

Morikawa becomes first American to be crowned Race to Dubai Champion **p28**

GolfPlus

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in India**



VIKTOR HOVLAND **WINS 2021 HERO WORLD CHALLENGE**

FEATURE

European tour to become
DP World Tour from 2022

Drama filled 2021
on the PGA Tour

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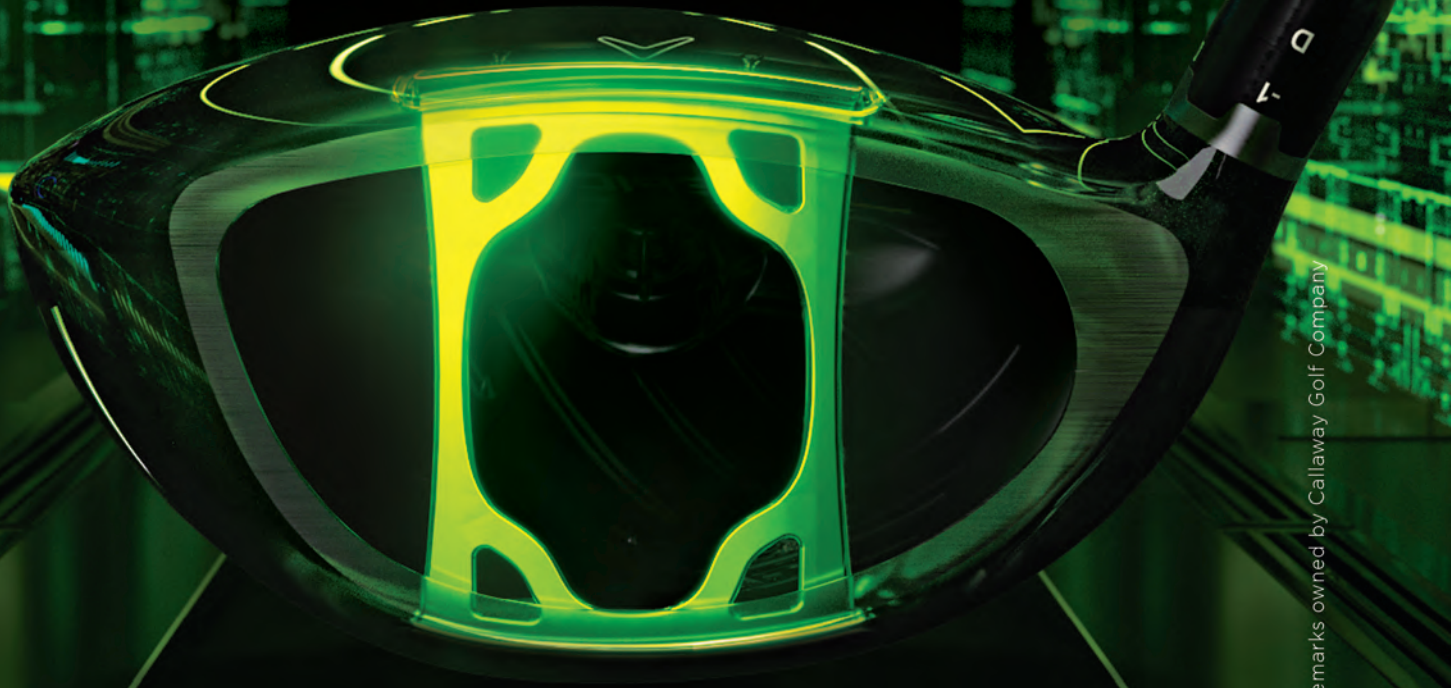


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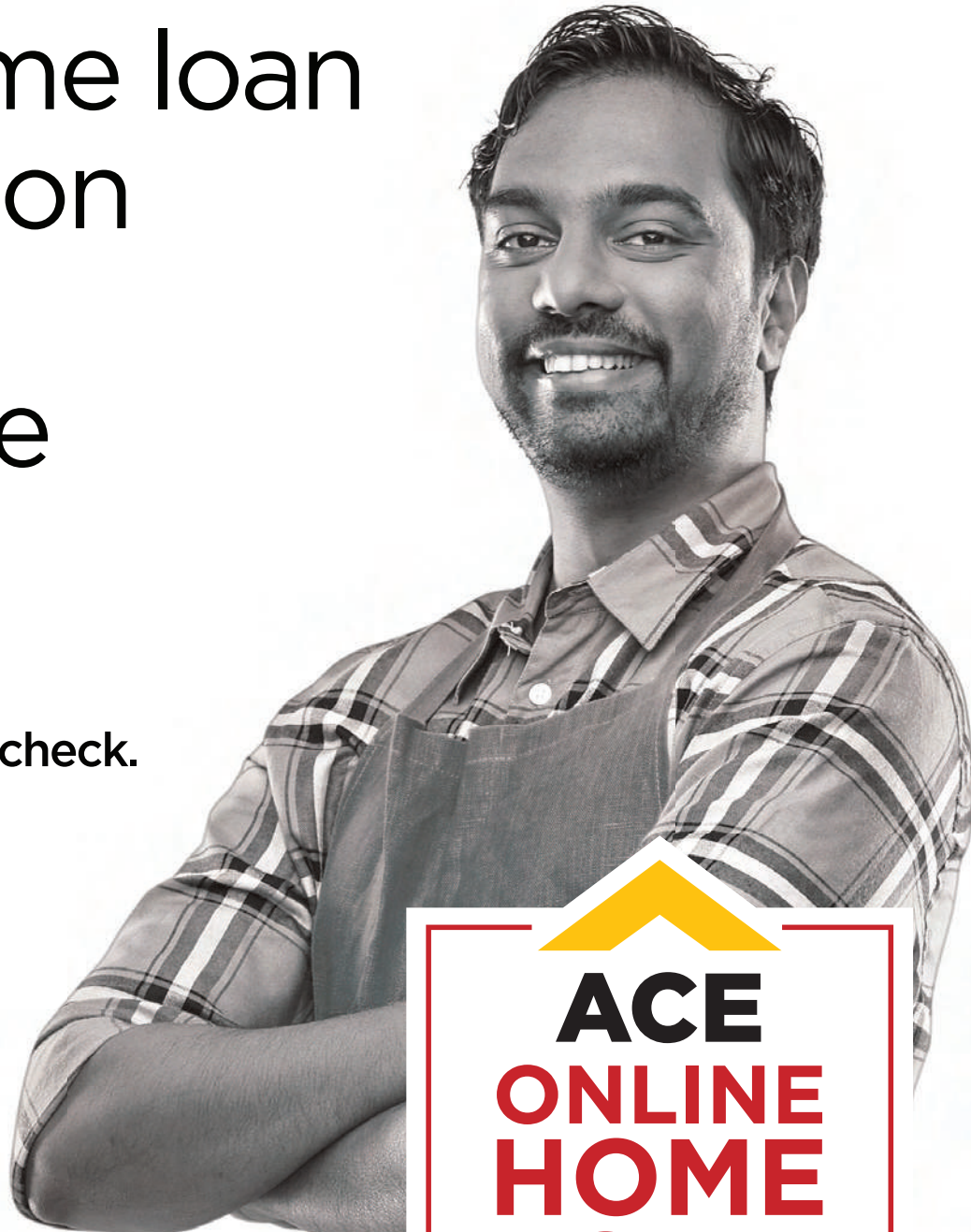
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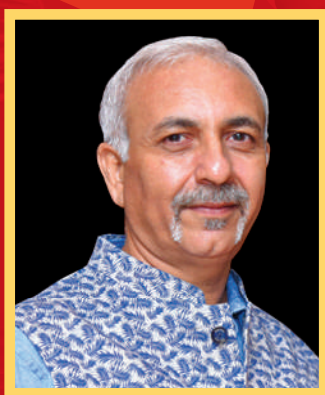
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SEASONS GREETINGS!

The month gone by was full of hectic activity on the Professional front, it was almost like the tours wanted to pack in as much as possible in view of the dark clouds of the new variant looming overhead.

On the PGTI tour The Jeev Milkha Singh invitational was held in Chandigarh with Shiv Kapoor making his mark on the 1.5 crore event. The Indian Oil Servo Masters Golf 2021 was held at Digboi with Yuvraj Singh Sandhu prevailing for the title followed by ICC RCGC Open Golf Championship in Kolkata where Rookie Kshitij Naveed Kaul was the winner.

The dark clouds of the new variant may blow away as the virus is not as virulent as the earlier versions, secondly a majority of the populace worldwide has been fully vaccinated, and moreover the world is now wiser and well prepared medically now to deal effectively with the virus. Though these facts should not prompt us to let our guard down we urge everyone to mask up and maintain social distancing.

The new year is upon us and it is time for us to welcome the new and discard the old. Time for making those resolutions which makes us look forward and embrace the New Year with gusto. For us Golfers it would be important to set goals to upgrade our golfing skills and golf equipment to play better and enjoy more.

The team at GolfPlus Monthly wishes all our readers the best of the season, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Happy Golfing!

Anil Dev

Editor-in-Chief

editor@golfplusmonthly.com

GP

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December 2021

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27 CHAN CONQUERS CANYON!

Chinese-Taipei's Chan Shih-chang prevailed after a gripping finish to win the US\$1million Blue Canyon Phuket Championship and become the first winner on the Asian Tour following a 20-month hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

28 MAGNIFICENT MORIKAWA SEALS DRAMATIC DUBAI DOUBLE

Collin Morikawa became the first American to be crowned Race to Dubai Champion, and he did it in some style, by claiming his maiden Rolex Series title with a three-stroke victory in the DP World Tour Championship.

