it starts Presidents Cup year.

“So that’s the way our guys look at it. They get to do it every year, they shift gears, but we are trying to build Team USA golf year-round.”

That strategy may spell trouble for an International Team much like it did a European squad that just lost 19-9 at Whistling Straits. The United States already features some of the most dominant players in the world, with the Ryder Cup roster featuring eight of the world’s top 10 players, and the nucleus of that team should make up most of the Presidents Cup squad that will take on Quail Hollow Club in September 2022.

The average age of the Americans was 29.1,



**Captain Davis Love III with the Presidents Cup at the locker room at Quail Hollow**  
*Image Credit - PGA TOUR*

with 37-year-old Dustin Johnson the oldest on the team. He just so happened to go 5-0 against his European opponents.

“I think it was Jordan (Spieth) or Justin (Thomas) who said in the press conference – a lot of them have been playing together since grade school. It’s a group of guys that are young and they’ve played a lot of golf together, they hang out together. I think we had an average World Ranking of 8.9 or

something. I mean, you just can’t get much better than that.

“Now, obviously we’ve got a year of points, a lot of points in the next season. We won’t get exactly the same 12, but we’ve got a core group that we can count on.”

The core may not look the same come next September, but the ultimate goal for Love and the United States remains the same: Win the Presidents Cup at all costs. **GP**



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## SAM BURNS WINS SANDERSON FARMS CHAMPIONSHIP



Sam Burns ran off four birdies in a six-hole stretch to start the back nine and pulled away for a 5-under 67 to win the Sanderson Farms Championship on Sunday for his second PGA TOUR victory this year.

Against a list of contenders looking for their first win, Burns showed what it takes at the Country Club of Jackson by playing flawlessly on the back nine until it didn't matter.

He seized control with a 15-foot birdie putt on the par-3 13th, a 5-iron to 15 feet that set up a two-putt birdie on the next hole and then a perfect pitch from behind the green on the reachable par-4 15th for a tap-in birdie.

Staked to a two-shot lead going down the 18th, he took a safe bogey from the greenside bunker to secure a one-shot win over resurgent Nick Watney and PGA TOUR rookie Cameron Young.

Watney, coming off his worst season in more than a decade, closed with a 65 and had his best finish in more than three years.

Young's hopes began to fade on the 14th with a clunker out of the rough into a fairway bunker that led to him having to make a 4-footer for bogey.

Still, he made a slick up-and-down from off the 18th green for par that gave him a 68 and a share of second, which sets him up well for the season. That starts with playing next week in Las Vegas instead of having to go through Monday qualifying. **GP**

## HIDEKI MATSUYAMA WINS ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP BY FIVE SHOTS



Masters champion Hideki Matsuyama had three birdies in five holes on the back nine and eagled the 18th for good measure for a five-stroke victory at the PGA TOUR's ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP.

It was Matsuyama's first PGA TOUR win in his native Japan, although he's only had one previous attempt. In 2019, Tiger Woods won the inaugural ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP, the first PGA TOUR event in Japan, and last year the tournament was moved to California due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Matsuyama finished with a 65 and a 15-under total of 265 at Narashino Country Club. It was his seventh PGA TOUR victory. If there was any doubt, Matsuyama hit a three-wood to about 12 feet with his second shot on the par-5 18th.

Asked when he thought he had clinched his home tournament, Matsuyama said through an interpreter: "Probably my second shot at 18, that was probably the clincher."

Americans were tied for second at 10-under: Brendan Steele shot 66 and Cameron Tringale 69.



Open champion Collin Morikawa had a final-round 69 and finished 10 strokes behind Matsuyama.

Tokyo Olympics champion Xander Schauffele shot 68 and was at even par on the tournament, Rickie Fowler had his second consecutive 71 and finished at 3-over. **GP**

## KOREA'S IM SHOOT SIZZLING 62 TO WIN SHRINERS CHILDREN'S OPEN BY FOUR SHOTS



Korean star Sungjae Im produced a scintillating final round of 9-under 62 to charge to a four-shot victory at the Shriners Children's Open in Las Vegas on Sunday for his career second PGA TOUR title. And now, he is eyeing a desert double by also winning THE CJ CUP @ SUMMIT.

Starting the day three strokes off the lead, the 23-year-old, who is nicknamed Ironman Im, produced an immaculate display at TPC Summerlin highlighted by nine birdies as he claimed an impressive win with his 24-under 260 total. He tied the low winning score held by Ryan Moore (2012) and Webb Simpson (2013) since TPC Summerlin became a par-71 layout in 2009.

The smooth-swinging Im birdied four of his opening seven holes and then turned on a masterclass with five consecutive birdies from the ninth to 13th to seize control of the tournament. Matthew Wolff finished second after a closing 68 while Marc Leishman (63), Rory Sabbatini (64) and overnight leader Adam Schenk (70) shared third place on 19-under.

The win came at Im's 100th start on TOUR, which is a timely coincidence as his maiden success at The Honda Classic last March was at his 50th start. He also became the second youngest winner of the tournament after 1996 champion, Tiger Woods who won at age 20 years, 9 months, 6 days.



"Very meaningful win. I know I won my first win on my 50th start, and to win my second PGA TOUR win on my 100th start, that in itself is a pretty amazing stat. It was hard coming, but I think today how everything went, I think it was a gift from above. I played so well and I'm glad I got the win. It was very tough to win the first one and I thought the second would be harder and harder. I just kept my patience and tried to keep my focus throughout the period," said Im, who moved up to second place in the latest FedExCup standings. **GP**

# RORY MCILROY WINS THE CJ CUP



Rory McIlroy capped off a big weekend in Las Vegas on Sunday by surging past Rickie Fowler and holding off Collin Morikawa to win THE CJ CUP @ SUMMIT for his 20th PGA TOUR title.

McIlroy seized control with a 35-foot eagle putt from just off the green on the par-5 14th and then playing mistake-free down the stretch for a 6-under 66 and a one-victory.

McIlroy is the 39th player to win at least 20 times on the PGA TOUR, and it's his fifth straight PGA TOUR season with at least one win.

Fowler, who started the final round with a two-shot lead as he tried to end nearly three years without a victory, faded with a pair of three-putts and shot 71 to tie for third. The threat came from Morikawa, a member at The Summit Club, who shot 29 on the front to get in the mix and closed with an eagle for a 62.

That forced McIlroy to play mistake-free after his big eagle putt on the 14th, and he never came close to a bogey in finishing at 25-under 263. "It is a big carrot," McIlroy said of the 20 wins. "I didn't know it would be this week."

He went into the weekend nine shots out of the lead, made up plenty of ground with a 62 on Saturday and then pulled away by taking advantage of the scoring holes.

It was similar to his first win on the PGA TOUR in 2010 at Quail Hollow. McIlroy was nine shots behind going into the weekend at that tournament and closed with rounds of 66-62 to win. **GP**



# LUCAS HERBERT HOLDS ONE-SHOT VICTORY IN BERMUDA



Lucas Herbert had two birdies during the toughest, wind-blown stretch of Port Royal and held steady to the end for a 2-under 69 to win the Butterfield Bermuda Championship.

Herbert closed with four pars to hold off Danny Lee (71) and Patrick Reed, who finished with four birdies over his last six holes for a 65 and then waited to see if it would be enough.

Herbert, the 25-year-old Australian who won the Irish Open earlier on the European Tour this year, stayed in front by closing with two good par saves and missing a pair of 7-foot birdie attempts he didn't need.

His first PGA TOUR victory, and third worldwide, sends him to the Masters for the first time.

"It opens up so many doors," said Herbert, who earned his PGA TOUR card through the Korn Ferry Tour Finals two months ago. He had missed the cut in his other two starts this season.

The wind and rain, which caused tee times to be moved up, was as fierce as advertised, and play was halted briefly without having to bring



the players off the course.

"I felt like I grinded really well early and I had the right attitude going into the day that it wasn't going to be easy," Herbert said. "You just knew it was going to be one of those days

where you had to battle really, really hard. Under par was going to be a great score."

Taylor Pendrith of Canada, who started the final round with a three-shot lead, failed to make a birdie in closing with a 76 to tie for fifth. **GP**

# Prom hurries home for Asian Tour Phuket Series

**➤** Thailand's Prom Meesawat, aka the 'Big Dolphin', has returned from a taxing few months in Japan in order to make a splash on Phuket Island when the Asian Tour restarts its 2020-21 season there at the end of November.

The two-time Asian Tour winner has entered both the Blue Canyon Phuket Championship and Laguna Phuket Championship – two back-to-back US\$1 million events dubbed the "Asian Tour's Phuket Series".

The former will be played at Blue Canyon Country Club from November 25-28, while the latter will be staged at Laguna Golf Phuket from December 2-5.

Prom returned from Japan just over a week ago and did his quarantine in Phuket's sandbox – which gave him the freedom to play Blue Canyon and Laguna Golf Phuket twice.

"I hadn't played Blue Canyon since the 2007 Johnnie Walker Classic," said Prom, who took part in a virtual press conference for the Asian Tour Phuket Series today.

"Not much has changed to the Canyon course. It's always a good course. It's going to be fun. You really need to be careful with your tee shots as its tree lined. Also, I hadn't played Laguna Phuket since the Thailand Open in 2009. They have changed a lot of greens there. It's quite

**"Not much has changed to the Canyon course. It's always a good course. It's going to be fun."**



tricky and small and very slopy but there are still a lot of birdie opportunities." **GP**

## Mercuries Taiwan Masters resilient

**➤** A new start for the Asian Tour is imminent, but it is the old that will once again help play an important part in its success moving forward.

The Tour has been blessed to be able to count among its number an established and prestigious body of tournaments that have contributed to its longevity and continuity.

One such tournament is the Mercuries Taiwan Masters – which was won yesterday by Wang Wei-hsiang. Remarkably, he is the older brother of Wang Wei-hsuan, who claimed the title last year.

It was Wei-hsiang's first victory as a professional while it marked the third time a pair of brothers have won the tournament – which has been played at Taiwan Golf and Country Club since its launch in 1987.

The other famous siblings to have triumphed are Lin Wen-tang (main picture, 2009) and Lin Wen-ko (2003), as well as Hsieh Chin-sheng (1995) and Hsieh Yu-shu (1993).

For 20 years the event – along with its colorful founder Mr. George Wong – has been an intrinsic part of the Tour's schedule, alongside an impressive line-up of national Opens and



other long-standing tournaments.

The pandemic, and the quarantine restrictions that accompanied it, meant it was only played on the domestic circuit this year and last season. However, after Wei-hsiang tapped in for victory, attention will have quickly turned to 2022 when it will return as one of the Asian

Tour's key events.

"It was a really important step on the road to recovery to see the Mercuries Taiwan Masters keep its active streak going and continue to be played during this pandemic period," said Cho Minn Thant, Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer, Asian Tour. **GP**

# Suradit toughening up in Europe

**7** Thailand's Suradit Yongcharoenchai says his brave decision to compete on the European Tour full time this year, for the first time, has been a steep learning curve but one that has been completely justified.

"I feel so good even though my performances this year have not been promising, but I think I gained some great experience playing in Europe," said the 22 year old, who competes in this week's Alfred Dunhill Links Championship in Scotland.

"It is my first year, and so it was always going to be hard. It has been difficult to adjust to the environment, the weather, the food, and travel and the fact you need to drive yourself. You need to be tough, so I need to up my level to meet the standard."

He finished fourth on the Asian Tour Order of Merit in 2019 – helped by winning the Mercuries Taiwan Masters, which was his first Tour title, and placing second in the Thailand Masters – and that earned him a place on the European Tour.

The Thai golfer has made three cuts in 13 starts in 2021, but he is hoping to use what he has learned so far and put together good performances in his season-ending events.

"It is quite ok for me. I have five tournaments left and, even though the chance is narrow,



I just want to enjoy playing golf and gain more experience before going back home to Thailand in November, after competing in the Portugal Masters."

Suradit said the highlight so far this year came in the Canary Islands Championship in May, where he made the cut on the European Tour for the first time.

"I think the biggest factor is the weather conditions in Europe, which is cold for us, and it is windy, and also we are not familiar with the layouts. Even if I am a long hit driver I can't cope with the layouts. Apart from that, I am missing my home and family, also my dog. For the food, it is not a problem for me since there are plenty of Thai restaurants around." **GP**

## Asian Tour unveils 2021 resumption plans

**7** The Asian Tour announced exciting and ambitious plans to stage a series of season-ending tournaments to finish its 2020-21 schedule, ensuring that the Tour can complete its Order of Merit, and crown a Merit list champion.

The Tour, which stopped play in March last year because of the pandemic, will make its eagerly awaited return by staging back-to-back inaugural events at two of the most renowned golf courses on Phuket Island in Thailand with purses of US\$1 million respectively.

The Blue Canyon Championship will first take place at Blue Canyon Country Club from November 25-28, followed by the Laguna Phuket Championship, which will be held at the Laguna Phuket Resort from December 2-5.

In January, following the Christmas and New Year breaks, the Tour is planning to stage two more tournaments in Singapore over consecutive weeks. All four tournaments will be broadcast live on television with further details to be announced soon.

"After a difficult 18 months the Asian Tour is thrilled to announce that it is able to restart in Q4 of 2021, and most importantly expedite the return of our membership to elite competition," said Cho Minn Thant, Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer, Asian Tour.