29 HEROIC HELLEGILDE SECURES ROLEX GRAND FINAL

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40 THREE PUTTING

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PGTI

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57 YUVRAJ SINGH SANDHU CLINCHES MAIDEN TITLE IN STYLE

After knocking on the door several times earlier this season, Chandigarh's Yuvraj Singh Sandhu finally pushed the door open by clinching his maiden title on the TATA Steel PGTI in style with a dominating final round performance of eight under 64 at the Rs. 60 lakh IndianOil SERVO Masters Golf 2021

58 KSHITIJ NAVEED KAUL WRAPS UP SECOND TITLE WITH 'ICE-COOL' 72

Kshitij Naveed Kaul wrapped up his second title with an 'ice-cool' even-par 72 at the Rs. 40 lakh ICC RCGC Open Golf Championship 2021 Powered by Urbana played at the RCGC.

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UNCHANGED SINCE 1827

HOW SPORTS CAN BUILD THE NATION

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

Q Namaskaram Sadhguru. It is very interesting to learn that you are using sports in the process of reaching out to communities in rural areas. How did Isha Foundation begin to use sports as part of its community outreach and development program?

Sadhguru: This happened many years ago when we started our first Action for Rural Rejuvenation program. We wanted to offer a meditative process to rural people. When we started the first class, a little over one hundred people came.

On the third day, we served everyone a lunch. But then on the fourth day, half of the people dropped out. I asked, "Why?" They had been told not to come because it was not okay for them to eat with someone of another caste. I decided I am not conduct this program anymore if this was going to be the basis. So I stopped the program midway.

But then, when I thought about it, I saw that this was a problem that was a few thousand years old. It is not going to get solved overnight. The problem was that I had asked them to eat together, which became a contentious issue. So I thought, if eating together is a problem for them, let's devise the program in such a way that they will play together.

They had no issues playing together, and it changed the whole dimension of Action for Rural Rejuvenation because, in playing together, they forgot who they were. That is the beauty of a game – once you jump into a sport, there is a certain sense of abandon in you that your identity collapses.

We always use games, every time, in every

program across the world. Wherever we teach any meditative program, before we initiate people into meditation, there is always an hour of some kind of simple games that they play, where people become like children. They scream, run and play. If that sense of abandon is not there, if people cannot scream, laugh and jump, then they definitely cannot meditate.

LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD

Caste and other kinds of prejudices are things that have been carried from generation to generation. But what we noticed is that once the teams formed in the village and league tournaments started across Tamil Nadu, whoever was playing well, he became the hero. Nobody identifies him by caste – he is their village champion and that is all that matters. Sport leveled the caste system, if not entirely, at least to some extent. It made inroads into each other's communities.

Even today, when they are having a match, you will see all the communities gather. They have forgotten who they are. Initially, maybe when they stand, they stand among their own people. As the game picks up momentum, the spectators will boil over and mix with each other. They are slapping each other's backs – they have forgotten who is who.

That is the beauty of a game. You cannot play a game without involvement. Involvement is the essence of any sport. If there is no involvement, there is no game. Sport brings such a sense of involvement that they become ready for bigger things. We use sport very effectively in villages to make them still and meditate, which they had never imagined

possible in their lives. Vivekananda went to the extent of saying, "You are closer to God in kicking a ball than in prayer."

SPORTS AND THE FUTURE OF INDIA

Q As a nation, we face an enormous number of issues. What do you visualize as the role that sports can play in India's development as a nation?

Sadhguru: One thing is, for one billion people we do not have enough sport. For the one billion people that we have, we should have a team for every game on the planet. When a country like Costa Rica, with a population of five million, can send their team to the Football World Cup, why is it that with 1.25 billion people, we cannot produce a team?

This is simply because we have never taken sport as an important part of our life. In many ways, we have dropped our playfulness in this country, for which we are paying a very heavy price. It is time we bring back sport on all levels.

In schools, it is very important that at least fifteen to twenty percent of the time is spent in sport to make the child playful. A lot more can be taught to a child by making him playful, rather than just making him sit in a corner in a classroom. His body and his brain have to develop and become agile. If your physical body and your brain are not agile, what are you going to teach to that child?

It need not always be competitive sport. It can just be fun games, but people should play. It is very important for the physical body and the brain to develop. Only then can

we develop a humanity which is competent. If that competence is not built at an early age, then later on, most people in the country will not be fit.

FIT FOR LIFE

I was talking to a group of very high profile business people and their families some time ago. I said, "None of you are fit for life." They said, "What do you mean? We are all doing fine." I replied, "Tomorrow morning, if all of you are walking on the street – let us say a tiger came. How many of you can climb a tree and save yourself? Not even one of you could do that. Only that guy who is sweeping the street, he may climb the tree and save himself. All of you, who think you are successful, you will be breakfast for a tiger."

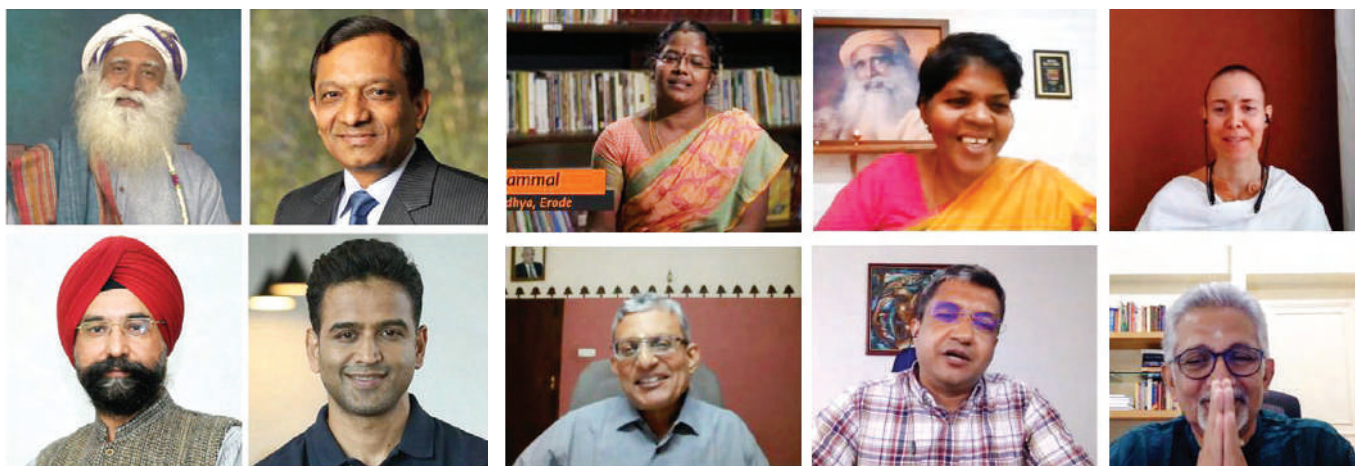
Fitness levels are generally low in India. In the last few years, a little bit of enthusiasm

Tomorrow morning, if all of you are walking on the street - let us say a tiger came. How many of you can climb a tree and save yourself? Not even one of you could do that. Only that guy who is sweeping the street, he may climb the tree and save himself.

has come, but that is only in a certain segment of society. This has to spread across the country.

If we want to build a great nation, first of all we should have healthy and strong people, and sport can play a very important role in making that happen. Without building individual human beings properly – well nourished, healthy and agile – you are not going to build a great nation. There is no such thing as nation – there are only people, and in this, sport has a significant role. **GP**





SADHGURU, CEOS OF ZERODHA, AND AMUL, EX-CEO OF MAHINDRA SHARE REAL LIFE LEARNINGS WITH BUSINESS LEADERS AT ISHA INSIGHT 2021

The 21st century is about moving business leadership from Profit to Purpose,” Sadhguru said while kickstarting Isha Leadership Academy’s business leadership programme - “Isha Insight: The DNA of Success.”

The four-day programme, designed by Sadhguru to help entrepreneurs prepare for the next stage of their leadership journey, was attended by entrepreneurs, CEOs and CxOs from 20 countries across the world.

Talking about having a clear purpose in business, the spiritual leader told the participants, “The most important thing is to cultivate a burning desire in your heart. If this occurs, you will notice that plans will come a plenty.”

Advising the participants not to become fixated on their plans, Sadhguru said that “plans are only tools to execute the purpose. How many lives you’ve changed, how far you’ve reached... these are the factors that will determine your success. You must show a purpose larger than yourself.”

Sadhguru said, “If you’re a conscious human being you’ll never have a purpose of your own. Your purpose cannot be anything different from the fundamental purpose of life itself.”

The four-day Isha Insight themed on “Reimagining business in this decade of accelerated change” saw riveting real life success stories from business leaders.

On Day 1, Nithin Kamath, the Founder and CEO of Zerodha, India’s largest stock broker, spoke

about the company’s “unconventional” journey.

“You can be a business that lets the product do the talking, that thinks about giving back. A conscious business. I think India needs that. India needs a lot of big businesses which are conscious about what is happening around them,” the 41-year-old entrepreneur said.

On Day 2 of Isha Insight, Dr. RS Sodhi, Managing Director of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, which owns the Amul brand, spoke about the ideals taught by founder Dr. Verghese Kurien, also known as the ‘Father of the White Revolution’ in India. “Value for many, value for money. How passionately you adhere to your value systems and business objectives will determine the success of your business,” said Sodhi.

“Whatever value system we have, it was instilled in us by our founders. When I say value for many, I mean providing a very stable price to the millions of farmers who produce milk day after day, so they are encouraged to invest more, produce more, grow more, and similarly provide the best-made food products,” Sodhi said.

Dr Pawan Goenka, Chairperson of Indian National Space Promotion Authorization Centre (In-Space), on Day 3 of the leadership programme taught participants the value of humility and the need to always be on “learning mode”.

“You have to learn and to learn, you must have humility. Unfortunately, there are too many people who think, ‘I know it all’. Nobody knows it all.


Everybody has to be in a learning mode no matter how high you are,” the former Managing Director of Mahindra & Mahindra stressed.

On Day 4 of Isha Insight, Isha Vidhya team shared its fulfilling journey from being a start-up in 2006 to being 10 schools strong, educating students in rural Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh as a case study for participants of the leadership programme.

Sadhguru has always stressed that businesses need to be transformed and become more inclusive. To present this inclusive approach, a case study of Isha Vidhya schools was presented. Isha Vidhya’s 10 English-medium schools in rural Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh use innovative methods of teaching for the overall development and blossoming of each student.

Sharing the journey of Isha Vidhya, Vinod Hari, Project Director, Isha Education shared, “For the first 10 years of Isha Vidhya, we ran like a start-up. Funds were difficult to find, we had difficulty finding, training and retaining teachers to build the infrastructure.” “Today we run 10 rural schools. We have 9,330 children and 49% of them are girls. 62% of these children are on full scholarship, the rest pay a very nominal fee,” he added.

The business leadership programme aimed at empowering the entrepreneurs also saw participation from 30 Resource Leaders, all veterans in their respective fields with over 30 years of experience.

Sadhguru established the Isha Leadership Academy over a decade ago with the goal of providing the highest quality leadership education by merging external skill sets with wellbeing techniques. Delving into the science of business growth, Isha Insight was founded to assist entrepreneurs in navigating a fast changing market. The program provides attendees with an exclusive opportunity to evaluate their journey through the experiential lens of successful leaders. 





The Indian Golf Union
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IGU Results

SHILLONG JUNIOR BOYS GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Date: 15-19 November'21

Venue: Shillong Golf Club

CATEGORY A

1	UTTARPRADESH	SUKHMAN SINGH
2	HARYANA	JAI BAHL
3	DELHI	KRISHNAV NIKHIL CHOPRAA
4	DELHI	SHAT MISHRA
5	MAHARASTRA	ARADHEEA GAWADE

CATEGORY A

1	KARNATAKA	MAHIR RAKHRA
2	KARNATAKA	KAUSHAL K
3	MAHARASTRA	ARYAMAN SINGH
4	MAHARASTRA	YUAVAN KHUBCHANDANI
5	KARNATAKA	TEJAS MISHRA

CATEGORY C

1	GUJARAT	ANSH JOBANPUTRA
2	MOIDA	AYAN DUBEY
3	MOHALI	NEIL JOLLY
4	MOIDA	ANSH DUBEY

A&B COMBINED

1	Uttar Pradesh	Sukhman Singh
2	Haryana	Jai Bahl
3	Delhi	Krishnav Nikhil Chopraa
4	Delhi	Shat Mishra
5	Maharashtra	Aradheea Gawade



IGU EASTERN INDIA AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Date: 15-21 November'21

Venue: Royal Calcutta Golf Club,
Kolkata

The finals which was played over 36 holes was an equal battle until the 26th hole, Yuvraj Singh went 2 up on the 30th hole and won on the 34th hole to go 3 up with 2 holes to go.

Both Yuvraj Singh and Shaurya Bhattcharaya played excellent golf and most of the holes finished with birdies, and there was not a single bogey between both the players.

The golf captain of the club Mr. Rohan Ghosh teed off the tournament, and was the walk along rules official; he accompanied the players for the entire round. 





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The governing body for Golf in India

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IGU ALL INDIA LADIES AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Date: 22 - 28 November 2021

Venue: Noida Golf Club

S. No	Name
1	Avani Prashanth
2	Nishna Patel
3	Jahnavi Prakhya
4	Rishika Muralidhar
5	Smriti Bhargav
6	Sneha Singh
7	Renee Rane
8	Nayanika Sanga
9	Janneya A Dasanniece
10	Kriti Chowhan



AN HONOR FOR INDIA & GOLF!

It is a great honour that Ishwar Achanta, Hon. Treasurer & Chairman - International Relations Committee of the Indian Golf Union, Director-Asia Pacific Golf Confederation Admin Committee Member - International Golf Federation is re-nominated to the R&A's Rules of Golf Committee of IGU.

This is the Committee he served on for 7 years between Jan 2010 till Dec 2016 and had the special privilege of being part of the writing of the new Rules of Golf wef. 1 Jan, 2019.

This new tenure will give him an opportunity to study modifications and improvements to the new Rules in game of golf. **GP**



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

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

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

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

Inspiring Track Record

The IGU is the owner of the Indian Open, since 1964 (now sanctioned by the European Tour) along with Indian Classic and Indian Masters. Peter Thomson and Jyoti Randhwa are each 3 time winners of the Honda Indian Open. Anirban Lahiri, an IGU protégé 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.

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Level 2 Rules School at Hyderabad



Junior Program at CIAL Cochin

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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 counting!

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Benefit from contributing to development of Golf in India



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FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

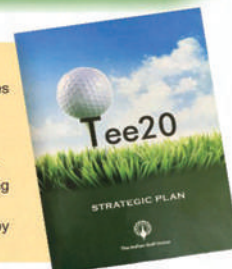
It is important to acknowledge that Clubs and golfers are at the heart of all of these initiatives at every level. We also appreciate that these initiatives require a collaborative network of people and support, to maximise their success.

Initiatives that are to be focused are on:

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

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

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



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VIKTOR HOVLAND Wins 2021 Hero World Challenge

Ironically that Cantlay had to hold off Rahm to win the FedExCup, because it was the Spaniard's low point in 2021 that in some ways kickstarted the American's season.

A whopping 18-under and in possession of a six-stroke lead through 54 holes, Rahm was forced to withdraw from the Memorial when he tested positive for COVID. Cantlay went on to win the tournament at 13-under, but Rahm refused to let the disappointment define him.

Instead, Rahm "re-set" and "re-focused." He won his next start a few weeks later with a stirring effort at the U.S. Open.

You could argue that with 15 top-10 finishes in 22 starts – highlighted by T3, T5 and T7 performances in the season's other three majors – Rahm was the PGA TOUR's most impressive player of 2020-21.

But what speaks volumes for the overall health of the PGA TOUR picture is this: Beyond the fierce Cantlay-Rahm competition that punctuated the close of the 2020-21 season, there were several themes and storylines that generated plenty of interest and deserve applause.

There were, for instance, 43 different winners with Cantlay (four) leading the way. Three players won twice each – Bryson DeChambeau, Jason Kokrak and Harris English. Then came a parade of single winners.

The DeChambeau phenomenon was a story unto itself, given his obsession with length, but Kokrak, 36, and English, 32, were posterboys if you love your professional golfers to be resilient and committed to their craft.

Kokrak played nine full seasons without winning before he broke through twice in 2020-21. English, meanwhile, had two wins early in his career, then experienced a drought of 192 starts over six-plus years before the magic rekindled itself.

If Kokrak qualifies as a “breakthrough” story, he has company, because young Sam Burns flashed his youthful power and precision and won once, finished second twice, and had five other top-10s. When he concluded the TOUR Championship T-18 in the FEC standings, Burns was one of four players 25 or younger inside the top 20 (Rahm, 25; Viktor Hovland, 23; and Sungjae Im, 23) being the others.

Meanwhile, five of those inside the top 20 were 35 or older, including Kevin Na, 37, who had his best year ever, and the erstwhile Sergio Garcia, who at 40 won a PGA TOUR tournament for the first time in four seasons and showed great life in his game.

Garcia was hardly alone if you like stories of rejuvenation. Jordan Spieth, after all, awoke from a slumber of nearly four winless years and captured a tournament in his native land, the Valero Texas Open.

Clearly, winning is as difficult as players tell us, because two of the most remarkably consistent players on the PGA TOUR – Xander Schauffele and Louis Oosthuizen – did everything but win. Each of them piled up eight top-10 finishes and a combined U.S. \$11.5 million, but no wins.



“There’s only 20 guys in the field, but the players here are really good and I feel like my wins have come when the field hasn’t been as strong, so for me to do well in a field like this gives me a lot of confidence.”

- Viktor Hovland

Then again, it will be pointed out and should not be forgotten that Schauffele did win something that will be with him forever – gold medal in the Olympic Games in Tokyo. Now there will be those who remember the golf in those Games for

who did not win the bronze medal - Hideki Matsuyama and Rory McIlroy both fell short in an epic seven-man playoff won by C.T. Pan – but a great many people will overlook that and circle instead something else those players did.

Matsuyama, of course, won a Masters Tournament for the ages, the first Japanese golfer to capture the vaunted Green Jacket. You’d be in good company if you call it the highlight moment to golf in 2021.