"The Asian Tour have been working around the clock to resume competition and crown the Merit list champion – a challenge made more difficult by our reach across many countries and each of their COVID-related protocols. We are confident of being able to complete our season despite several remaining challenges created by the pandemic."

The sprint to the season's finish line is expected

to be more exciting than ever, as the top 30 players from the final Order of Merit will receive automatic entry into next year's season-opening US\$5 million Saudi International powered by SoftBank Investment Advisers.

The four Asian Tour events played in early 2020 will be added to the blended 2020-21 schedule. Australian Wade Ormsby has led the Order of Merit throughout the hiatus since winning the Hong Kong Open last January.

Jazz Janewattanond, the 2019 Order of Merit champion, has confirmed he will compete in the Phuket events – which will be backed by the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT).

The Thai star – currently in fifth place on the Merit list – is vying to become the first player in Tour history to clinch back-to-back Merit crowns. **GP**

**"After a difficult 18 months the Asian Tour is thrilled to announce that it is able to restart in Q4 of 2021, and most importantly expedite the return of our membership to elite competition."**

**Cho Minn Thant**  
Commissioner and CEO, Asian Tour

## CONSISTENT BRUN IS VICTORIOUS AT THE EMPORDÀ CHALLENGE

**7** Julien Brun carded a final round 69 to secure his second title on the 2021 Road to Mallorca at the Empordà Challenge.

England's Jonathan Thomson took the early clubhouse lead, posting a nine under par round of 62, but Frenchman Brun held his nerve down the stretch as he carded his third birdie of the day on the tenth hole and parred the remaining eight holes for a wire-to-wire victory.

The 29-year-old added to his 2012 ALLIANZ Golf Open Toulouse Metropole title and his Open de Bretagne victory from earlier this season, with this win made more special with his father by his side as caddie.

"This one is very sweet," he said. "I was in the lead all week like the first one and it was very sweet to have my dad on the bag.

"It was very nice to share that with him, that'll be good memories for us and I'm sure he had a good time."

"It was very nice to share that with him, that'll be good memories for us and I'm sure he had a good time. I am



very happy to share that with him." Playing in the group ahead, Swede Jesper Svensson had joined Brun on 18 under par,

but a bogey-bogey finish put paid to his bid for a maiden European Challenge Tour title as Brun held on for victory. **GP**

## DEL REY MAKES HISTORY WITH ROUND OF 58 AT SWISS CHALLENGE

**7** Alejandro Del Rey made professional golf history this afternoon at the Swiss Challenge, carding a 14 under par round of 58 – the lowest-ever score to par on a major golf tour.

Del Rey joins an exclusive club of golfers who have carded rounds of 58 on major tours adding his name to the list alongside Jim Furyk (PGA TOUR, 2016), Stephan Jäger (Korn Ferry Tour, 2016), Ryo Ishikawa (Japan Golf Tour, 2010) and Kim Seong-hyeon (Japan Golf Tour, 2021) – all of their rounds were 12 under par on par 70 golf courses.

In the European Challenge Tour's 32-year history just two rounds of 59 had been carded, with Adrien Mörk and Nicolò Ravano reaching the magic number in 2006 and 2016 respectively, while on the European Tour, a score of 59 has been achieved just once – by Oliver Fisher in 2018 at the Portugal Masters. The Spaniard was 16 strokes better than his first round, starting the day two over par at Golf Saint Apollinaire.

Beginning his round on the tenth hole, the 23-year-old made a fast start to the day with a birdie and back-to-back eagles on his first three holes, making the turn in 29. After five birdies on his first six holes on the front nine a 59 was in sight, but he went one better with an eagle on the par five ninth hole, signing for an historic 58.

"I really enjoyed it, it suits my game pretty well," he said. "I think the

"I really enjoyed it, it suits my game pretty well, I think the key for me is trying to stay patient out there."



key for me is trying to stay patient out there, I am going to have a lot of putts for birdie, I let myself go a little bit yesterday and missed a lot of them. I just did pretty well today when I dropped the first couple ones and I stayed pretty patient when I missed a couple again and then I just went back at it. **GP**

## FITZPATRICK FINISHES IN STYLE TO CLAIM TITLE

**7** Matt Fitzpatrick won his seventh European Tour title in style as he overturned a three-stroke deficit in the final round of the Estrella Damm N.A. Andalucía Masters.

The Englishman started the day chasing compatriot Laurie Canter and parred the first 15 holes as his competitors made ground at the legendary Real Club Valderrama.

A three over par back nine put a halt to Canter's title tilt as Sweden's Sebastian Söderberg held the lead as he stood on the 17th tee, but a double-bogey, bogey finish on the notoriously difficult closing holes gave Fitzpatrick a clear run for his first victory since last year's DP World Tour Championship.

Fitzpatrick birdied the 16th and 17th holes to move to six under and tapped in for par on the 18th as he signed for a bogey-free 69 and a three-stroke victory over Söderberg and



Australia's Min Woo Lee.

Canter finished in a share of fourth alongside

six others on two under, with just 14 players finishing under par in Sotogrande. **GP**

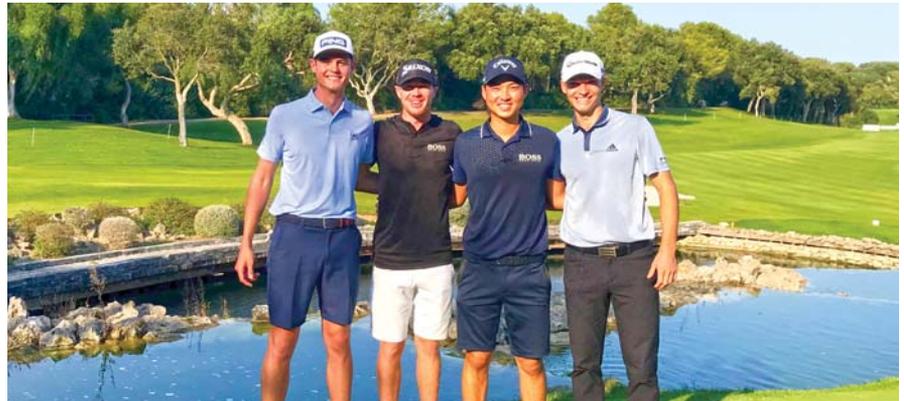
## FOUR EUROPEAN TOUR GOLFERS BREAK GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS

**7** Sean Crocker, Nicolai Højgaard, Min Woo Lee and Wilco Nienaber sensationally set a new GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ title for the 'Fastest hole of golf by a team of four', beating the previous record by three seconds.

Five years on from originally breaking the record, the European Tour returned to the fourth hole at Real Club Valderrama for the second Hero Challenge of 2021.

Filmed on Tuesday October 12, 2021, ahead of the Estrella Damm N.A. Andalucía Masters, Crocker, Højgaard, Lee and Nienaber were challenged with attempting to better the extremely demanding existing record of 27.88 seconds, set by an American team in 2018.

Wilco Nienaber hit an enormous 361-yard drive



off the tee which gave Sean Crocker, positioned on the fairway, 140 yards for his second shot which he hit to four feet, where Min Woo Lee and Nicolai Højgaard were waiting to finish

things off on the green. After a nervous wait, the record-breaking time of 24.75 seconds was confirmed, sparking exuberant celebrations from the four players. **GP**

## LEGENDS TOUR ANNOUNCES THE JCB CHAMPIONSHIP FOR 2022

**7** JCB's Golf and Country Club is set to realise its vision as a major international tour destination when the English venue hosts The JCB Championship on the Legends Tour International Schedule from July 29-31, 2022.

Some of the biggest names in the sport will descend on the course for a star-studded competition at the prestigious Staffordshire club - the brainchild of JCB Chairman Lord Bamford.

The event will take place in the week after The Senior Open at Gleneagles and will offer a prize fund of €600,000. The JCB Championship will be hosted by Ryder Cup and European Tour legend Darren Clarke and profits will be donated to JCB's NSPCC Platinum Jubilee Appeal. **GP**



## CABRERA BELLO WINS SPANISH DUEL FOR OPEN DE ESPAÑA GLORY

**7** Rafa Cabrera Bello defeated fellow Spaniard Adri Arnaus in a play-off to end his four year wait for a European Tour victory and complete the set of Spanish national championships at the 2021 ACCIONA Open de España presented by Madrid.

The 2016 Ryder Cup star entered the final day with a two shot lead but had lost it by the second tee and was two behind Arnaus at the turn after a battling front nine.

A hat-trick of birdies from the 13th had him back in a share of the lead at 19 under and he produced a stunning up-and-down from the sand on the last after a ragged tee shot to save his par and take the contest to extra holes after a 69.

Both men sent their tee shots left on the first trip back up the 18th but Cabrera Bello had the better lie and put his approach to 11



feet to seal a birdie and a fourth European Tour title.

Arnaus carded a closing 67 but was left to reflect on a fourth runner up finish in 72 European Tour starts. **GP**

## LOW-SCORING HELLIKILDE CLAIMS SECOND CHALLENGE TOUR VICTORY

**7** Marcus Helligkilde claimed his second European Challenge Tour title in the space of seven weeks as he triumphed at the Swiss Challenge at Golf Saint Apollinaire.

The Dane started the day three strokes ahead of compatriot Nicolai Kristensen and Englishman Jonathan Thomson, who posted final rounds of 67 and 66 respectively, fueling a tight battle between the three players after the turn.

Helligkilde started his final round with two birdies and battled with the conditions as he made consecutive gains on the 13th and 14th holes to move one stroke ahead of Kristensen and Thomson. He calmly finished his round with four straight pars to sign for a 69 and a 25 under par total.

The 24-year-old, who gave himself an early present with his birthday coming this Tuesday, was delighted to secure a second victory on the Challenge Tour alongside his friend Kristensen.

"It feels so great, playing with Nicolai today, we had a great battle," he said. "Do you know what, we just had fun out there. It was so cool, and for him to finish second as well I am so happy for him."



"I could definitely feel the pressure, it helps quite a bit when you can play with a mate in Nicolai, and I think we both enjoyed it and we both just did our best and I came out on top and I'm grateful for that. **GP**

## BIRTHDAY BOY WILLETT TRIUMPHS AT THE OLD COURSE

**7** Danny Willett celebrated his birthday in style as he secured his eighth European Tour title at the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship.

The 2016 Masters winner, who turns 34, started the final round on the Old Course at St Andrews with a three-stroke lead and remained at the top of the leaderboard throughout the day, making the turn in three under par.

His fifth birdie of the day followed on the tenth hole and he parred his way home to sign for a four under 68, a two-stroke victory, and his first win since the 2019 BMW PGA Championship.

Two-time Alfred Dunhill Links Championship winner Tyrrell Hatton recorded his second runner-up finish at the event in the space of three years on 16 under par, joined on that number by Joakim Lagergren. The Swede finished inside the top four for the fourth time in just six starts in the popular Pro-Am tournament.

Sharing fourth were last week's Ryder Cup debutant Shane Lowry and Betfred British Masters champion Richard Bland. **GP**



## THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE DEFEAT GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

**T**he Continent of Europe has won the Junior Vagliano Trophy after comprehensively defeating Great Britain and Ireland 14-4 at Hilversumsche Golf Club in the Netherlands.

Leading 6½-2½ after the first day of play, the hosts clinched the trophy for the sixth successive time after a clean sweep of the morning foursomes left them in an unassailable position at 9½-2½.

The hosts won the afternoon singles session 4½ - 1½.

Myrte Eikenaar, Continent of Europe captain, said, "I'm so proud of the players and to have watched them play at such a high level is incredible. There was such a good team spirit and that was important.

"The players were very sportsmanlike, but of course, they like to win. They always kept fighting in the matches, particularly the ones that went to the 18th hole. The chemistry in the foursomes was very good. I'm really happy with how it worked out and so are the girls.

"They are all very talented players who know



**"I'm so proud of the players and to have watched them play at such a high level is incredible."**

**Myrte Eikenaar**  
Continent of Europe captain

their game well and so while you can help them prepare, they know the strategy and shots they will use on the course. It's been great to coach them and there's been a really positive attitude all week. They have been proud to play for the team. It was great to win in my country too."

Janet Davies, Great Britain and Ireland

captain, said, "The players for the Continent of Europe were brilliant this week and they holed out really well when it mattered. Our team is very young, we have two 14-year-olds and one 15-year-old, and so this has been very good experience for them and will help for the match next year. It's been a marvellous opportunity for them. **GP**

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN SANDWICH TO BENEFIT FROM THE OPEN LEGACY FUND

**S**ix community projects in Sandwich have been successful in securing funding from the Green Initiatives Grant Programme, which forms part of The Open Legacy Fund provided by The R&A.

The Green Initiatives Grant Programme was launched by The R&A, Dover District Council, Kent County Council and Sandwich Town Council to enable community groups and organisations in Sandwich to apply for funding to support initiatives that offer social, environmental and health and well-being benefits for the town and its residents.

A total of £52,500 was made available in funding, which included £25,000 each from The R&A and Dover District Council and £2,500 from Sandwich Town Council.

The six organisations selected to receive



funding for community projects are Age Concern Sandwich Centre for the Retired, White Mill Rural Heritage Centre, Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust, St Clement's PCC, Sir Roger Manwood's School and East Kent Mencap.

Johnnie Cole-Hamilton, Executive Director – Championships at The R&A, said, "The Open's return to Royal St George's this year was a real success and we are grateful for the support provided by the local community in the lead up to and during the Championship. **GP**

## GRANT CLINCHES TERRE BLANCHE LADIES OPEN TITLE

**S**weden's Linn Grant rounded off an excellent week in France producing a final round of 72 to win the Terre Blanche Ladies Open by four shots.

Heading into the final day, the 22-year-old held a six-shot lead after rounds of 68 (-4) and 66 (-6) on her first two days.

It was a slow start to the round for Grant who bogeyed her second hole and then made a double bogey on the fifth, but she bounced back with a birdie on the seventh.

The former Arizona State University player began her back nine in style with an eagle on the 10th and birdied 13, before dropping shots on 15 and 17.

However, a final birdie on 18 ensured she produced a level-par final round to finish on 10-under-par and win her first tournament as a professional.

In second place was Danish amateur Amalie Leth-Nissen, who shot a final round of 69 (-3) to be four shots behind Grant.

The PING Junior Solheim Cup winner had an excellent front nine with four birdies and one bogey, before making another birdie on 10 and then dropping a shot on 17 to finish on six-under-par for the week. **GP**



## MAJA STARK CLAIMS SECOND LET WIN IN THREE STARTS

**S**weden's Maja Stark put on a clinical display to win for the second time in her last three starts on the Ladies European Tour after firing a superb tournament low-round 65, which propelled her to eight-under-par and two strokes clear of Pia Babnik at the Estrella Damm Ladies Open presented by Catalunya in Sitges, Spain.

Playing in just her fifth LET event since turning professional in August, the 21-year-old talent from the small town of Abbekås started the day in a tie for 17th place on one-under-par and came from seven strokes behind the overnight leader Magdalena Simmermacher to set the clubhouse target at Club de Golf Terramar.

Simmermacher held a four-stroke lead overnight and was looking to become the first LET winner from Argentina, but she dropped four shots in her first three holes to lose her advantage, eventually signing for a 79 to end in a share of 14th place.

Stark, who won the Creekhous Ladies Open four weeks ago, dominated the course in the windy conditions, firing three birdies and a bogey on the front nine, to go out in



two-under 35, before sinking five more birdies on the back nine, including three in a row from the 10th, followed by two more at the 16th and 18th, to come home in 30.

Stark means "strong" in Swedish and she lived up to her name with her long hitting prowess. At the 18th, she hit a fearless drive of around 280 metres and then played a

simple wedge before sinking her birdie putt from two metres.

From that point, no-one could catch her and 17-year-old Slovenian Babnik finished outright second on six-under-par, with Spain's Maria Hernandez, Finland's Krista Bakker and Scotland's Kylie Henry tied for third on four-under-par. **GP**

## HUMPHREYS WINS LETAS ORDER OF MERIT AND ROOKIE OF THE YEAR TITLES

England's Lily May Humphreys capped off an impressive first year as a professional by securing top spot in the LET Access Series Order of Merit and Rookie of the Year standings.

The 19-year-old turned professional at the beginning of June and weeks later clinched her first win as a professional on her first LETAS start at the Golf Flanders LETAS Trophy.

From there Humphreys, who was a member of Team Europe at the 2019 PING Junior Solheim Cup, went on to demonstrate her consistency on Tour.

Eighth place at the Santander Golf Tour Zaragoza added another top-10 result before the English star finished in second place at three consecutive tournaments in Sweden – the Anna Nordqvist Vasteras Open By SmartProvider, the Allerum Open and the PGA Championship By Trelleborgs Kommun.

Third place at the Flumserberg Ladies Open and a share of fifth at the Terre Blanche Ladies Open ensured Humphreys had seven top-10 finishes on LETAS in 2021.

"I'm so happy to have won Order of Merit and Rookie of the Year titles.



The last two tournaments have been particularly tough courses, but I'm pleased to get over the line," said Humphreys.

"It has been an amazing first year as a professional and one I will never forget. I have made and met so many friends on Tour, it's been such a memorable and lovely experience. **GP**

## LIAUTIER WINS SANTANDER GOLF TOUR BARCELONA TITLE

French amateur Charlotte Liautier secured a one-shot victory at the Santander Golf Tour Barcelona after shooting a final round of 74 (+2).

All week, Real Club de Golf El Prat has proven to be a tough test for the players and on the final day, only two players shot under par.

Liautier began her round with a bogey at the first, but immediately rolled in a birdie at the second before making a double bogey on the seventh hole.

However, an eagle on the par-five ninth ensured the Frenchwoman made the turn level for the round.

Three bogeys and a birdie on the back nine were

enough for the 22-year-old to finish level par for the tournament and clinch her first LETAS win.

"It's been an incredible week! It's my best win to date and my first professional win and for that I'm very happy. I played very well during the week on a very demanding course that was in perfect condition," said Liautier.

"Being with my boyfriend, caddie and coach on the bag has helped me a lot throughout the week. It has been one of the keys. The course demanded to catch a lot of green and putting has been fundamental to be able to win. Thanks to Santander and all the sponsors who make it possible for us to play in these courses and these tournaments." **GP**



## TEAM JESSICA KORDA TRIUMPH IN PLAYOFF

Team Jessica Korda clinched victory at the Aramco Team Series – New York after they beat Team Popov in a two-hole playoff at Glen Oaks Club.

After starting the day two strokes behind the overnight leaders, Jessica Korda, Karolin Lampert, Lina Boqvist and amateur Alexandra O'Laughlin produced another solid round to finish with a total of 41-under-par.

With the sun having set in New York, captain J Korda headed to the floodlit 17th to compete in the playoff against Sophia Popov and her par was enough to clinch her second LET title, while it was a first LET title for Lampert and Boqvist.

"I honestly was just praying for good speed on the green, I wasn't sure how hard to hit it, it was playing so different to when we were out there during the round. It was really tough," said Korda speaking of the playoff.

"It was nice to be able to share it with the team. This is such an individual sport and the fact you're able to win as a team is so cool. It was a great experience and we had so much fun, being able to pick a player and then



we have great additions. Today we really came together, and it was one of our best days. The front nine was tough but the last six holes were great."

Boqvist added: "It was a fantastic week playing with this team – the best memories in my career!" **GP**

# GOLF TO THE FORE IN SPORT'S DRIVE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

By Michael Wilson



**With the leaders of 200-plus countries represented in Glasgow for the biennial COP26 UN Environment Conference, some 50-miles away on the east coast of Scotland – in two towns synonymous with the sport – golf's irreversible push for a greener future has been gathering momentum now for a decade and more.**

**B**ut, with under 500 of the world's near 40,000 golf clubs and courses currently engaged outside the USA and a thousand more inside golf's most prolific market, it's clear there is much to do, and, with a mountain to climb, India is very much starting out in the foothills.

Cynics might say that while politicians and diplomats attending yet another worldwide environmental wingding in Scotland this month

will generate more heat than light, perhaps enough hot air propagated by some 30,000 delegates to power the planet for an aeon.

In truth, in their own inimitable way - there is quite probably enough evidence, rising sea levels, melting ice-caps, searing temperatures, forest fires, fearful floods and calamitous climate events, and alarm bells ringing loudly that Planet Earth is in serious trouble -delegates at COP26, pressured and lobbied by activists like teenage Swedish eco-warrior Greta Thunberg will feel obliged to agree a global 'Green' blueprint to at least slow the impending emergency and put a plan in place to mitigate, if not solve, the predicted climate cataclysm.

But, like most, deep-seated, overarching dilemmas confronting humankind and its existence, whilst big-picture, blue-sky strategic pronouncements are all well and good, the bulk of the practical progress in making meaningful and beneficial change comes at local level, people and places taking small steps, individual and collective action in their own communities.

Sport is an ever-expanding global phenomenon, and with a burgeoning carbon footprint to match, and, within the world of sport, the game of golf is a relatively small but important cog in the wheel, with an estimated 75-million regular players participating worldwide on – according to the R&A -some 38,864 golf courses in 209 of the world's 249 recognised countries.

And, despite the widely-held notion that, given golf is played across green and pleasant lands, tree-lined fairways, manicured greens, shimmering lakes and burbling brooks, wildlife sharing the links with golfers; as a game, it must therefore enjoy a very positive sustainability record.

Wrong, at least until the advent of the new Millennium, by which time phrases like 'Climate Change' and 'Global Warming,' were entering the lexicon of life, and, to its credit, golf took a long, hard look at itself, and didn't entirely like what it saw.

Intensive use of chemical pesticides and herbicides, excessive use of water, inefficient energy use, reliance on fossil fuels and deeply damaging 'land grabs,' mostly in third world countries seeking to establish a valuable golf-driven tourism industry, many big name players jumping on the bandwagon, designing eponymous golf courses on behalf of avaricious developers, energy intensive hotels and gas-guzzling aircraft taking a new generation of global golf tourists to far-flung corners of the earth.

The first organisation to not only recognise the need for golf to go greener, but also to put in place programmes for club and course managers / operators and their course superintendents as well as designers and developers of new courses was the USA-based Audubon Society, which in the mid-1990s set up the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, which to this day has enrolled thousands of facilities – mostly in the USA - administering the groundbreaking Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses.

But, at the beginning of 2006, Scotsman Jonathan Smith, a keen golfer himself endured an enforced career change and took a giant leap of faith; fearing an impending climate emergency and a need for the industry that had sustained his early career established the not-for-profit Golf Environment Organisation (GEO), subsequently re-named the GEO Foundation for Sustainability in and Through Golf.





16-year-later, Smith remains the Founder and Executive Director to this day and golf's environmental landscape has changed significantly.

Those early days were hand-to-mouth, working out of a converted military Nissan Hut barely a three-wood from the citadel of golf, the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, aka Muirfield, Smith ploughed a lone furrow, garnering vital financial and organisational support from the likes of the European Tour and commercial sponsors such as UPS and Rolex keen to underline their environmental ambitions.

Smith was joined three-years-later by ex-Microsoft Strategic Relations executive, expatriate American Kelli Jerome, the pair slowly building golf industry relationships, partnerships and, crucially, an independent and verifiable scientifically-based benchmarking programme, to enable clubs, courses and even tournaments to reduce their carbon footprint, and even save money along the way.

Between them – bolting-on and borrowing specific expertise as and when required - Smith and Jerome established the world's first online golf ecolabeling system, GEO OnCourse™ the starting point and development programme towards GEO Certified™, now the recognised global gold standard for best practice in sustainable golf course operations.

Smith reflected, "Open to any facility, anywhere, GEO Certification provided a platform for golf managers to represent responsible environmental management in a simple and structured manner, receive independent verification and ultimately go on to achieve GEO's seal of approval," adding, "One of the most significant breakthroughs along the way was that we were able to evidentially demonstrate that, contrary to popular belief, sustainable golf was not a cost or an expense, but an investment and offered long-term operational savings, a major driver to encourage designers, operators and superintendents / greenkeepers to buy-into the our programmes."

Moving to more salubrious surroundings in

North Berwick in the heart of Scotland's Golf Coast, surrounded by no fewer than 21 courses within a 15-mile radius, Smith and Jerome have been tireless in taking their 'Green Golf' message to clubs, courses, conferences and events all over the world, spreading the word and driving the game towards a more sustainable future.

Back in the early days, with the R&A recognising and developing an environmental programme of its own, tensions existed, the two organisations shadow boxing, potential rivals collaborating uncomfortably, whilst remaining distinct, but, almost a generation on, the pair work hand in glove, with golf – and its environments - the winner.

Today, the two are more relaxed bedfellows, collaborating comfortably where appropriate, ploughing their own furrow when not, the R&A concentrating on the 'big picture' and ensuring its portfolio of championships such as the Open and the Women's British Open head as close to zero carbon as is practicable, leaving the GEO Foundation to carry out the heavy lifting of specification, inspection and certification.

Jonathan Smith, Founder and Executive Director, GEO Foundation said, "The world is facing serious social, ecological and climate challenges, and there is a powerful sense of urgency to address these. The expectation is that everyone should play their part, from individuals to companies to entire sectors. A large, influential and high-profile global sport such as golf has a tremendous opportunity, and responsibility to step forward."

Indefatigable and undeterred from frequent bumps in the road, Smith is as driven and passionate about golf and its environmental obligations and opportunities as ever.

"Our future generations need golf to redouble its efforts to foster nature, conserve resources, strive for net-zero emissions and strengthen communities. The good news is that this is almost entirely a win-win for a land and community-based sport, where sustainability, great golf and vibrant business are synonymous."

Meanwhile, Phil Anderton, Chief Development Officer at the R&A commented, "One of the key issues is the golf industry recognising that the risks of not acting now to tackle the issues created by climate change and legislation will hinder the sport in the years to come. Dealing with resource shortages and the impact of flooding, drought and coastal erosion need to be addressed now.

"That is why the R&A is also pursuing Golf Course 2030 to work with partners in the industry to find practical solutions and to encourage facilities to make the changes they can make now," he added, concluding, "The desire and action for a more sustainable sport is taking place right across golf, including professional tours and tournaments."