Then there was McIlroy, who showed a finishing polish to win the CJ CUP @ SUMMIT in October, his 20th PGA TOUR triumph. But more memorably, he choked back tears and raw emotions when talking about his poor Ryder Cup performance. You’d be in good company if you embraced this as a gripping moment because it demonstrated how the splendor of the PGA TOUR is tied directly to the passion its players have. **GP**



Dr. Pawan Munjal, Chairman & CEO, Hero MotoCorp with legendary golfer Tiger Woods at the Hero World Challenge 2021 at Albany in Bahamas



CAREER BREAKTHROUGHS

HIGHLIGHT DRAMA-FILLED 2021 ON PGA TOUR

by Chris Cox/PGA TOUR

Should you go in search of flavor on the PGA TOUR, here is a hint: You needn't do a lot of digging. In fact, stay at the surface. No shovel required. Specifically, names in the Top 20 on the final-season FedExCup points list for 2020-21 provide a great sense of the uniqueness that is an integral part of the PGA TOUR – there's youth and experience, 13 American stars and eight international talents, familiar names and breakthrough artists. Peruse the list, savor the storylines, digest the accomplishments and you'll know why an esteemed observer such as Graeme McDowell at 42 is as passionate as ever to be a part of the show.

"It's just becoming harder to do, though, because the level of play is so strong, so good,

so long, so aggressive," said the gentleman from Northern Ireland. "The scoring continues to get better and better and better all the time."

But McDowell refuses to turn away. In fact, 20 years after playing his first PGA TOUR tournament, the 2010 U.S. Open champ is as enamored as ever with the circuit. When he studies the landscape and especially the way 2020-21 unfolded with so many success stories, McDowell suggests that dozens of players maintain an attitude that is ingrained in today's professional golfers.

We "re-set, re-focus, re-motivate," said McDowell.

The top two names on the season-ending FEC points list, Patrick Cantlay and Jon Rahm, owe their 2020-21 success to the ability to move on from setbacks. Cantlay, for instance, nursed a

back issue and missed some prime time in 2014-15. And when he hit more turbulence early in 2021 – three missed cuts in a four-tournament stretch – he didn't panic.

A few weeks later, Cantlay won the Memorial Tournament, then he kicked it into another gear a few months later, winning two FedExCup Playoffs events – the BMW Championship and TOUR Championship – to earn the coveted FedExCup.

"It was a long year. I could barely remember when it started," said Cantlay, who, like his colleagues, navigated an array of COVID-mandated hurdles to travel and compete. "I'm very tired after just a ton of golf and a ton of pressure golf.

"But I'm very grateful and happy to be here."

Ironic that Cantlay had to hold off Rahm to win

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Images Courtesy: Getty Images



MATSUYAMA AND IM RACE TO BECOME FIRST ASIAN TO SCALE GOLF'S SUMMIT

by Chuah Choo Chiang



Hideki Matsuyama

The similarity in their golf swings is rather uncanny. One owns a deliberate take-away that feigns slow motion on video, while the other possesses a prolonged pause at the top of the backswing that has become a popular meme on social media.

It can sometimes feel like an eternity for each

to unleash a golf shot but when they eventually pull the trigger, Korea's Sungjae Im and Hideki Matsuyama of Japan certainly have the ability to produce a picture of power mixed with precision as they pursue golf's greatness on the PGA TOUR.

Matsuyama, 29, and Im, 23, have maintained

a firm stranglehold as Asia's leading duo where their unique styles have cemented their status as the highest ranked Asians in the Official World Golf Ranking at No. 12th and 23rd, respectively (as of November 1, 2021). They also hold great pride as being the only two golfers from the Far East who have

qualified for the FedExCup Playoffs finale, the TOUR Championship, over the past three seasons.

Over the past month, Im and Matsuyama produced stylish victories to remind the golf world of their immense talents and potential, with the young Korean, who is nicknamed “Ironman”, shooting a final-round 62 to claim a second TOUR victory at the Shriners Children’s Open in Vegas and Matsuyama prevailing at the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP on home soil after a closing 65 for his seventh career title. It was the icing on the cake after his historic Masters Tournament victory in April.

While there is little doubt the dynamic duo will accumulate many more PGA TOUR wins in years to come and surpass K.J. Choi’s eight-victory haul, which is the highest by an Asian to date, the question now is who will become the first Asian to claim the TOUR’s ultimate prize, the FedExCup, and also ascend to No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking.

Trevor Immelman, the International Team captain for the 2022 Presidents Cup, has great insights on both players and has enjoyed a front-row seat watching Im blossom into a world-class golfer through his role as assistant captain at Royal Melbourne in 2019 and as a Golf Channel pundit. The astute South African, who was Masters champion in 2008, also witnessed first-hand how Matsuyama triumphed at Augusta National to become the first Asian to slip on the famous green jacket.

When Im was marching towards a four-shot victory in Vegas, Immelman marvelled during the broadcast that the Korean rising star, who

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Sungjae Im and Hideki Matsuyama at the 2019 Presidents Cup Gala

learned the game when he was four, had all the tools in his bag to become the best player in the world. “He absolutely has everything that it takes. This guy has all the goods to be the best in the world,” Immelman enthused. “One of the best drivers on tour, he’s got a plenty of distance, irons are laser-like and his short game is solid. This guy has got an incredible future ahead and I can’t wait to see how it unfolds.”

Over the past year, Im has continued to solidify the foundation to his game, including

hiring a fitness trainer and settling down in a new home in Atlanta with his parents after living from out of a suitcase during his first few years in the U.S. He also recently engaged veteran caddie Billy Spencer and continues to work with long-time swing coach Hyun Choi, who was responsible for the slow take-away in his backswing.

Im is keeping his feet firmly on the ground despite his captain’s stamp of approval. “It’s a very overwhelming comment and I’m very thankful. I feel like I’m still a long way to go



Images Courtesy : GettyImages

"IT'S A VERY OVERWHELMING COMMENT AND I'M VERY THANKFUL. I FEEL LIKE I'M STILL A LONG WAY TO GO TO BE THE TOP PLAYER IN THE WORLD, BUT I HAVE A GOAL IN MIND AND I ALWAYS TRY TO CONTINUE TO GET BETTER EVERY DAY, SO ONE DAY HOPEFULLY I CAN BECOME THAT GOOD PLAYER."

SUNGJAE IM

to be the top player in the world, but I have a goal in mind and I always try to continue to get better every day, so one day hopefully I can become that good player," said Im, whose highest world ranking is 16th and holds a career-best 11th place finish in the FedExCup standings in 2020.

Matsuyama's world ranking rose to a career high second in 2017 – the same year he entered the FedExCup Playoffs ranked No. 1 before finishing an eventual eighth place – but he has endured a winless streak that ended with his magical Masters win. He contended once more at the WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational in August before delivering a famous home

victory at the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP, becoming the first Japanese to win the nation's lone PGA TOUR event.

Interestingly, the often stoic Japanese star provided a glimpse of how high he sets his own bar when it comes to golf. In his pre-tournament interview, he told the media through a translator that his game was well off the mark. "Ball striking, putting, chipping, all of these have not reached the level I want. If my game scored 10 out of 10 at the Masters, now I would say it scores less than 1," he said. "I will be struggling this week but I am here in Japan, so I am motivated to be in contention."

Lo and behold, rounds of 64, 68, 68 and 65

for an astounding five-shot triumph in front of 5,000 appreciative fans ensured Matsuyama would savour a first home triumph. When quizzed again on his form after his win, he replied: "I would rate my performance as 2 or 3. From the results perspective, it went about to 8, but I think it's because all the energy that I was getting from the fans. As you guys may have had a chance to see me on the driving range, my balls were all over and not consistent, but once at the golf course, I was able to feed off of the energy of the crowd."

"Everyone else's idea of consistency is different to the consistency that I'm pursuing."

Should Im or Matsuyama make more history in years to come by winning the FedExCup or becoming Asia's first World No. 1, the throwaway comment from the latter would clearly be the driving force for them to become truly world-class golfers. **GP**

Chuah Choo Chiang is Senior Director, Marketing and Communications, Asia Pacific for the PGA TOUR and is based in Malaysia.



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JASON KOKRAK EARNS THIRD PGA TOUR TITLE AT HEWLETT PACKARD ENTERPRISE



Kokrak claimed the Hewlett Packard Enterprise Houston Open for his third victory in his last 28 PGA TOUR starts. He's been one of the TOUR's most successful players since the start of last season, but there were several reasons this victory seemed unlikely.

He was struggling so much with his swing that his coach, Drew Steckel, considered flying in from Las Vegas for an emergency session. Then Kokrak made a mess of the final holes of his second round, a stretch that he termed "a debacle."

He was undoubtedly the best player in the Houston Open's second half, however, and by Sunday afternoon he had removed any drama by making four consecutive back-nine birdies.

Kokrak shot 10-under 270 to earn his third PGA TOUR title, finishing two shots ahead of Kevin Tway and Scottie Scheffler. Kokrak moved to seventh in the FedExCup with the win.

Kokrak, a self-described "slow learner," was winless in his first 232 PGA TOUR starts but has now won three times in the last 13 months. Only FedExCup champion Patrick Cantlay, who won four times last season, has more wins since the start of the 2020 season.

A win seemed out of reach some 24 hours before Kokrak teed off in the final round at Memorial Park. After returning early Saturday to complete his delayed second round, Kokrak played the next seven holes in 7 over.

"I don't know what happened, if I slept too much or whatever," said Kokrak.

A triple-bogey at 18 gave him a 41 on the back nine of his second round. That matches the highest nine-hole score by a winner on the PGA TOUR in the last 25 years.



Kokrak was nine back at the Houston Open's halfway point, but his score of 9-under 131 in the final two rounds was lowest in the field by four shots.

Two of his wins have now come in Texas, and in events where Longhorns held the 54-hole lead.