For its part, India is only just setting out on its green golf journey, with only five of the country's near 300 golf courses currently engaged in the GEO OnCourse™ programme – the Classic Golf and Country Club in Haryana, the Delhi Golf Society, Glade One Golf Resort in Gujerat, the Kaziranga Golf Resort in Jorhat and the Tollygunge Golf Resort in Kolkata – but, as the old adage goes, 'from small acorns grow strong trees'

And, with golf gathering momentum across the country and younger Indian citizens embracing sustainability like never-before, GEO will be watching –and working – towards a flood of interest and a forest of sign-ups to its ground-breaking campaign.

And, in a decade or so, hope to look out at a new and environmentally-aware India to be leading the way across the Asia Pacific Region as golf increasingly drives the green agenda forward. **GP**



# PAGES

## FROM MY DIARY...

NOVEMBER 2021

By Brandon de Souza

**I**t's Diwali month and with that, the onset of peak golfing season is upon us. The golf clubs are seeing heightened activity led by the club leagues around the country. It is also the one-day tournament season and with covid numbers subsiding, quite a few are expected to make a return on the calendar.

I, like many others, have been calling for the Asian Tour schedule to be restored. The Saudi backed; Greg Norman-led push to invest \$200m into the Asian Tour over the next 10 years is like giving water to the thirsty. The drought has been unprecedented but now the fridge must start to fill.

There will always be question marks over Saudi investment in sport. Keeping the politics of it, the greater vision and objective here clearly is to create a global golf circuit alternative. The appointment of Greg Norman also drives home this point as he was at the forefront of exploring his and golf's potential outside the PGA Tour back in his playing days.

Understanding the history and motive of this move puts pieces together. The Great White Shark has previously attempted a World Tour in the mid-90s and tried to get the top players playing against each other providing an 'annuity for

life'. Logically Asia is an ideal place to start the experiment before taking it on a world level. The Asian Tour hasn't seen any events for 18 months and needs events while the other party can learn and grow by giving an impetus to a smaller tour.

While Norman has said they aren't here to pick a fight, it may eventually boil into one. Life is quite good on the PGA Tour as it is, but the feeling is that the top players, as independent contractors, must be playing more around the world. Asia, in particular, has missed the growth that happened

in the US and that needs a correction big time. The world's most populated region has yet to bite the golf bullet, so imagine the scaling up that can happen.

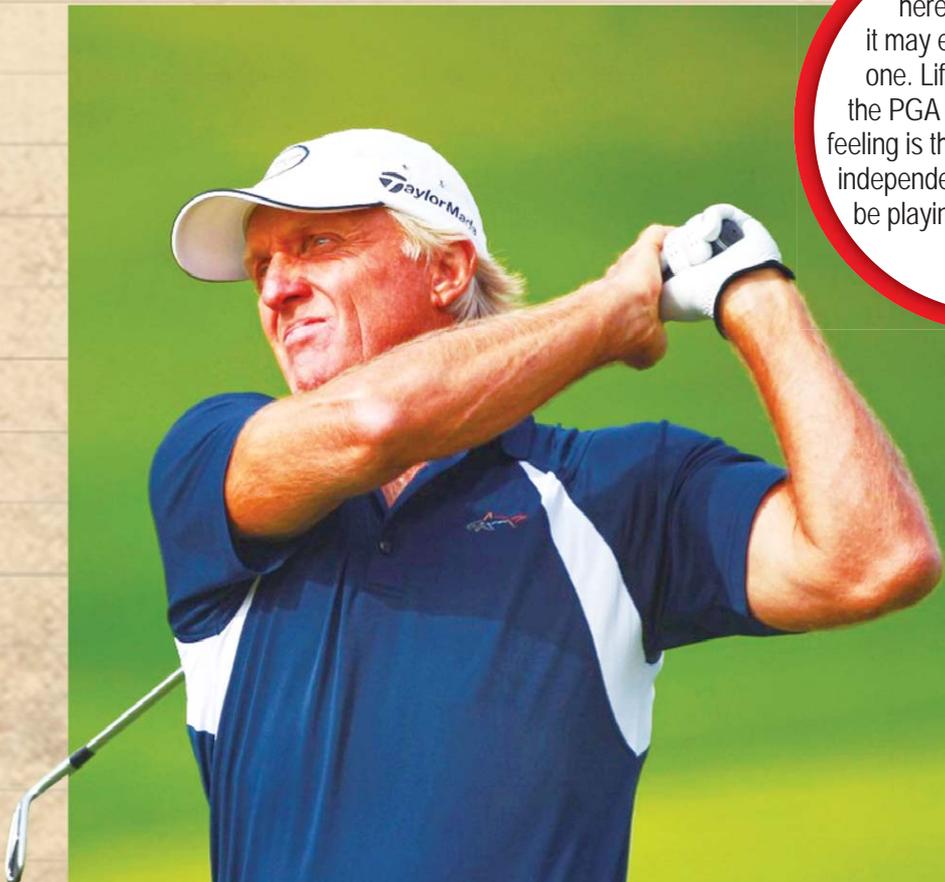
For the spread and betterment of the game, more and more top players need to visit Asia for the locals to rub shoulders with them. Even though

players are happy, it may not be a bad idea to keep moving forward on the respective paths, till they are in a position to merge.

The global ambitions are there to be seen even in the ladies game. Having received first-hand accounts from the player's perspective, The Aramco Team Series events in London, New York & Jeddah have been wonderful events and well received. There is growth expected there as well in the coming seasons. **GP**

They aren't here to pick a fight, it may eventually boil into one. Life is quite good on the PGA Tour as it is, but the feeling is that the top players, as independent contractors, must be playing more around the world.

- Greg Norman



*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.*

HERE  
TO HELP  
YOU SAVE  
SHOTS

# PLAY BETTER

SWING TIPS • PRACTICE DRILLS • STRATEGY • MENTAL • TOUR INSIGHT

## Tiger's iron will

The Masters champ is imperious with his irons this year... and this is why



RECAP

### INSIDE THIS SECTION...



**MIRROR IMAGE**

Match up your swing inside 50 yards



**LEGEND TIPS**

Get behind the ball at address and at the top



**5 MINUTE LESSON**

Key secret for a short game



## Role model...

# TIGER WOODS

**O**f the many wonderful aspects of Tiger's landmark Masters victory, perhaps the most impressive was his approach play.

If anything, the mastery of irons he has demonstrated throughout his career is only becoming more emphatic – he was second in the PGA Tour's Strokes Gained: Approach category last year, picking up .883 shots on the field, and he averages 75.56% of Greens in Regulation, this again, good enough for second. At Augusta, his 80.6% GIR record put him right at the top of the field. Here, we take a look at the techniques that make Tiger the best iron player of this or perhaps any generation. Build them into your own game to improve your ballstriking, precision and consistency from the fairways. **GP**

### FULL TILT

Look just how much lower Tiger's left shoulder is than his right. The tilted nature of this shoulder turn is a direct result of the bent-forward spine angle he has set at address – the shoulders are simply turning on a right angle around that pitch. This picture should once and for all put to rest any notion that the shoulder turn in a golf swing is level.

### LEG WORK

Note how Tiger's right knee is slightly higher than his left. This indicates a slight straightening of the right leg to facilitate hip turn; it also shows how his right foot is pushing into the ground. Imagine standing on some bathroom scales normally, then increasing pressure under your right foot by pushing down. The leg would straighten a little. That's what you're working on here.

### LESS IS MORE

Take a look at the length of this backswing, and note how the shaft is slightly short of parallel to the ground. To control your irons you need a solid strike, and swinging the club way beyond parallel to the ground is going to make a centred strike difficult. Work on a more compact action, with minimal lateral movement, and you'll find it easier to control strike point and contact quality.

### GREAT SHAPE

One of the great things about Tiger's ironplay at Augusta was how easily he was able to move the ball either way. We can trace this back to the relationship between his lead forearm and the clubface at the top – their angles match. This is the definition of square, and allows Tiger to either open or close the face with control. Use a full-length mirror to check your face-forearm relationship, and work on it.

### TIGER'S 2019 BY NUMBERS

Driving distance:  
299.6 yards (51st)  
Strokes Gained  
Putting: .191 (73rd)  
GIR percentage:  
75.56 (2nd)  
Stroke average:  
69.729 (4th)  
World Ranking: 6th





## Score zone

# MIRROR IMAGE

**F**or shots between five and 50 yards, one of the best pieces of advice you can use is to marry up backswing and forward swing lengths. When you equalise the swing either side of the ball, you generate a sound, even rhythm and tempo to your action that allows you to control the clubface and its speed... and

that ultimately means control of the ball. This is by no means a new concept, but in my experience it is something amateur golfers consistently fail to do. So for at least 10 minutes of every practice session, work on the following part-swing until the balls start dropping in a neat, tight group. **GP**



### BUCKLE UP

Take your wedge, and your regular address position with a slightly narrower stance. Use your belt as a reference for swing length. Swing back until your hands reach around belt height. Allow your body to turn freely and wrists to cock naturally with the momentum of the club.

### GET EVEN

Now practise swinging through until your hands reach an equivalent throughswing height. Don't get too precise about this as it will lead to overcontrol and tension; just get it there or thereabouts. Hit a few balls with this half swing, getting used to the smooth, even pace it creates.

### MIX AND MATCH

As you hit balls with this belt-to-belt swing, look for consistency in how far it sends the ball. Once your grouping is good, try making the swing slightly longer on both sides of the ball and noting how swing length, not speed or effort, can control shot distance. Do the same for a shorter swing. Repeat this exercise regularly and your part-swing shots can't fail to improve.





# LEE WESTWOOD

## ‘Get behind the ball at address and at the top to rip your driver’

I’ve been known as a straight, accurate and fairly powerful driver of the golf ball throughout my career. I’m not

a hugely technical player, so the swing keys I always go back to are normally centred around the simple basics of my set-up

and good rhythm. You simply don’t have time during the golf swing to process too many technical thoughts, so the

simpler you can keep things the better as far as I’m concerned. Here’s how I create that power while keeping control.

### Preset your power angle... and hold it

Many amateurs drive the ball badly simply because their set-up doesn’t give them a balanced connection with the ground. You should feel like your thighs and lower body are engaged and ready to go without any tension. I like the ball just inside my left heel and my spine tilted slightly away from the ball, so my left hip and shoulder are slightly higher than the right. This helps me naturally hit up on the ball. Similarly, the clubshaft should be vertical or even leaning back a little to match my spine angle. From here, it’s much easier to really get behind the ball at the top of the backswing like this.



### Starting down, wait for the hit

When I’m driving the ball well, I wait with my body at the top of the backswing and let my arms drop into position during the transition. This helps your body stay behind the ball, even as you transfer weight onto your front foot. It’s easy for the legs and body to go first, but when that happens, the arms never catch up. It requires patience, but this is how all the best players drop the club into the ‘slot’ so they can fire their bodies into the downswing. **GP**



## GREG NORMAN ‘Give yourself a wide base to control your irons’

One of the most common mistakes I see in handicap golfers – but one that is rarely tackled – is addressing the ball with their feet too narrow when using their irons. This often leads to over-balancing and even falling over in the finish position. It’s virtually impossible to hit the ball powerfully and consistently without balance in the swing.

In comparison, good ball-strikers always reach a balanced finish position. The greater strength and stability you need to maintain your balance

throughout the entire swing can be achieved by simply widening your stance a little at address.

I had quite a narrow stance in my early days on tour, which caused my weight to shift on to the outside of my right foot during the backswing. This led to quite a significant leg slide on my downswing, which really hurt the quality and consistency of my irons shots. It felt a bit strange when I widened my stance, but I persevered and I became the world number one and won two majors. You should try it, too. **GP**

### Better balance

3 ways a wider stance will improve your swing.



1

The slightly wider stance will make your backswing more compact. Weight should stay more on the inside of your right foot and right knee should be flexed.

2

From this position, you’ll be able to generate much more power in the downswing. Concentrate on squeezing the ball into the ground at impact.

3

The wider stance means you will still reach a more balanced and controlled finish, even though you created more power in the downswing.



DUSTIN JOHNSON

# HOW I DIAL IN MY WEDGES

In 2015, my team and I sat down and evaluated my whole game. The glaring opportunity for improvement was my wedges. My Strokes Gained stat was 0.09 – very average for the PGA Tour. I didn't really practise my wedge play – and if I did, it was with little-to-no discipline. Yet my length off the tee meant I was often in the wedge zone. I grabbed the

opportunity. Within a year, my Strokes Gained stat had reached 0.35 and I was the US Open Champion. Wedges are all about distance control. If you can pitch pin-high but are 10ft out for line, you'll have a 10ft putt. With my coach, Claude Harmon, I created a system to improve my distance control. Let me explain.



**DJ's wedge stats**  
 Model: TaylorMade Milled Grind 48°, 54°, 60°; Hi-Toe 64°;  
 Sand Saves (2019): 63.86% (3rd)

## HOW I COVER MY PITCHING YARDAGES

Three backswings, three wedges equals nine pitching distances

I like to keep things simple, so we decided on mastering the 'nine stock distances' system. Here, you create your nine distances by making three different swing lengths with three different wedges. I carry a 48°, 54° and 60° wedge (I also have a 64°, but I only use it for specialist shots). By honing three swing lengths with each club – half, three-quarter and full – I can create nine stock shot distances to call on when needed. Between them, they cover pretty much every shot between 60 and 150 yards. If I find myself in a gap, I make the shorter swing and just add a little speed through the ball. From here, it is really just a question of practice and repetition to train the feels and controlled acceleration that create consistency of speed at each swing length. There are so many different ways you can work on this. You can work on a certain swing length, on a certain distance, on a particular club or any combination of the three. The key is to stay disciplined, honing those swing lengths and all the time checking what you are doing against your nine yardage targets. **GP**





## FIVE-MINUTE LESSON

### PABLO LARRAZABAL

The 36-year-old Spaniard reveals three of the key secrets to his enviable short game.

**GW** How did you develop such a sharp short game?

PL: Competitive practice growing up. I got good at chipping fast when I was a kid because there were many good players at my club and we spent a lot of time at the chipping area. I lost lots of money! Being competitive in practice will make you better under pressure.

**GW** How do you visualise the shot you need to hit?

PL: Creativity is key. You have to create shots and see the ball rolling or pitching and stopping the way you want. It's all about seeing it. You can play the same shot with three or four different clubs, so you have to feel what you're most confident with.

**GW** How aggressive are you with your shot selection and expectations around the green?

PL: I think about the percentage for success with each of the clubs I could use and that tells me what to do – high or low, release or spinnny, sand wedge or 9-iron. Go with the shot that gives the highest percentage. It can be better to leave a 12-foot putt than risk too much.

**GW** Some of that must be gut instinct?

PL: Chipping is all about sensation and what you feel in that moment. Sometimes you arrive at a tough shot and you go for it because you instantly feel it and you're confident. When you feel good, you have more percentage of doing it right. Trust your gut instinct. **GP**

## STRATEGY

### PLAY WITHIN YOURSELF ON A TOUGH OPENER

Take a double out of play on a demanding 1st hole

**POINT 1** The first hole is always important, but especially so when it's a tough one like Wentworth's long par 4 here. You don't want to run up a big score so early, so it's a good idea to play within yourself. A four is always a good score but a five isn't a disaster, especially if you get a shot. Use a strategy to help you make a bogey at worst.

**POINT 2** Hit the tee shot that leaves you the easiest second shot. This isn't always about hitting it as far as you can off the tee. This hole is a good example. Hit it too far and you can end up on a downslope – not good when you're hitting to a raised green. Hit the ball as far down the hole as you can while keeping it on a flat part of the fairway.

**POINT 3** For most golfers, any hole over 400 yards means a long approach – at least a mid- to long iron. Aim for the centre of the green. If you miss, you're usually better off on the opposite side to the pin as it gives you more green to work with.

– By Robert Karlsson,  
11-time European Tour winner



# WHAT MAKES THESE CLUB LEAGUES SO SUCCESSFUL?



By Digraj Singh

When my brother in law Kabir Kewalramani told me over twelve years back that you should do a league with teams composed of club members, I wondered why and how would a team event between regular amateur club golfers be successful and also sponsor friendly to make it viable. And his comments were based on a small but hugely popular four team event which had evoked a lot of fun and passion at the Bombay Presidency Golf Club. But it was still a very small number of players.

Then I heard about the huge success the league at Royal Calcutta Golf Club had become. And that both KGA and Bangalore Golf Club had started their own leagues. BPGC then launched a larger edition of the Mumbai Golf League and all these leagues were proving to be huge successes. After witnessing the huge success of the league in Kolkata, Vishal Chawla and Shiraz Singh then made a suggestion to DGC to start one of their own. The committee deliberated over it for some time, enhanced it further and after inviting offers from all leading agencies, finally shortlisted the partnership between me and Vishal to market and run it. And what an experience it has been and I saw first-hand why these leagues work and how they are actually promoting the sport.

The League started by DGC had two objectives

- to develop talent and develop camaraderie between members. And it clearly achieved that. The process of composing teams and subsequent interactions have led to members interacting with people they did not know earlier. And they have now competed together and become friends. And nearly everyone has remarked that we have all made new friends. But let me elaborate on some other benefits I witnessed.

A unique element of the event was that Team Owners were encouraged to take the services of mentors. The Team owners had plenty of talent available at DGC and players of the caliber of Shiv Kapoor, Gaurav Ghei, Chiragh Kumar, Ashok Kumar, Ali Sher, Brandon De Souza, Nonita Lal Qureshi, Vivek Bhandari, Rahul Bajaj, Mehar Atwal, Gauri Monga, Vikram Sethi, Jasjit Singh, Naman Dawar, Amandeep Johl, Ayesha Kapur, Arjun Singh, Ajai Gupta and Karan Vasudeva became mentors of teams. Now imagine getting guidance from players of this caliber for a period over 8 weeks. It's like a

Knowledge Farm. Every moment with a mentor adding to your golfing knowledge.

Then we saw players of all ages competing under the gun. I daresay, some of them handled the pressure better than some top professionals, while others did not. But this cauldron of pressure showcased some incredible efforts and performances, evoking admiration and generating tremendous emotion. Emotion which drew spectators. And I realized that it's not just golfing skill which draws spectators. It's the handling of pressure situations by anyone which evokes the emotion and respect. And

when people saw their friends and peers doing it, that created a new level of interest and excitement. All players who have been baked in this cauldron of pressure are certain to have learnt a lot about themselves and will become better golfers as a result of this experience.

Another interesting facet was identified by Asian Games Gold Medalist and former DGC committee member Amit Luthra when he remarked that the league had brought back the desire amongst club members to participate in a club event, something which all clubs are struggling with.

The DGC ecosystem saw an increased member presence due to the festiveness generated by the league which has led to increased FnB sales. And the sponsorships generated have also led to a reasonable revenue contribution to the club. There were several sponsors paying affordable fees and that helped the event overall.

When one looks at the benefits mentioned above, it's clear that leagues deliver significant value to the golfing ecosystem of each club and those clubs which have not started one as yet, should consider doing so quickly. Now I have one pending task - to confess to Kabir that I should have listened to you and wish I had really worked on this earlier. **GP**

**It's clear that leagues deliver significant value to the golfing ecosystem of each club and those clubs which have not started one as yet, should consider doing so quickly.**



# BREAKING DOWN THE PHYSICS OF GOLF

## OPTIMAL LOFT ANGLES AND AERODYNAMICS OF THE GOLF BALL

By  
Jaikrit Bhattacharya

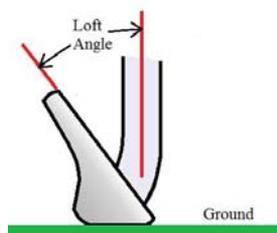


### OPTIMAL LOFT ANGLE OF THE GOLF CLUB

It is an interesting physics problem to determine the optimal loft angle of a golf club head in order to maximize the driving distance. The loft angle is the angle between the club head face and the vertical plane, and the driving distance is the distance the ball travels through the air plus the distance it travels after it lands. The figure below shows the loft angle.

#### ANOMALY OF THE DRIVER:

The low loft of a golf driver is unexpected from the perspective of physics. The optimal launch angle for a projectile motion is 45 degrees. But 45 degrees is the angle of a pitching wedge, which obviously hits the ball less than half as far as a driver.



The analysis itself is technically very complex, involving 3 forces at play: gravity, drag (resistance caused by air friction), and lift, caused by the backspin on the ball. All three are big factors, but the theoretical result of 45 degrees only accounts for gravity.

Air friction or drag increases in proportion to the square of the velocity of the ball. So hitting it harder causes a very rapid increase in drag.

On doing the math, the best angle to launch a golf ball here reduces 35 degrees. Lower than 45, but still nowhere near the angle of a driver.

This is where backspin comes into play. Backspin through the Magnus effect generates lift, keeping the ball in the air longer. (Explained Later)

After accounting for lift, the optimum angle is 16 degrees.

The remaining difference between the actual loft of 10-12 degrees can be explained by the fact that for a drive, the ball is struck just past the bottom of the swing. This makes the launch angle slightly higher than the loft of the club.

We will be speaking about the Magnus Effect in detail below.

### AERODYNAMICS OF A GOLF BALL (Magnus Effect)

A golf ball actually has dimples all over its outer surface (i.e. it is not smooth). These dimples on a golf ball create a thin turbulent boundary layer

of air over the ball's surface. This reduces air resistance which results in the ball travelling a farther distance than a smooth ball would. Such a distance improvement is desirable for making a shot as long as possible. The figure below shows the flow of air over a dimpled golf ball.

The airflow over the ball follows smooth streamlines until some point beyond the halfway



distance, at which the turbulent boundary layer "separates" and turbulent eddies form inside a resulting wake region. This wake region has lower pressure, which causes the (greater) pressure in front of the ball to exert a net pressure force opposite the direction of motion of the ball (known as drag). Turbulent flow, induced by the dimples, reduces the size of this lower pressure wake region (from that of a smooth ball). This results in a lower net pressure force, which results in less drag than with a smooth ball. A smooth ball with no dimples would cause the boundary layer to separate sooner resulting in a larger wake region, and hence more drag would result.

The number of dimples on a typical golf ball ranges from 250-450. Different manufacturers have different theories on the ideal number of dimples, the ideal depth of the dimples, and the ideal placement pattern of the dimples. In fact, all these attributes affect the ball's overall aerodynamic qualities during flight.

The figure below shows the airflow over a rotating golf ball, which experiences an upward lift force  $F$  as a result of the rotation. The ball typically rotates at several thousand RPM. (Note: This rotation is a result of the friction between the club head face and the ball, which causes the ball to roll up the lofted club head face during impact and gain backspin as a result.)

The upward force  $F$  is caused by the Magnus effect which causes the ball to fly higher and remain airborne longer. Hence, it flies farther than it would if there were no rotation. This, in combination with lower air drag due to the ball dimples, results in an extra-long shot. In addition to greatly reducing air drag, dimples also greatly enhance the Magnus effect, resulting in a great improvement in hitting distance. For example, a dimpled ball can be driven 250 meters by a skilled golfer, as opposed to only 100 meters or so for a

smooth ball (without dimples).

Similar to before, the airflow over the rotating ball follows smooth streamlines until some point beyond the halfway distance, at which the turbulent boundary layer separates and turbulent eddies form inside a resulting wake region. But

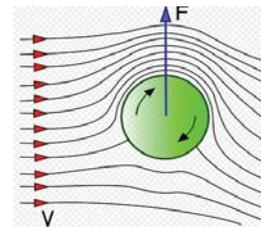


the wake region is shifted down from before (for a non-rotating ball). The aerodynamic forces acting on the ball are thus altered. The phenomenon behind this is called the Magnus effect and is explained below with the help of a diagram.

As the ball spins, friction between the ball and air causes the air to react to the direction of spin of the ball.

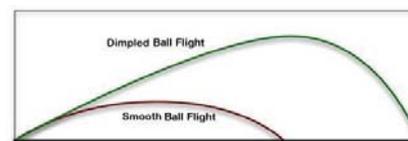
As the ball undergoes a backspin (shown as clockwise rotation in the figure), it causes the velocity of the air around the bottom half of the ball to become less than the air velocity around the top half of the ball. This is because the tangential velocity of the ball in the bottom half acts in the opposite direction

to the airflow, and the tangential velocity of the ball in the top half acts in the same direction as the airflow. In the figure shown, the airflow is in the rightward direction, relative to the ball.



Since the (resultant) airspeed around the bottom half of the ball is less than the airspeed around the top half of the ball, the pressure is greater on the bottom of the ball. This causes a net upward force ( $F$ ) to act on the ball. This is due to Bernoulli's principle which states that when air velocity decreases, air pressure increases (and vice-versa).

The figure below clearly demonstrates how a dimpled ball goes further than a ball without dimples. 



# GOLF MUSINGS



By Pramod Kir

An Old Golfer was hitting his ball from near a water hazard and his club fell into the water.

When he cried out, the Lord appeared and asked, "Why are you crying?"

The golfer replied that his club had fallen into the water and he needed the club to have a chance to win the tournament and supplement his meager pension.

The Lord went down into the water and reappeared with a golden club.

"Is this your club?" the Lord asked.

The golfer replied, "No."

The Lord again went down and came up with a silver club.

"Is this your club?" the Lord asked.

Again, the golfer replied, "No."

The Lord went down again and came up with an old iron club. "Is this your club?" the Lord asked.

The golfer replied, "Yes, that's it!"

The Lord was pleased with the golfer's honesty and gave him all three clubs to keep, and the golfer won his tournament and went home happy.

Sometime later, the golfer was walking with his wife along the water hazard, and she fell into the lake.

When he cried out, the Lord again appeared and asked him, "Why are you crying?"

"Oh, Lord, my woman has fallen into the water!"

The Lord went into the water and reappeared with Kate Upton. "Is this your woman?" the Lord asked.

"Yes," cried the golfer.

The Lord was furious. "You lied! That is an untruth!"

The golfer replied, "Oh, forgive me Lord. It is a misunderstanding. You see, if I had said 'No' to Kate Upton, you would have come up with Jennifer Anniston. Then if I said 'No' to her, you would have come up with my woman. Had I then said 'Yes,' you would have given me all three. And Lord, I am an old man not able to take care of all three women in a way that they deserve... so that's why I said 'Yes' to Kate Upton.