The first was in May, when Jordan Spieth, just weeks removed from his first win in nearly four years, took a one-shot lead over Kokrak into the final round of the Charles Schwab Challenge. A passionate, and partisan, gallery cheered loudly for the hometown favorite, but it was Kokrak who won by two shots after Spieth struggled to a final-round 73. **GP**

TALOR GOOCH PARS 72ND HOLE TO EARN FIRST WIN AT THE RSM CLASSIC



Talor Gooch was playing too well to get fazed by anything Sunday in The RSM Classic, and it paid off

with his first PGA TOUR title when he closed with a 6-under 64 for a three-shot victory at Sea Island. He was playing with two guys who have won before. He was pushed early by a past Sea Island champion. The buzz in the middle of the round was another player flirting with 59.

Gooch ran off three birdies in four holes to start the back nine and never let anyone get close to cap off a strong fall with the ultimate prize. The victory moved him to the top of the FedExCup standings, to No. 33 in the world ranking and to Augusta National in April for the Masters.

"To finish the fall season off like I just did, it's a dream come true," Gooch said.

Gooch tied the tournament record of 22-under 260 set by Kevin Kisner in 2014. He became the seventh player in the 12-year history of the event to make The RSM Classic his first victory.

Mackenzie Hughes of Canada, who won the tournament in 2016, rallied from the group ahead of Gooch with four birdies among his last six holes, capped by a 20-foot putt at No. 18 for a 62 to finish second at 19-under 263.

Sebastian Munoz (65) was alone in third and Tyler McCumber (60), Cameron Smith (64), Tom Hoge (67) and Seamus Power (68) tied for fourth.

Along with the Masters, Gooch gets to start next year in Maui for the Sentry Tournament of Champions at Kapalua.

"This gets me into some tournaments I wasn't into," he said. "But I want to get to the TOUR



Championship and this puts me a little bit ahead of the ballgame for that journey. The goal is to win the TOUR Championship."

Gooch began the day with a three-shot lead over playing partners Munoz and Power and delivered a sound message when he drilled two iron shots to set up birdie putts of 5 and 9 feet at Nos. 2 and 4. **GP**



COLLIN MORIKAWA WINS DP WORLD TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP, FIRST AMERICAN TO TAKE RACE TO DUBAI



Open champion, Ryder Cup winner and now the first American to finish a season as the European Tour's No. 1 player.

It's been quite the year for Collin Morikawa.

The 24-year-old Californian showcased his world-class iron play down the stretch in making five birdies in his last seven holes to overhaul a fading Rory McIlroy and win the DP World Tour Championship with a final-round 6-under 66 on Sunday.

With the three-shot victory, Morikawa sealed the Race to Dubai title as the leading points winner on the European Tour.

"It's an honor to be the first American to do that, to put my name against many, many greats and Hall of Famers," Morikawa said. "It's special. I get touched up just talking about that."

"To close it out not just with a top 10 but to actually win ... what a great way to finish."

McIlroy started the final round with a one-stroke lead, and three holes of Morikawa, but bogeyed three of his last four holes and closed with a 74. Tied for sixth, he was five shots adrift of Morikawa.

Matt Fitzpatrick, the 2020 winner of the World Tour Championship and one of five players who started the week with a chance to overtake Morikawa in the Race to Dubai standings, launched a stunning final-day attack from 13th place after the third round. He briefly took the lead after a birdie at No. 15 -- his seventh of the day at that point -- and was even left in contention to win the Race to Dubai title. **GP**

VIKTOR HOVLAND GOES BACK-TO-BACK AT WORLD WIDE TECHNOLOGY CHAMPIONSHIP



Hovland gave the crew plenty to root for over the weekend at El Camaleón Mayakoba Golf Course and on Sunday he won for the third time on TOUR. He set the 72-hole scoring record in the process and became the first every back-to-back champ of the event.

The group, all members of the same golf club in Norway, make an annual trip to Mexico. Hovland said he had no idea who they are, but when he played at Mayakoba three years ago he did see them once before.

Oslo, Norway, is about 5,200 miles from Playa Del Carmen, but for the last two days, anyway, Hovland felt the love.

The Norwegian people are very patriotic and it's cool to see that I can get so much support even in Mexico, which is pretty far away from Norway. They were great," said Hovland, the fifth consecutive international winner on the PGA TOUR. "They applauded good shots and obviously cheered a little bit extra when I made a putt. It was really nice. I want to thank them a lot."

The crew was in full voice Sunday to cheer on



the 24-year-old, who overcame what seemed like the universe working against him this week to take this one across the finish line. He won by four over Carlos Ortiz, who put on a show for the Mexican faithful. This is Ortiz's second runner-up result in three years at Mayakoba.

Hovland's week started with a broken driver, a product of Danny Lee doing some speed training exercise on the range Wednesday. He had to borrow James Hahn's, which worked out just fine -- he was T2 in Driving Accuracy for the week. **GP**

MACK CHAMP INVITATIONAL SUCCESSFUL IN BLENDING DIVERSITY WITH TOP-NOTCH JUNIORS



Allyn Stephens has competed in numerous American Junior Golf Association events, as well as the national finals of the Drive, Chip and Putt competition at one of the game's most iconic clubs, Augusta National. Plenty of high school tournaments too.

She even partnered with Michael Allen at the 2019 PURE Insurance Championship, a team competition that pairs First Tee members with PGA TOUR Champions veterans at venerable Pebble Beach, no less.

But the Mack Champ Invitational in March was different. Very different.

For once on a golf course, Stephens wasn't in the minority. As the talented teenager looked around Memorial Park Golf Club in her native Houston that week, she saw lots of other Black and brown golfers competing in the inaugural MCI.



"It was huge," Stephens says. "It was so like mind blowing to see so many young people of color playing golf in the same tournament. It's not normal to see something like that so it was a beautiful sight."

Stephens, who plans to play golf at Texas A&M next year, estimates that before she competed in the Mack Champ Invitational she might have known two or three other Black golfers her age and "they lived in states that were like 2,000 miles away from me." **GP**

Tour chief hails new beginning

7 With the Asian Tour re-embarking on its 2020-21 season this week at the Blue Canyon Phuket Championship – being played on the iconic Canyon Course at Blue Canyon Country Club – Cho Minn Thant, the Tour's Commissioner and CEO, has highlighted the huge significance of the tournament and praised the membership for their patience after a difficult two years.

"This week will help us to finally begin the process of completing our season – following the most difficult period in our history – but more importantly it will mark the beginning of a whole new exciting journey," said Cho.

"Not a single shot has been played on the Asian Tour since the final round of the Bandar Malaysian Open on March 7, 2020, and we have all faced nearly 19-months of uncertainty. However, although we now still face Covid-19 related battles, we find ourselves not only being able to restart but on the threshold of what will be our biggest and best decade."

With the Tour entering into a mutually beneficial strategic partnership with the Greg Norman-led LIV Golf Investments, it will see a new series of 10 marquee events – each boasting prizemoney of over US\$1 million – played each year beginning 2022 with the ambition of growing it over the next decade.

"The new partnership will allow for a period of recovery and stability

"This week will help us to finally begin the process of completing our season - following the most difficult period in our history."



followed by significant growth. The Tour always enjoyed a great reputation for being a hospitable place with a family-like atmosphere; our popularity with players and fans, and our diversity have been key to this. But we now plan to build on this and take things to a new level and further raise our profile which will have a huge impact on the game in general in our region and indeed beyond." **GP**

Greg Norman named CEO of LIV Golf Investments

7 Former world #1 and World Golf Hall of Fame member, Greg Norman, has been announced as CEO of a newly formed company, LIV Golf Investments, a move which will set in motion a number of momentous developments for professional golf worldwide.

Norman's first order of business is the announcement of a ground-breaking series of 10 new marquee events to be staged annually on the Asian Tour over the next 10 years, representing a total commitment of over US\$200 million to support playing opportunities and prize funds. The move represents one of the single biggest investments in the history of professional golf.

The series will be added to the Asian Tour schedule from 2022 onwards, with new events across Asia, the Middle East and Europe. It has been designed to drive greater engagement amongst fans, attract new commercial interest and to help stabilize professional golf following a sustained period of worldwide disruption and uncertainty.

"This is only the beginning," commented Norman. "LIV Golf Investments has secured



a major capital commitment that will be used to create additive new opportunities across worldwide professional golf. We will be a cooperative and respectful supporter of the game at every level, and today's announcement alongside the Asian Tour is the first example of that.

"I have been a staunch supporter and believer in playing and developing golf in Asia for

more than four decades. The Asian Tour is a sleeping giant and we share ambition to grow the series and unlock what we believe is significant untapped potential. We see our promotion of these new events as a vital first step in supporting emerging markets, creating a new platform, rich with playing opportunities that create valuable player pathways." **GP**

Qualifying School to return for 2023 season

7 The Asian Tour has announced that its current membership exemption categories will remain in place for 2022 as only eight events will have been played by the end of the 2020-21 season, following two pandemic-affected years.

This means no Qualifying School will be required for the new season – which commences with the US\$5million Saudi International powered by SoftBank Advisers in February and is expected to be the biggest season in its history.

The next Qualifying School – which is normally held annually and attracts aspiring golfers from across the globe – will likely be held at the end of 2022 for the 2023 season.

“This is only fair and right,” said Cho Minn Thant, Commissioner & CEO, Asian Tour.

“Our members have had to endure an extremely difficult couple of years because of COVID-19, but they have been very patient and understanding as we have tried to work our way back. And they are now going to be rewarded with an opportunity to hit the reset button in 2022 and compete on what will be a new-look Tour.”