And God was pleased.

### The moral of this story is:

If a golfer ever tells a lie, it is for a good and honourable reason and only out of consideration for others. **GP**



## KRISHNAV TURNS ON THE HEAT

**Y**oung Master Amateur Golf Tour held the Links Amateur Championship first of the Delhi NCR WAGR Elite Series at the Golden Greens Golf Club from 27th to 29th September 2021.

We had a limited field but the scores produced by this field were impressive. Krishnav Chopra playing his first WAGR event proved with his scores that he is set for higher achievements and one day will surely represent India. He was the only player to shoot a under par round in hot and humid conditions.

This event the girls had to compete with the boys from their tees as the numbers were low. The event was subdivided into 3 age categories Under 18, 18 & above and Girls.

Day 1 was the hottest day with no wind at all and with the rough up very high the playing conditions were not easy.

The day saw some Krishnav score a 1 under 71 with 6 birdies and a back nine of 3 under par, other notable scores were Navin Rathi (74), Yash Suhag (75), Surya Yadav, Aidul Khan, Mirajul Dildar (76), Yuvraajbir S.Sodhi (77), Sreenjoy Majumdar, Eakam Sayal (79) and Riya Yadav(81).

Day 2 with the breeze picking up and the conditions still as hot as the first day, scores were as consistent as the first day, where after the round the battle for the Top 3 was heating up. Krishnav shared the best score of the day (73) with Marajo Dildar and Navin Rathi, close on the heels of the top 3 players were Sreenjoy Majumdar (75), Yash Suhag, Shравan Kadyan, Aidul Khan(76), Yuvraajbir(77),Surya Yadav, Kritansh Kapoor (79). Highlight of today was an eagle by Eakam Sayal.

Day 3 was set for a fight for the top position between the last group of Krishnav, Navin and Mirajul. Both Mirajul and Navin tried to match Krishnav shot to shot but soon realized that Krishnav was not going to let up and he did increase his lead after 9 holes. Krishnav yet again in windy and hot

conditions produced a good round of 74 to eventually win the title by 7 strokes. Other good rounds of the day were produced by Eakam Sayal (74), Shравan Kadyan (75) and Yuvraajbir (76), only 3 scores were in the 70's due to the windy conditions and tough pin positions on the green. **GP**



## RESULTS:

### Best Score

Day 1- Krishnav Chopras  
Day 2- Mirajul Dildar,  
Krishnav Chopra, Navin Rathi  
Day 3- Krishnav Chopra, Eakam Sayal

### On Course Competition:

Day 1- Closest to Pin: Sreenjoy Majumdar  
Day 2 - Long Drive: Yash Suhag  
Day 3 - Closest to Pin: Eakam Sayal

### Under 18

1st - Krishnav Chopra  
2nd - Navin Rathi  
3rd - Mirajul Dildar

### 18 & Above:

1st - Yuvraajbir S.Sodhi  
2nd - Yash Suhag  
3rd - Kushagra Gaur

### Female:

1st - Riya Yadav  
2nd - Ashwika Kakar

### Winner of the WAGR Event

Krishnav Chopra

## FAVOURITE AMANDEEP WINS BY 3 SHOTS OVER AMATEUR AVANI

**A**mandeep Drall came roaring back with one of the best rounds of the season as she drilled eight birdies against just one bogey for a superb 7-under 65 which won her the 10th leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour by three shots at the Chandigarh Golf Club.

Amateur Avani Prashanth, who shared the overnight lead with Amandeep after two rounds, was left three shots behind despite a fine 4-under 68. She finished in second place. Vani Kapoor tripped to one-over 73 and was fourth, while Jahanvi Bakshi (68) was third.

Amandeep, for whom this was her first title in 2021, finished with a superb 9-under 207, while Avani was 6-under 210 and Jahanvi was 4-under 212. Vani Kapoor also had an under-par total of 1-under 215.

Amandeep, who gained tremendously by competing in Europe over the last few months, had started the week with 4-under 68 before slipping on the second day with 74.



In the final round, she fell back by two shots after the first hole as she bogeyed the first and

playing partner and overnight co-leader, Avani had a birdie on the same hole. **GP**

## CHANDIGARH'S LAKHMEHAR WINS MAIDEN HERO WPG TOUR TITLE

**L**akhmehar Pardesi gave herself an early birthday present as she claimed a breakthrough maiden title in the 9th leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Noida Golf Course. The Chandigarh golfer, who turns 22 on October 15, stayed calm in the closing stages after trailing for most part of the final day. Needing a clutch putt from around eight feet to ensure an outright win over Jahanvi Bakshi, Lakhmehar drained the putt and heaved a sigh of relief. Her previous best on the Tour was a fifth place and she said, "This is a big win for me." Lakhmehar carded 2-over 74 in the final round to total 227, while Jahanvi (75) was one behind at 228.

Amateur Avani Prashanth, who has regularly

figured in contention, was once again the top amateur and was overall third at 230. Avani had the best round of the day at even par 72. Avani shared the third spot with Hitaashee Bakshi (76). For Avani, this was the sixth top amateur prize in 12 starts on the Hero WPG Tour. Of the six times, she was once the overall winner.

The lanky Lakhmehar, who has worked on physical fitness and the short game, was in a tie with the normally consistent Jahanvi when play began on the final day. As conditions continued to be difficult, the golfers were spared any rain stoppages.

Lakhmehar went into sole lead on the very first hole as Jahanvi dropped a shot on the Par-5 first.



However, the Chandigarh golfer gave back that advantage with a bogey on fourth. She then dropped shots on seventh and eighth, even as Jahanvi picked a birdie on eighth. At the turn, Jahanvi had built up a three-shot lead. **GP**

## WINNER SNEHA SINGH LEADS AMATEUR DOMINATION

**A**mateur Sneha Singh played error-free golf for a 3-under 69, the best round of the week, to cruise to a massive five-shot win in the 8th leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Golden Greens Golf Club. Sneha, a past winner on the Hero WPGT, registered her third win on the Pro Tour, while being an amateur.

With a final round of 69 that had birdies on second, seventh and 18th, she totalled 3-under 213 and was five clear of another amateur Khushi Hooda (72), who was 2-over 218 for the 54 holes.

Sneha, 17, a student of DPS Khajaguda in Hyderabad, is coached by her father Sanjay.



Playing golf since the age of six, Sneha has

now won on the Hero WPG Tour once each in 2019 (in Hyderabad), 2020 (in NOIDA) and in 2021 in Gurugram.

Siddhi Kapoor emerged as the top pro in third place overall with a card of 2-over 74 and a total of 3-over 219, while amateur Avani Prashanth, one of the players tied for second overnight, never recovered from a nightmarish start of a double bogey and two other bogeys in the first five holes for a score of 3-over 75. She was Tied-fourth with Jahanvi Bakshi (75) at 4-over 220.

Hitaashee Bakshi (73) was sixth, while yet another amateur Vidhatri Urs (77) and Shweta Mansingh (71) were tied for seventh. **GP**



Date : 16th October 2021

Location : Jammu Tawi Golf Course, J&K

# JAMMU TAWI GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Jammu Tawi Golf Course is one of the most scenic Golf Course of Jammu region with a picturesque view like Trikuta hills in the north. The event supported of Ministry of Tourism, India saw great zeal amongst the golfers.

The golf tournament was graced by Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Raghav Langer ADGP Jammu, Mukesh Singh; Director Tourism, Jammu Vivekanand Rai; and Manav Gupta, Secretary Jammu Tawi Golf Course graced the golf tournament. **GP**





## RESULTS

### SENIOR CATEGORY

Winner Senior above 65 years	Sh. Raghunandan Sharma
Runner-up Gross	Sh. Raj Nath Manchoo
2nd Runner Up Gross	Col. Vijay Mahajan

### GENERAL CATEGORY

Winner Gross	Vedant Handa
Runner up Gross	Shubham Puri
2nd Runner Up Gross	Sh. Omair Nisar Ganai
Winner Longest Drive	J.S. Randhawa
Straightest Drive	Col. Guralp Singh
Closest to the Pin at hole No. 2	Col Raghunandan Sharma
Closest to the Pin at hole No. 13	Dr. Shamim Mir

# CHAITANYA AMONG 5 PLAYERS TO COMPLETE WINNING DOUBLE

Chaitanya Pandey was among the five players to complete back-to-back wins at the 2021 US Kids Golf India North Tour at the ITC Classic Golf and Country Club. Playing in the Under-10 segment, Chaitanya, who went through a play-off in the first event on Thursday won by three shots over the Dubai-based Siddhaan Chibber.

The other young stars completing a second time in the double header in the US Kids Golf North Tour were Samar Baijal (Boys Under 7), Shambhavi Chaturvedi (Girls 9-10), Parnika Sharma (Girls 11-12) and Mahreen Bhatia (Girls 13-14).

The youngest winner on Friday was Nalinaksh in the Boys Under 6 and he shot 7-over 43 in his nine holes at the ITC Classic Golf and Country Club.

Another popular winner was Prince Bainsla in the Boys-under 11 and he got a big ovation when he went up to get his winner's gold medal after scoring 3-over 75 beating Armin Paul Singh, the winner in the first event, by three shots. In the first event Armin won by one shot over Prince.

In the Girls Under 8, Aanya Dandriyal, who was third in the first event a day earlier, turned the tables and beat Annika Chendira by one shot in the nine-hole tussle. **GP**



## 3RD OXFORD MEDAL ROUND GOLF TOURNAMENT 2021

The golf tournament was held on Saturday 16th Oct 2021 at Oxford Golf Resort, Pune. Total of 80 golfers participated with a shotgun start in the afternoon session.

Format Played - Stable Ford with 3 Categories [0-12, 13-24 & 25 - 36 Handicap]. **GP**



### RESULTS

1	Winner - Overall [0 - 36]	KUMAR BOPARDIKAR
2	Winner - Handicap [0 to 12]	SAGAR TEMBEY
3	Runner-Up - Handicap - 0 to 12	ISHAN SHROFF
4	Winner - Handicap - 13 to 24	GUBBI NAGABHUSAN
5	Runner-Up - Handicap - 13 to 24	BHUPENDRA BADHE
6	Winner - Handicap - 25 to 36	ANIL DIGHE
7	Runner-Up - Handicap - 25 to 36	HEMANT PAJANKAR

## BOGEY SPORT INDIA & MIDDLE EAST

3rd Leg at Chandigarh Golf Club on 8th October



## IGU NORTH ZONE SUB-JUNIOR & JUNIOR FEEDER TOUR 2021

at @AEPTA, 18-20 October 2021



# 4TH EDITION OF PHDCCI GOLF TOURISM CONCLAVE

**P**HD Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PHDCCI) organized the 4th edition of PHDCCI Golf Tourism Conclave and Tournament on 8-9 October 2021 in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir with the theme ‘Rejuvenating Tourism & Business through Golf’.

PHDCCI Golf Tourism Conclave was held on 8 October 2021 at Pahalgam Club and Convention Centre and brought together all the relevant stakeholders on one platform – the Government and the private sector to discuss issues and opportunities for the promotion of Golf Tourism.

Delivering the Keynote Address, Mr. G Kamala Vardhana Rao (IAS), Director General, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, said that Golf Tourism in India has immense potential which can uplift the economy by increasing the GDP, foreign exchange earnings while generating employment opportunities. He emphasized that Golf Tourism is one of the thrust areas of the Ministry of Tourism and the government is willing to extend necessary support to the states to further promote this niche segment.

The Inaugural Session was graced by Mr. Sarmad Hafeez (IAS), Secretary – Tourism, UT of Jammu and Kashmir; H.E. Dr. Ashraf Shikhaliyev, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan; H.E. Mr. Ung Sean, Ambassador of Royal Embassy of Cambodia; H.E. Mr. Willy K. Bett, High Commissioner of Kenya; H.E. Mr. Moe Kyaw Aung, Ambassador of Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Fleming Duarte, Ambassador of the Republic of Paraguay; H.E. Mr. Ramon S. Bagatsing Jr., Ambassador of the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Pham Sanh Chau, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Mr. Rajan Sehgal, President, India Golf Tourism Association; Mr. Saurabh Sanyal,



Mr. Rajan Sehgal, President, IGTA; Mr. Vicky Shaw, Senior Member – Kashmir Chapter, PHDCCI; Mr. Ghulam Nabi Itoo (KAS), Director – Tourism (Kashmir), UT of Jammu and Kashmir; Mr. Mushtaq Burza, President, Jammu & Kashmir Golf Association; Mr. Arshad Shawl, Managing Committee Member, PHDCCI; and Mr. Uday Marwah, Founder & Director, Premier Lifestyle Management



Ceremonial Tee Off during 4th PHDCCI Golf Tournament



Mr. G Kamala Vardhana Rao (IAS), Director General, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India presenting the Trophy to Winner of the Golf Tournament – H.E. Mr. Willy K. Bett, High Commissioner of Kenya



Mr. G Kamala Vardhana Rao (IAS), Director General, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India



Mr. Sarmad Hafeez (IAS), Secretary – Tourism, UT of Jammu and Kashmir

Secretary General, PHDCCI; and Dr. Jatinder Singh, Assistant Secretary General, PHDCCI.

The Ambassadors and High Commissioners from Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Kenya, Myanmar, Paraguay, Philippines and Vietnam talked about the Golf Courses and tourist destinations in their respective countries. Mr. Sarmad Hafeez IAS, Secretary – Tourism, UT of Jammu and Kashmir, said it has been observed that golf-linked tourists possess a higher purchasing power and spend more than the regular visitors. He further said that

Jammu and Kashmir has the strength to provide round the year tourism.

Mr. Rajan Sehgal, President, India Golf Tourism Association, informed that Golf Tourism is growing at 9.3% year- on- year and about 1.6 million people travel for Golf Tourism every year.

A Panel Discussion on ‘Rejuvenating Tourism & Business through Golf’ was also organized which was moderated by Mr. Rajan Sehgal, President, IGTA. The panelists included Mr. Ghulam Nabi Itoo (KAS), Director – Tourism (Kashmir), UT of Jammu and Kashmir; Mr. Mushtaq Burza, President, Jammu & Kashmir Golf Association; Mr. Uday Marwah, Founder & Director, Premier Lifestyle Management; Mr. Arshad Shawl, Managing Committee Member, PHDCCI; and Mr. Vicky Shaw, Senior Member – Kashmir Chapter, PHDCCI.

PHDCCI Golf Tournament was organized on 9 October 2021 at Lidder Valley Golf Course, Pahalgam. The Tournament saw the participation of over 84 Golfers from all over the country, besides local golfers from Jammu and Kashmir.

The event was supported by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism, Gujarat Tourism, VFS Global, Pahalgam Development Authority, ORG India, Golf Plus Monthly, India Golf Tourism Association, Power Gilt, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation and HDFC Bank. **GP**

## RESULTS:

Winner Category A (0-13 Handicap)	<b>Vicky Shaw</b>
Winner Category B (14-24 Handicap)	<b>H.E. Mr. Willy K. Bett</b>
Best Gross	<b>Omais Nisar</b>
Closest to Pin	<b>Mushtaq Burza</b>
Longest Drive	<b>Sukhdeep Manocha</b>
Straightest Drive	<b>M P Khanna</b>



Dignitaries releasing the Knowledge Report jointly prepared by PHDCCI and ORG India during the 4th PHDCCI Golf Tourism Conclave



# INAUGURAL DGC LEAGUE A HUGE SUCCESS

**W**hen “Paaji” Kapil Dev jokingly remarked that I’ve not felt such pressure in the World Cup, his words reflected the intensity of competition which emerged at the Inaugural DGC League powered by Vredestein Tryes and hosted by the Delhi Golf Club from the 14th Oct onwards with the Finals played on the 31st. Kapil Dev was representing Team K Devils, named after him and while he and his partner Rakesh Goel won their match against the pair Shamsheer Dhupia and Navdeep Singh from team BMW Deutsche Motoren, Team BMW Deutsche Motoren emerged the overall winners of the Inaugural DGC League.

Team BMW Deutsche Motoren won four of the matches and drew one from the total of seven matches played against K Devils. In each match, two players from a team played against two players from the other team in a “Four Ball better Ball” format with each player playing off 75 % of her/his original handicap. Each win gave a team two points and winning a bye gave each team half a point. Team BMW Deutsche

Motoren totalled 9 points in their 7 matches while Team K Devils totalled 6.5 points to claim the gold plated Championship Trophy.

The entire league saw some tremendous golf and spirit. And once the 8 teams had qualified for the knock out stage, from the Quarter finals onwards the matches escalated in intensity and

passion with loud cheers being heard across the golf course. Several matches came down the wire and were decided on the last hole with the score of the innovative “bye” deciding the result between two teams. A “bye” came into play as soon as any pair won a match and if there were still holes left to be played. The



remaining holes were then played for a new match with half a point going to the winners.

In the Semi Finals Team BMW Deutsche Motoren won against Baale Golf with half a point from the “bye” edging them through with the score reading 8 points versus 7.5 for Baale Golf. In the other semi-final match K Devils edged past Delhi Tigers (9.5 – 6).

Commenting on the excitement and joyous scenes witnessed through the event, veteran golfer KK Bajoria remarked that the last time I saw such reactions on the course were when Gaurav Ghei chipped in to win the Gadgil Western Masters in 1995.

During the Round Robin stage, noteworthy performances included Kapil Kathpalia and Jaideep Ahuja from the team SwingKKings coming back from 6 down with 7 holes to play, winning all the last 7 holes to beat the experienced pair of Randhir Brar and Poonam Beesla of team Radvin Birdie Machine. Tremendous individual performances included Bikram Singh from Team Coca Cola, playing off a revised handicap of 2, firing 7 birdies in his final game to help his team Coca Cola take pole position,

One interesting element of the tournament was the handicap reductions which came into play whenever any player had won two back to back matches. 102 players from the final starting field of 308 thus had their handicaps reduced, leading to better balanced contests.

One interesting element of the tournament was the handicap reductions which came into play whenever any player had won two back to back matches. 102 players from the final starting field of 308 thus had their handicaps reduced.



Speaking at the Prize Distribution meeting, Captain of Delhi Golf Club Maj Gen Anil Dere (Retd) remarked that the twin objectives of the event, which were to promote talent and also build camaraderie between members, had been achieved. Chairman of the Tournament Committee and the man behind the event, Lt Gen Balbir Sandhu (Retd) outlined the vision for the future.

Marketed and managed by Mssrs Gran Canaria and Digraj Golf Inc, the event received

tremendous support from sponsors: Vredestein Tyres, Shiva Motocorp - Land Rover, Krisumi, Grant Thornton, Three Sixty, Concor, Athletic Drive, Rezon, Ravissant, Johnnie Walker – The Journey, Golf Plus, Oakley, Rohit Gandhi & Rahul Khanna, Pashmkaar, The Suryaa and Nine who have supported the event in several innovative ways.

As many as 18 teams competed in the League with each team comprising 18 players, a Coach and a Mentor. Key support was from team owners Sanjay Date & Dhiraj Jha (Athletic Drive); Manoj Bhardwaj (Delhi Tigers); Arjun Saigal (Oceans 20); Atul Aggarwal (Sterling Swingers); Pankaj Bajaj (Bajaj Foundation); Gaurav Kapur (BMW-Deutsche Motoren); Sandy Khurana & Kapil Khurana (TEEm edc); Ashish Jain (The A-Team); Rishabh Perival & Manish Perival (The Pioneers); Sunil Duggal (24 Lions); Sanjeev Agrawal (Coca-Cola); Kamal Aggarwal (Eagles & Birdies); Arvind Khanna (K Devils); Amit Garg (Shiva Motocorp. Land Rover); Ashwin Chandiok (Baale Golf); Nachiketa Kapur, Adarsh Mishra & Deepali Sethi Raizada (Radvin Birdie Machine); Sanjay Khanna & Kanishk Khullar (SwingKKings) AND Pia Sahni & Navin Sahni (Tee Birds). 



“The course was great. It’s a good mix between a links and a resort course and pretty challenging at the same time.”

Daniel Hillier



# EMPORDÀ GOLF EARNS TOP MARKS ON THE EUROPEAN CHALLENGE TOUR

Empordà Golf Resort has cemented its reputation as one of Europe’s top golfing destinations after winning widespread acclaim from players competing in two European Challenge Tour events at the resort this month.

**T**he tournaments attracted a star-studded line up with the likes of Portugal’s Ricardo Gouveia, Northern Ireland’s Michael Hoey and Matteo Manassero – the youngest ever winner on the European Tour – all taking to the fairways of the Empordà’s Forest course.

Frenchman Julien Brun lifted the trophy at the Empordà Challenge with an impressive winning score of 18-under-par, with young New Zealander Daniel Hillier taking top honours at the Challenge Costa Brava – his first ever European Challenge Tour win. Both players were quick to praise Empordà Golf Resort for its golf and leisure facilities following a recent major upgrade.

As part of the extensive renovations at Empordà Golf Resort, both courses underwent significant investment to elevate the golf experience being offered to members and guests. Extensive work was undertaken,

including the reconstruction of all bunkers using the Better Billy Bunker method, a comprehensive tree clearance programme and purchase of new greenkeeping equipment to improve the all-round condition of tees, fairways and greens.

Hillier said: “The course was great. It’s a good mix between a links and a resort course and pretty challenging at the same time. Overall, it’s just a great a place to play and I’m pretty happy we got two weeks here.

“The greens were running pure. You get rewarded for hitting good golf shots and punished for hitting bad ones, which is exactly how it should be.”

Located 30 minutes from Girona in the heart of the Costa Brava region, Empordà Golf Club’s impressive facilities include two 18-hole championship courses – Empordà Links and Empordà Forest, both designed world-renowned architect Robert von Hagge.

Golfers also enjoyed an improved experience in the redesigned clubhouse, with the building’s pro shop, golf reception and newly rebranded restaurant Terraverda all being given a fresh and contemporary new look.

Away from the fairways, Hotel Empordà Golf has been transformed with a modern and contemporary new look with the bedrooms, communal areas and restaurant all being redesigned and renovated.

A new restaurant concept has been created throughout Empordà’s dining areas while an outdoor swimming pool has been installed to help guests relax after a hard day on the fairways. In addition, the beach and Balearic Sea are just five minutes away.

A combination of sunny skies, perfectly manicured fairways, gastronomic excellence and surrounding views of the mountain ranges gives Empordà Golf Resort all of the elements needed for a tranquil golf break. [GP](#)

# BA NA HILLS GOLF CLUB WINS AT THE WORLD GOLF AWARDS



**“We’re extremely pleased for Sun Group and our team at Ba Na Hills Golf Club, to receive top honors for the 5th year running in these two very competitive award categories is remarkable.”**

Paul Burley, Senior Vice President  
IMG Golf Course Services

**B**a Na Hills Golf Club in Da Nang, Vietnam is proud to once again be recognized as the “Best Golf Course in Vietnam” and “Best Golf Course in Asia” by the 2021 World Golf Awards. This is the 5th consecutive year Ba Na Hills Golf Club has won these two prestigious awards, and re-confirms the club’s position as the most awarded golf facility in Vietnam. It is also testament to the exceptional quality and world class golf experience provided by the club, which is managed by IMG, and features a fully floodlit 18-hole championship layout designed by Luke Donald.

Tim Haddon, General Manager of Ba Na Hills Golf Club, commented: “This is an amazing achievement for the club and fantastic recognition for our stunning golf course. Given the difficult recent times we have experienced due to the pandemic, with border closures and the need to adapt our business model,

receiving these incredible accolades is even more rewarding. With the support of our owners, Sun Group, IMG and our team at the club, we will continue to work extremely hard, to make sure we provide our guests with the highest quality standards that we have become widely recognised for. We look forward to the re-opening of our borders and to welcoming international golfers back to Vietnam soon”.

Paul Burley, Senior Vice President, IMG Golf Course Services, commented: “We’re extremely pleased for Sun Group and our team at Ba Na Hills Golf Club, to receive top honors for the 5th year running in these two very competitive award categories is remarkable. We have a very long and successful partnership with Ba Na Hills Golf Club that started with design of the golf course with Luke Donald, and continues with management of this exceptional club, it’s a relationship we are very proud of”. 





# VIRAJ MADAPPA KEEPS HIS NERVE TO LIFT TROPHY AT TATA STEEL PGTI MP CUP 2021 PRESENTED BY DELHI GOLF CLUB SUPPORTED BY JUST IN TIME SPORTS FOUNDATION



Viraj Madappa receives the winner's cheque and trophy from Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture. The prize presentation party also included Mr. Manjit Singh, President, Delhi Golf Club (2nd from left), Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Anil P Dere, Captain, Delhi Golf Club (2nd from right), Mr. Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI (extreme left) and Mr. Avinash Pandey, CEO, ABP Network (extreme right).



Viraj Madappa - Winner



Khalin Joshi - Runner-up

## KHALIN JOSHI FINISHES RUNNER-UP

Viraj Madappa kept his nerve on a high-scoring day to lift the trophy at the Rs. 70 lakh TATA Steel PGTI MP Cup 2021 Presented by Delhi Golf Club (DGC) Supported by Just In Time Sports Foundation. The Kolkata golfer thus bagged his second professional title and his first win in three years.

The 23-year-old Madappa (71-67-66-70) carded a two-under 70 on the final day to end up with a tournament tally of 14-under 274. Viraj picked up a cheque of Rs. 11,31,550 which pushed him up from ninth to third place in the PGTI Order of Merit.

Bengaluru golfer Khalin Joshi (69-66-69-71), who was well in control and firm favourite to win the title till the 12th hole, slipped on

the last six holes to sign a card of one-under 71 and finish runner-up at 13-under 275. He moved up from seventh to fifth place in the PGTI Order of Merit.

Delhi's Rashid Khan (67-73-68-69) was one of the top three contenders till the 14th hole as he was in the joint lead. However, he dropped three shots over the last four holes to end the week in third place at 11-under 277.

Viraj Madappa, the overnight joint leader along with good friend and practice partner Khalin Joshi, had a mixed front-nine. However, the turning point was the 14th where both Viraj and Khalin found the bushes but Viraj was lucky to get a free drop due to his stance being on the cart-path. That lucky break for Madappa earned him a birdie on the 14th while Joshi dropped a bogey there and as a result the former took a one-shot lead.