The Tour was forced to suspend play following the Bandar Malaysian Open last March due to the pandemic, but it is now set for resumption with the Asian Tour Phuket Series.

That starts with the Blue Canyon Phuket Championship from November 25-28 on the Canyon Course at Blue Canyon Country Club, followed by the Laguna Phuket Championship the following week at Laguna Golf Phuket.

Both events boast prizemoney of US\$1million and will be followed by two events being planned in Singapore in January that will bring to a conclusion the 2020-21 season.

Players will have everything to play for when the current season resumes as they will not only be vying to improve their playing status on Tour but also trying to finish into the top-30 on the Final Order of Merit which will allow them to earn a place in the Saudi International – to be played at Royal Greens Golf and Country Club from February 3-6. **GP**



Phachara, Asaji, Bio firsts!

7 A trio of Asian Tour members were triumphant at the weekend with Thailand's Phachara Khongwatmai, Yosuke Asaji from Japan, and Korean Bio Kim all winning on their respective home Tours.

Phachara claimed the Singha Esan Open on the All Thailand Golf Tour (ATGT) – for the third time in his career – just two weeks after winning the Singha Pattaya Open; Asaji won the Mynavi ABC Championship on the Japan Golf Tour Organization (JGTO); and Bio Kim secured the LG SIGNATURE Players Championship on the KPGA Tour.

Phachara's preparations for the restart of the Asian Tour at the end of this month in Phuket continued in brilliant fashion when he beat compatriot Chant Sakulphaisal on the first playoff hole at Singha Park Khon Kaen Golf Club.

He also lifted the trophy in 2016 and last year – when he also won in extra time beating Thailand's Kosuke Hamamoto. He won the Singha Pattaya Open by five shot and was joined third at last week's Thailand Open. The 22 year old has now won seven ATGT titles.

Asaji's win was his third on the JGTO and came after a two-stroke victory over Japan's Mikumu Horikawa and Tomohiro Ishizaka. All three were tied when they reached the 17th but Asaji finished birdie, birdie at ABC Golf Club.

Bio Kim secured the LG SIGNATURE Players Championship by the comfortable margin of five strokes from Joohyung Kim – Korea's 19-year-old star, who in 2019 became the second ever youngest winner on the Asian Tour. **GP**

Chan conquers Canyon!

7 Chinese-Taipei's Chan Shih-chang prevailed after a gripping finish to win the US\$1million Blue Canyon Phuket Championship today and become the first winner on the Asian Tour following a 20-month hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He shot a final round four-under-par 68 to finish on 18 under par and beat Thailand's Sodom Kaewkanjana and Joohyung Kim from Korea by one shot.

Sodom fired a 67 while teenager Kim returned 66 – on the iconic Canyon Course at Blue Canyon Country Club.

“It's impossible, it's amazing!” said Chan, whose last win on the Asian Tour came in the 2016 Asia-Pacific Diamond Cup in Japan.

“I am so happy to be back after the problems everyone has had with COVID. My front nine was not very good but an eagle on nine turned things around.”



The 35 year old was paired in the final group with Korean Sihwan Kim and Sodom and despite eagling the ninth he was still three behind Sihwan Kim at the turn.

But the Chinese-Taipei star showed why he is already a winner on Tour by birdieing four holes in a row from the 13th. **GP**

MAGNIFICENT MORIKAWA SEALS DRAMATIC DUBAI DOUBLE



Collin Morikawa became the first American to be crowned Race to Dubai Champion, and he did it in some style, by claiming his maiden Rolex Series title with a three-stroke victory in the DP World Tour Championship, Dubai.

A truly stunning 2021 season for the 24-year-old, which had already yielded a maiden World Golf Championships title, a second Major trophy, and a winning debut appearance in the Ryder Cup, was given a fairytale ending at Jumeirah Golf Estates.

Morikawa, whose last bogey of the tournament came on the 13th hole during round two, had to be patient in the final round as he picked up only one shot on the front nine. But his round took flight from the 12th hole, when a birdie three kicked off an incredible run of five birdies in the final seven holes. **GP**

LAWLOR SEALS FOUR SHOT VICTORY AT EDGA DUBAI FINALE

Ireland's Brendan Lawlor rounded off a fine individual year by winning the European Disabled Golfer's Association (EDGA) Dubai Finale by four shots at Jumeirah Golf Estates.

Lawlor carded a round of 73 on the Earth

Course for a winning total of one under par, holding off the challenge of Canadian Kurtis Barkley for his third victory in the five event series.



The 24 year old held a two shot overnight advantage after opening with a two under par round of 70 on Friday, but after a level par front nine, that lead was cut to just a single shot on the 14th hole.

Barkley, who was two over on the front nine, had birdied the tenth to apply some pressure at the top of the leaderboard, moving to one over par as Lawlor slipped back to level par due to three bogeys and one birdie after the turn. **GP**

COLLIN MORIKAWA AWARDED HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF THE EUROPEAN TOUR



Collin Morikawa has been awarded Honorary Life Membership of the European Tour in recognition of his debut Open Championship victory at Royal

St Georges in July.

The American, who goes into this week's season-ending DP World Tour Championship as leader of the European Tour's Race to Dubai, lifted the Claret Jug at the first attempt with a two shot victory over his Ryder Cup teammate Jordan Spieth at Sandwich.

It was the second time he had captured one of golf's four Major Championships in his first appearance, having also claimed a debut win in the 2020 US PGA Championship at TPC Harding Park in San Francisco. **GP**

THOMAS BJØRN WINS THE FINAL HERO CHALLENGE OF 2021 AT TOPGOLF DUBAI



Thomas Bjørn won the final Hero Challenge of 2021, defeating former Masters Champion Danny Willett and European Tour winners Min Woo Lee and Marcus Armitage at Topgolf Dubai.

The iconic location, located next to Emirates Golf Club, was the backdrop for the third and final Hero Challenge of 2021, with the 2018 Ryder Cup Captain Bjørn scoring the most points in the fun and fast shoot-out contest.

The quartet went head-to-head ahead of this week's final Rolex Series event, the DP World Tour Championship, Dubai, at Jumeirah Golf Estates.

They competed in the TOPSHOT Advanced game, with each player getting 20 shots, split into four rounds of five balls, with points awarded for hitting targets at increasing distances. **GP**

HANSEN HOLDS NERVE IN DUBAI FOR SECOND TITLE



Denmark's Joachim B. Hansen posted a final round of 68 to claim the Aviv Dubai Championship by one shot from Ryder Cup player Bernd Wiesberger and Italy's Francesco Laporta.

Hansen dropped only a single shot in 72 holes over the Fire Course at Jumeirah Golf Estates – a bogey five on the 15th in his third round – as he claimed his second European Tour title to add to his 2020 Joburg Open triumph.

The 31-year-old started the final round tied for the lead with Laporta but he birdied the opening hole to move clear at the top of the leaderboard and never relinquished his advantage, adding three more birdies to his scorecard on the seventh, tenth and 13th holes to finish on 23 under par. **GP**

GALLACHER REACHES 600TH EUROPEAN TOUR APPEARANCE IN DUBAI



Stephen Gallacher will join an exclusive club when he tees it up in the opening round of this week's AVIV Dubai Championship, becoming just the 14th player to

reach 600 European Tour appearances.

The four-time European winner from Scotland has enjoyed a celebrated career which included his appearance as the only home player on Paul McGinley's winning European side at the 2014 Ryder Cup in Gleneagles.

Gallacher becomes the fourth Scot to reach 600 European Tour events, after Sam Torrance, Colin Montgomerie and Paul Lawrie. The most recent player to reach 600 events was Denmark's Søren Kjeldsen at the 2020 Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship. **GP**

PIETERS PREVAILS IN PORTUGAL FOR FIFTH EUROPEAN TOUR TITLE

Thomas Pieters won his fifth European Tour title after a gutsy final round performance at the Portugal Masters, winning by two strokes at Dom Pedro Victoria.



The Belgian started the day in a share of the lead with Matthieu Pavon, but the Frenchman was cruising after the first 11 holes, holding a two-stroke lead as the pair stood on the 12th tee.

Pavon, chasing a maiden European Tour title, found the water twice on the par five, eventually carding a triple-bogey eight, while Pieters birdied for a four-stroke swing, moving to 19 under par.

Pieters recovered from a bogey on the 14th with a birdie on the 17th and then rolled in a par putt on the 18th hole from 20 feet for a two-stroke victory, his first since the 2019 D+D REAL Czech Masters. **GP**

HEROIC HELLIGKILDE SECURES ROLEX GRAND FINAL AND RANKINGS DOUBLE



Marcus Helligkilde became the third Dane to win the Road to Mallorca Rankings after securing his third victory of the season at the Rolex Challenge Tour Grand Final supported by The R&A.

The 25-year-old posted a closing one over par round of 72 to move to eight under par and clinch an emotional victory at T Golf & Country Club. The Dane's win saw him climb two places to the top of the Road to Mallorca Rankings and become the third Challenge Tour Number One to hail from Denmark, after 15-time European Tour winner Thomas Bjørn in 1995 and 2018 Rankings winner JB Hansen.

Helligkilde, who won the Swiss Challenge and Vierumäki Finnish Challenge earlier this season, finished 34,337 points clear of Portugal's Ricardo Gouveia, who came second in the Rankings, with Spain's Santiago Tarrío third. **GP**

EARLY EAGLE SENDS MIZUKI HASHIMOTO ON THE WAY TO VICTORY IN THE 2021 WOMEN'S AMATEUR ASIA-PACIFIC CHAMPIONSHIP

Japan's outstanding year in golf continued when Mizuki Hashimoto shot a fourth successive round of four-under-par 68 to win the third edition of the Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific (WAAP) championship by one stroke.

At Abu Dhabi Golf Club, Hashimoto finished on a 16-under-par total of 272 and became the second successive Japanese champion after Yuka Yasuda lifted the trophy when it was last played in 2019. The Thai duo of Kan Bunnabodee (66) and overnight leader Natthakritta Vongtaveelap (72), along with Australia's Kelsey Bennett (68), were tied second at 15-under-par.

Nagano Inagaki (68), also of Japan finished fifth at 13-under-par, with Malaysia's Ashley Lau (70) a shot further back in sixth.

In April this year, Japan's Tsubasa Kajitani and Hideki Matsuyama were winners in back-to-back weeks at the Augusta National Women's Amateur and The Masters and a similar pattern unfolded in the UAE with Keita Nakajima winning the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship in Dubai last week.



"I have always seen these tournaments on the television. To be able to play in them is like a dream-come-true for me."

Apart from the beautiful trophy, the 19-year-old Hashimoto secured major championship places in next year's AIG Women's Open and the Amundi Evian Championship as well as the Hana Financial Group Championship and an invitation to play in the Augusta National Women's Amateur.

"I have always seen these tournaments

on the television. To be able to play in them is like a dream-come-true for me," said Hashimoto, the World Amateur Golf Ranking® (WAGR®) number 121.

"I am unable to say any words right now. I feel so happy to win this championship. I would like to say a big thank you to my teammates and everyone who supported me all week. **GP**

VALERY PLATA WINS THE INAUGURAL WOMEN'S AMATEUR LATIN AMERICA CHAMPIONSHIP

Colombia's Valery Plata has won the inaugural Women's Amateur Latin America championship presented by The R&A and ANNIKA Foundation.

Plata pipped compatriot María José Marin Negrete by one shot in a thrilling climax at Pilar Golf to finish on a 12-under-par total of 276 and become the first ever winner of the Women's Amateur Latin America championship.

The Colombian duo dominated the field and were the only two players to break par over four rounds at the Blue and White course.

Valentina Rossi finished twelve shots adrift of Plata in third place on an even par total of 288 with fellow Argentine María Cabanillas three shots further back on a three-over-par total of 291, which was good enough for fourth place.

Maria Alejandra Hoyos Villegas of Colombia

and Guatemala's Valeria Mendizabal shared fifth spot on four-over-par 292.

With her victory, Plata has earned exemptions into the AIG Women's Open, the Amundi Evian Championship, the Women's Amateur Championship and the Hilton Grand Vacations ANNIKA Invitational presented by Rolex in 2022.

Both Plata and Marin Negrete will also receive invitations to the upcoming South American Amateur Championship.

"I'm very happy. I still don't realise what I've achieved or how big this win is for me," said Plata.

"It was a very difficult day and the wind

"I'm very happy. I still don't realise what I've achieved or how big this win is for me."



was tough, but even when I was four strokes behind Majo, I promised myself I would not give up until the very end and luckily things turned in my favour. **GP**

THITIKUL BECOMES YOUNGEST WINNER OF RACE TO COSTA DEL SOL

Thailand's Atthaya Thitikul clinched the 2021 Race to Costa del Sol title thanks to her second-place finish at the Aramco Saudi Ladies International.

In her first full season on the Ladies European Tour, the 18-year-old has been consistent throughout 2021 managing to secure the title with two events remaining in the LET calendar and she becomes the youngest winner of the accolade surpassing Charley Hull's previous record.

The Thai teenager has only finished outside the top ten on three occasions in individual events in 2021 and has added two further LET titles this year winning the Tipsport Czech Ladies Open and VP Bank Swiss Ladies Open.

"It is an honour to win the Race to Costa del Sol this year," said Thitikul. "Words can't describe how I'm feeling. It is really great to win the title and it is amazing for me!"

Thitikul, who holds the record as the youngest winner on the LET at 14 years, 4 months and 19 days, also follows in the footsteps of Dame Laura Davies, Carlota Ciganda and Esther Henseleit by winning both the



Race to Costa del Sol and Rookie of the Year titles in the same season.

The four-time LET winner, who has risen from 308 to 24 in the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings, is also the first player from her homeland to win the season-long crown and the third winner from Asia. **GP**

TEAM PEDERSEN WIN AFTER PLAYOFF AS BABNIK SECURES INDIVIDUAL TITLE IN JEDDAH

Team Pedersen claimed victory at the Aramco Team Series – Jeddah after they beat Team Lydia Hall in a two-hole playoff at Royal Greens Golf & Country Club.

The quartet of Emily Kristine Pedersen, Hannah Burke, Krista Bakker and amateur Ahmed Al Subaey began the day five shots behind the overnight leaders and produced a final round of -18 to reach a total of 51-under-par.

With the floodlights turned on in Jeddah, captain Pedersen headed back down to the 18th to compete in a playoff against Lydia Hall, with an eagle on the second playoff hole for the Dane ensuring she won the Team event for the second successive year.

"It means a lot to win, I came back to Saudi Arabia hoping to get a win again and it's just amazing to do it," said the 2020 Race to Costa del Sol champion. "I love it around here so it's great!"

"We had a lot of fun in the team, and it was a big team effort, we kept the energy high and kept each other high so it was a really great week.

"I had a lot of good memories from the [ASLI] playoff last year, so it was fun. I feel like I know this course really well now so I'm just happy to be here."

It was a second LET title for England's Burke, with her last coming back in 2015 at the Tipsport



Golf Masters in the Czech Republic, while it was a first for Finland's Bakker.

"It's a bit surreal, I've had a few tough years mentally and physically so it's absolutely amazing, I'm loving it," said Burke. **GP**

KO STORMS TO ARAMCO SAUDI LADIES INTERNATIONAL TITLE

New Zealand's Lydia Ko fired a final round of 65 to triumph by five shots at the Aramco Saudi Ladies International presented by Public Investment Fund.

Ko, who is seventh in the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings, began the day on 16-under-par and started well with a birdie on the first.

The two-time Major winner continued her fine form with birdies at five and seven before she sank an eagle putt on the par-five ninth to make the turn in 31 (-5).

Another birdie on the 10th gave Ko a six-shot lead and she rolled in her final birdie on the 13th to post a winning total of 23-under-par.

"When I was out there, I was just trying to play the best golf that I can. I knew a lot of the top names were playing really well and this is a golf course where there's a fair amount of birdies, so I was just trying to have my fair share of them and have fun out there," said Ko.

"It helps when you're going into the final round with a four-shot cushion, you could shoot the same score as others, but you have those shots from the last three days.



"I birdied the first hole and holed two really good putts for par on two and three which really set the momentum up, and from there I tried not to look back and just go forward." **GP**



GOLF NEEDS A 'DRESSING DOWN' *THAT'S THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT*

By Michael Wilson

Back in the day, even into the early 20th century, stern-looking bearded men wore three-piece suits - complete with tie, flat cap and stout shoes to participate in the royal and ancient game, tweed raincoats donned in inclement conditions.

Meanwhile, their few female equivalents who took to the links did so dressed in full-length gowns, complete with bustles and Easter-style bonnets - they also wore stout shoes - but these were more formal, deferential times, and, in fairness, such garb was the order of the day, on and off the links.

But, while golf, with new textile technology, a burgeoning golf 'fashion' market and performance-wear has increasingly become par for the course, street style - including 'wicked' colour combinations - have increasingly become the essential on-course look.

The era of 'Golf Fashion' arrived long ago and yet it's still not, for the traditionalists who still mostly run the game, a comfortable fit; why on earth should a game that now - rightly so - describes its most exceptional practitioners as 'Athletes' still preclude those elite male exponents from wearing shorts during competition?

Despite advances in fabric technology, creative design, a seemingly unlimited colour palette and unprecedented popular demand, and with all the big brands committed to biannual releases of their latest seasonal sartorial offerings, aspects of professional golf remain intrinsically stuck in the past.

The greatest change in professional golf - especially the men's game - in recent years is that, whereas for much of the first 250-years of the game's existence golfers were simply

golfers, but next-gen players are athletes first and golfers second.

However, despite the advent of a weekly parade - on TV, online and on course - of





increasingly fine physiques, ripped, muscular bodies forged in the gymnasias of the world, when it comes to game time, golf's authorities, from the R&A to the USGA, the PGA TOUR and its European and Asian cousins continued to draw a veil over the issue, insisting the wearing of shorts remains banned; only a few years back did the men in blazers chill out with the momentous, ground-breaking permission given for shorts to be worn – as a matter of individual choice – but during practice rounds only.

As usual, the women are ahead of the game, but only just; after years of ever-shorter shorts and revealing attire, back in 2017, the normally-progressive LPGA issued instructions on limitations one what was deemed acceptable and what was not out on the links.

Amongst those restrictions, the LPGA mandated, "Plunging necklines are NOT allowed," and, "Length of skirt, skort, and shorts MUST be long enough to not see your bottom," whilst even off-course, female professionals were told, "Appropriate attire should be worn to pro-am parties," adding, "You should be dressing yourself to present a professional image. Please note 'dressy' jeans are allowed, but cut-offs or jeans with holes are NOT allowed."