Viraj, who won his first and only previous title at the Asian Tour's TAKE Solutions Masters 2018 in Bengaluru, finally made bogey-birdie on the 17th and 18th to emerge champion.

Madappa said, "I was confident today but yet stressed out in the final round as I hadn't played in the leader group in a few years. It almost felt like a new experience.

**"I've been playing well for some time but not been putting four good rounds of golf together. I'm happy that I was consistent from start to finish this week. I feel I should get my mother to the course more often as I seem to win every time she is around,"** added Madappa, who prior to his win in Delhi had seven top-10s in the season including two runner-up finishes. **GP**

Content Editor: Nikhil Kalaan, Media Manager, PGTI





Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, Honourable Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, inaugurated the tournament with the unfurling of the tricolour



The Pro-Am Winning Team of professional Pawan Kumar and his team consisting of amateurs Mr. Avinash Kumar Singh, Mr. Do Thanh Hai and Mr. Ramphal Pawar receive their prizes from Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, Honourable Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture and Mr. Yogesh Bedi, Steel Recycling Business, TATA Steel.

# SNAPSHOTS

FROM THE TATA STEEL PGTI MP CUP 2021  
PRESENTED BY DELHI GOLF CLUB SUPPORTED BY  
JUST IN TIME SPORTS FOUNDATION.



His Excellency Maj. Gen. Vetsop Namgyel, Ambassador of Bhutan (left) and His Excellency Alex Ellis, British High Commissioner (right) interact during their Pro-Am round



Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev in action at the Pro-Am event



Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi did the ceremonial tee-off ahead of the start of the event



Her Excellency Mariana Pacheco Montes, Ambassador of Colombia, seen in action during the Pro-Am



Cultural events added to the excitement on the Pro-Am day



Indian professionals Viraj Madappa, Aman Raj & M Dharma, seen participating in a cultural event along with Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi



Khalin Joshi receives the winning cheque and trophy from Dr. Ashok Gupta, Captain, Rambagh GC (2nd from right), Mr. Jugal Kishore Derawala, Chairman, JKD Group (3rd from right), Mr. U S Mundy, CEO, PGTI (4th from right), Mr. Vishal Gupta, GM, Hilton Jaipur (3rd from left), Mr. Sandeep Sharma, Chairman - Tournaments, Rambagh GC (2nd from left), Mr. Kunal Singh, Treasurer, Rambagh GC (extreme right) and Col. J B Singh, GM, Rambagh GC (extreme left).



Khalin Joshi - Winner



M Dharma - Runner-up



Yuvraj Singh Sandhu seen in action during his phenomenal final round of 10-under 60

# KHALIN JOSHI TURNS THE TABLES ON FINAL DAY TO EMERGE VICTORIOUS AT JAIPUR OPEN 2021 PRESENTED BY RAJASTHAN TOURISM

## M Dharma finishes second

## Yuvraj Singh Sandhu shoots week's best 60 to finish tied seventh

**K**halin Joshi's final round of three-under 67 proved good enough for him to turn the tables on nearest rival and fellow Bengalurean M Dharma and emerge victorious at the Rs. 40 lakh Jaipur Open 2021 Presented by Rajasthan Tourism being played at the par-70 Rambagh Golf Club (RGC).

Joshi (61-66-64-67) totaled 22-under 258 to win by one shot. His fifth career title ended his three-year long victory drought.

The 29-year-old Khalin, who hails from the Karnataka Golf Association (KGA) course, overcame the disappointment of his runner-up finish in Delhi the previous week as he bagged a winning cheque worth Rs. 6,46,600 to move up from fifth to third in the PGTI Order of Merit. He made six birdies and three bogeys on the last day.

Dharma (62-62-65-70), the overnight leader by two shots, slipped to second place with an even-par 70 on the last day as he struggled to hole putts. He ended the week with a total of 21-under 259.

Chandigarh's Yuvraj Singh Sandhu produced the best round of the tournament, a 10-under 60, to claim tied seventh place at 18-under 262. Yuvraj sank an eagle on the 18th from five feet and also made nine birdies and a bogey during his round.

Khalin Joshi, whose last title came at the Asian Tour's Panasonic Open India in 2018, began well on the final day as he was two-under on the front-nine.

Joshi's bogey on the 12th did not derail his round as he came back stronger with birdies on the 13th, 14th and 17th to take a three-shot lead and emerge favourite for the title. He bogeyed

the last hole after a three-putt from four feet to finally win by just one shot.

Khalin, who was playing in Jaipur after four years, said, "It's a huge relief and very satisfying to end a long wait for victory especially after coming so close last week. I was happy to find some form over the last few weeks. My game was shaping up well so I knew that it was just a matter of time before I won."

Karandeep Kochhar of Chandigarh, who finished tied 12th at 15-under 265, continued to lead the PGTI Order of Merit with season's earnings of Rs. 46,71,130. Bengalureans Chikkarangappa (Rs. 43,93,880) and Khalin Joshi (Rs. 35,89,208) were placed second and third respectively on the Order of Merit. **GP**



## TATA STEEL PGTI ORDER OF MERIT

### Order of Merit as of Jaipur Open 2021 Presented by Rajasthan Tourism (Event - 15)

POS	GOLFER	HOME TOWN	PLAY	WIN	CUT	TOP-10	TOTAL PRIZE
1	KARANDEEP KOCHHAR	CHANDIGARH	14	2	14	8	₹ 4671130
2	CHIKKARANGAPPA S	BENGALURU	14	2	14	9	₹ 4393880
3	KHALIN H JOSHI	BENGALURU	15	1	14	11	₹ 3589208
4	VIRAJ MADAPPA	KOLKATA	15	1	13	9	₹ 3127550
5	VEER AHLAWAT	GURUGRAM	14	0	13	10	₹ 3056704
6	MANU GANDAS	GURUGRAM	15	1	13	7	₹ 2713975
7	UDAYAN MANE	PUNE	15	3	12	6	₹ 2682525
8	AMAN RAJ	PATNA	15	0	15	6	₹ 2429950
9	ANIRBAN LAHIRI	BENGALURU	2	0	2	1	₹ 1962000
10	YUVRAJ SINGH SANDHU	CHANDIGARH	15	0	13	8	₹ 1902250
11	AKSHAY SHARMA	CHANDIGARH	14	1	8	3	₹ 1649400
12	OM PRAKASH CHOUHAN	MHOW	13	1	12	6	₹ 1553350
13	AMARDEEP MALIK	GREATER NOIDA	15	0	13	3	₹ 1498050
14	M DHARMA	BENGALURU	15	0	12	3	₹ 1481450
15	AADIL BEDI	CHANDIGARH	11	1	7	3	₹ 1241900
16	RASHID KHAN	NOIDA	13	0	12	4	₹ 1221483
17	ANGAD CHEEMA	MOHALI	15	0	11	3	₹ 1191350
18	SUNIT CHOWRASIA	KOLKATA	14	0	12	3	₹ 1164183
19	SSP CHAWRASIA	KOLKATA	4	0	4	2	₹ 1147000
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21	SACHIN BAISOYA	DELHI	13	0	9	3	₹ 979308
22	HARENDRA GUPTA	CHANDIGARH	14	0	11	2	₹ 948033
23	RAHIL GANGJEE	BENGALURU	4	0	4	3	₹ 939171
24	ABHINAV LOHAN	FARIDABAD	14	0	10	3	₹ 913433
25	HONEY BAISOYA	DELHI	13	1	6	1	₹ 866050
26	ABHIJIT SINGH CHADHA	CHANDIGARH	13	0	11	3	₹ 851683
27	CHIRAGH KUMAR	DELHI	14	0	11	1	₹ 851033
28	MUKESH KUMAR	MHOW	13	0	11	2	₹ 833150
29	ARJUN PRASAD	DELHI	13	0	9	1	₹ 783450
30	GAURAV PRATAP SINGH	NOIDA	15	0	11	2	₹ 761600



# LANDMARK MOMENT FOR PGTI WITH LIVE COVERAGE OF EVENTS FOR THE FIRST TIME

## ABP Network provides Live Coverage of PGTI events in Delhi and Jaipur

It was a landmark moment for the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) in October as there was Live Coverage of PGTI events for the first time ever.

With its objective of promoting professional golf among a wider audience in India, PGTI tied up with ABP Network, a leading media network in India, for the Live Coverage of its events.

The two PGTI events staged in October – TATA Steel PGTI MP Cup 2021 Presented by Delhi Golf Club Supported by Just in Time Sports Foundation and Jaipur Open 2021 Presented by Rajasthan Tourism – were covered Live on ABP Live’s digital platforms.

Most of the remaining events on the PGTI calendar this year will also be covered Live by the ABP Network.

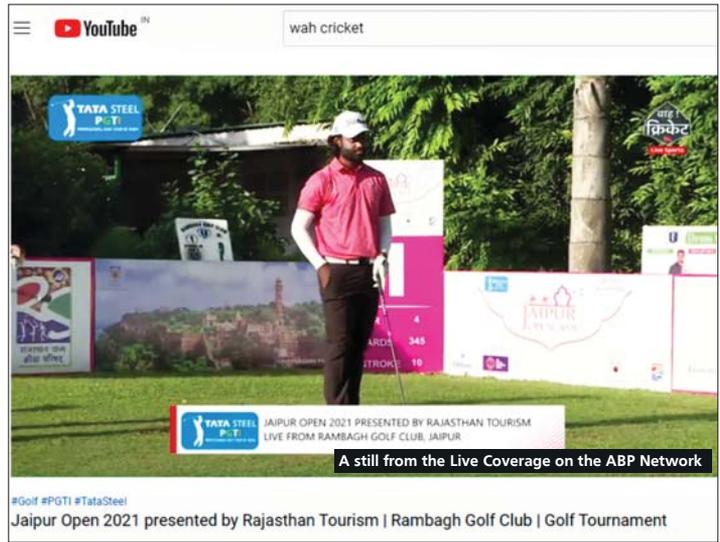
Speaking about this big development, Mr. Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI, said, “Our tie-up with the ABP Network is part of our endeavour of taking professional golf to a wider audience in India and expanding the PGTI’s footprints and following across the country. We are confident that Live Coverage will add more value to our events and bring India’s leading golfing talents in the limelight.”

The Live Telecast featured multiple cameras with various key holes being covered on the courses. There was also Live Commentary.

The commentary during the Live Telecast of the two events on ABP Network was provided by former Indian professional golfers Rahul Bajaj and Shaurya Singh. Rahul and Shaurya are both winners on the PGTI Feeder Tour while Rahul is also a silver medalist from the 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games. Both Rahul and Shaurya used their deep understanding of the sport and brilliant communication skills to enhance the viewing experience for the audiences.

On his first brush with commentary, Rahul said, “The challenge was that I was doing commentary for the first time. I wasn’t sure how to approach the subject and how to keep up with live scoring. Knowing how many shots players had taken when they were on camera was something one had to be adept with.

He added, “The initiative by PGTI and ABP to start live telecast of PGTI events is a superb one and will help popularize the game and help our juniors understand golf better. For me personally it’s been great to be associated with the tour once again. It’s



something I have missed since I stopped playing the circuit. I am glad to be associated with the PGTI in this small capacity to be close to the tour that’s so close to my heart.”

Shaurya, who also made his debut as a commentator along with Rahul, spoke about his experience, saying, “I was privileged to be a part of this historic moment for Indian golf, PGTI and the ABP Network. The challenge was to get the essence of each player across to our viewers while giving them a front row seat into the life of a professional golfer.” **GP**



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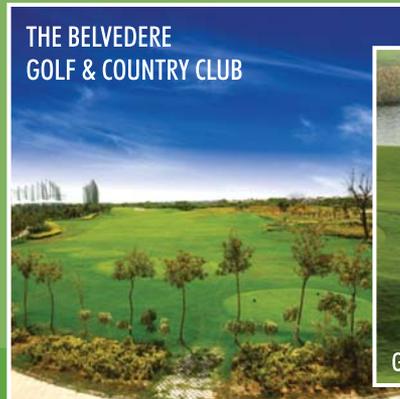
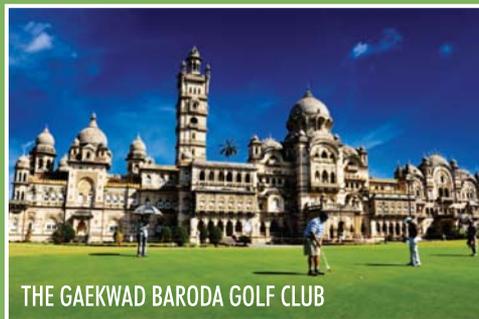
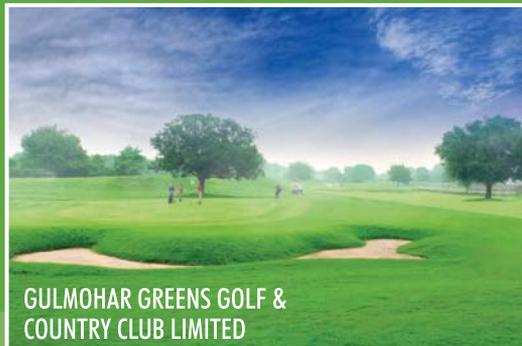
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