Of all the leading sports, golf is in the vanguard of technological advance, primarily through manufacturers' bi-annual offerings of apparel is driven by fashion, style and panache, gone are the old-fashioned virtues such as affordability and durability.

Leading golf brands continue to push the boundaries in terms of innovative design and inventive materials, yet they have been seriously hampered by governing bodies and professional tours flat-out refusing to allow shorts to be worn, full stop.

But, in 2016 men's professional golf appeared to emerge from the dark ages when the European and Sunshine Tours jointly agreed to permit players to wear shorts, but only on

The greatest change in professional golf – especially the men's game – in recent years is that, whereas for much of the first 250-years of the game's existence golfers were simply golfers, but next-gen players are athletes first and golfers second.

practice or pro-am days, more of a nod to the searing temperatures in sub-Saharan Africa than either athletic performance or the optics of sport.

Five-years-later, as the so-called 'Climate Emergency' worsened, golf's tectonic plates shifted once again, the same circuits announcing shorts could indeed be worn during competition; but rather than a blanket reversal of this draconian and pointless rule, this was only for the 2019 Alfred Dunhill Championship in South Africa where midday temperatures in excess of 40° were forecast.

So, shorts or no shorts on the professional tours, come Thursday and game time, still,



only members of the women's tours have that choice – shorts or no shorts - to make.

If you are a male professional, on any of the pro circuits, even in searingly high ambient temperatures, for the guys, short trousers by-and-large remain out of the question.

The golf apparel market, which covers shirts, sweaters, wet-weather suits, hats and caps, trousers – and yes, shorts – and golf gloves was worth a staggering US\$3,931-million in 2019, and is forecast to reach US\$4,565-million by 2025, with an annual growth rate of 2.52% between 2020 – 2025, big bucks indeed, yet it seems the traditionalists who still control golf's levers of power would still appear to, by-and-large be stuck in a time warp, many, indeed a majority, still insisting on conventional, classical dress codes.

Of course, we golfers, young and old, male and female, competent or incompetent are mimics at heart, following our favourite pros, those we admire and whilst we cannot remotely swing a golf club like them, we can all, with very little effort, at least look a little bit like them.

What low-mid-or-high handicap male golfer hasn't at one time in their golfing lives at least transposed himself into a Tiger Woods by wearing red come the Sunday morning monthly medal, perhaps a gesture of good luck or misplaced optimism?

Meanwhile, with men's and women's golf attracting the eyes of the world and enjoying the global visibility offered by the Olympic Games, Tokyo organisers opted to play the tournament over one of the most traditional and conservative courses in the golf-obsessed



If you are a male professional, on any of the pro circuits, even in searingly high ambient temperatures, for the guys, short trousers by-and-large remain out of the question.



country, the Kasumigaseki Country Club on the outskirts of the city.

Not only did the venerable and exclusive male-only club, which opened for play back in 1929 require to change its constitution to permit females to play over its manicured layout, but its dress code reads like something out of a different, distant era.

It starts, 'Golf attire is part and parcel of the tradition and culture of the Kasumigaseki Country Club, and all players are expected to dress appropriately for when arriving, during play, and in the clubhouse.

'Dressing to reflect the club's values and heritage means taking care not only with colours, patterns, and designs but also in the way you wear your outfit,' it states adding, 'Shorts are not allowed at the time of arrival [but] may be worn during play, provided they are paired with knee-high socks.'

Hardly reflecting either a contemporary outlook or a warm welcome to the best female players in the world, the KCC dress code states, 'Miniskirts, hot pants, tights, and leggings are not allowed for women. Golf skirts and culottes should be no shorter than 5cm above the knee.'

The club's Etiquette and Fellowship Committee continued, 'Shirts should be tucked

in at all times, overblouse styles are acceptable for women; however, cropped lengths that show the midriff are not allowed,' the edict concluding, 'Towels should not be hung over the neck, shoulders, or the waistband of the trousers.'

And, still, to this day, golf clubs all around the world – the more exclusive and expensive they are, it seems, the worse they get – insist on, 'Appropriate golf attire,' or, 'Traditional golf clothing,' whilst at the same time hoping – and often claiming – to attract that most attractive and profitable long-term demographic, pre-teens and teenagers.

But many teenagers are imbued with a rebellious streak, especially when it comes to the compunction of school uniforms or their parents' golf clubs specifying what they can wear and can't, from the permissible colour of socks to the banning of denim, cargo pants and collarless shirts (aka, the ubiquitous T-shirt, slogan or no slogan) to the height above the knee shorts would be deemed acceptable.


The situation in India is mixed; old, traditional golf clubs such as Royal Calcutta, perhaps as a hangover from the founding fathers of the British Empire requires a largely traditional dress code, shorts permitted on the golf course, jeans not, the social areas strictly controlled, perhaps reflecting an aging membership cohort.

Meanwhile, the DLF Golf & Country Club in Guragon near New Delhi, home to the India Open; opened just over 20-years-ago and with a 'Resort,' ambiance, it demands a less rigid, more informal, liberal approach to attire is taken.

But, if golf is to grow across the sub-continent and ultimately fulfil its undoubted potential to mount a challenge to cricket as India's most popular sport, meeting the needs of pre-teens and teenagers of both genders will be vital, which will inevitably involve clubs



and courses, 'Dressing down,' catering for the needs of the next generation, shorts, jeans and even back-to-front golf caps and even the mobile phone on which they run their young lives.

That, golf, is the long and short of it, so get over it, or wither on the vine. 

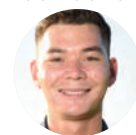
CURE YOUR SLICE

(AND OTHER DEADLY SINS)

For every score-wrecking fault, there's a very simple solution

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YOUR COACH



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Gleneagles.com

Sometimes, we just don't need hi-tech data-tracking to tell us just how costly our bad shots are. It's the sort of thing that dawns on us as we jump out of the way to watch another failed bunker shot roll back into our footprints. We can

place dunched chips, dopey three-putts and wild sliced drives into the hollyhocks into this category. When you commit one of golf's deadly sins, you tend to know you have.

That said, other sins are slightly less obvious. Serially

weak tee shots might not seem so bad, but given the importance of distance to score – plus the fact it is more down to method than muscles – short drives can be considered a modern sin.

Similarly, with greens in regulation a key score

predictor, we can add severely fat and thin irons to this decidedly unmagnificent seven.

This article is designed to help you make progress with any and all of them. Sure, you'll sin again... just hopefully not so often. **GP**

1ST DEADLY SIN SLICING YOUR DRIVES



Chances are you need no introduction to the slice – but your chances of curing it will rise exponentially when you have a clear understanding of where it comes from. In simple terms, we slice the ball when the clubface is dramatically open to the swing path at impact. To get on top of this deadly sin, then, we need to address both face and path...

#1 IMPROVE FACE-TO-PATH RELATIONSHIP

To cure a slice, we must...

- Square up that open face.
- Straighten out a path that typically works leftward (right-handers) to compensate for the open face.



Stronger grip and squarer face

Adjust your gloved-hand grip until you can see two-to-three knuckles on the back of the hand. For the chronic slicer, the hand will probably feel turned more on top of the handle. Bring your trail hand in more from under the handle to match the orientation of the gloved hand.



Turn for the better

A stronger grip – lead hand more on top of the handle, trail hand more underneath – encourages clubface rotation. This is really going to help the slicer square the face up. Make several swings without a ball, focusing solely on the clubface. Work on getting the clubface vertical as the shaft swings through horizontal.

3

Tie it into the path

The second element here is swing path. A stronger, squarer face is great, but if it's delivered on a leftward path the right-hander is going to hit plenty of pulls and pull hooks. A neutral or even slightly rightward path complements the stronger face.

Frame in-to-out

Train this path by delivering the club between two headcovers – one behind the ball and outside the target line, the second in front and inside the line. Make that old out-to-in path and you'll hit a lot of headcover and not much ball; swing cleanly between the two to train in-to-out with a closing face – the perfect face-to-path relationship for a draw.

#2 MAINTAIN THAT STRONGER FACE

Slices happen when we present an open or weak clubface to the ball. Even with a sound grip, we can still sew the seeds for this at the start of the swing. Improve this move to find your groove...



Resist the roll

Your golf swing needs to blend armswing and core rotation right from the start. Commonly though, the hands and arms do all the work while the body remains passive. This typically creates a takeaway where the club is rolled away, the face fanning wide open and the glove badge facing the sky. It's a move that's tough to recover from, and usually results in weak slices.



Split decision

To train a more effective first move, grip the club with your gloved hand in its usual position and your trail hand right down at the bottom of the grip. **GP**

Stronger start

Make a series of backswings with this split-hand grip. Keep the pace slow and controlled. Feel how, with the hands apart, your trail arm instinctively moves into a position more on top of the lead arm. Your glove badge and the clubface remain looking more down towards the ground in a much squarer and stronger position.

Hands in, clubhead out

One other sensation to look out for is the clubhead remaining 'outside' your hands throughout this first move. This feeling of hands-in, clubhead-out sets up a much better path for the swing. Contrast that with the hands-out, clubhead-in rolling move, which only sets up an out-to-in loop with an open face – the perfect ingredients for a slice.



2ND DEADLY SIN THREE-PUTTING

↘ When we three-putt, our temptation is to blame a single element of our stroke – perhaps it is to do with direction, perhaps it's a question of poor distance control. But you will make most progress in eliminating this irritating problem when you focus on the key elements that go into every successful stroke: smooth rhythm, sweet strike, good focus. Let's take each in turn...

BETTER RHYTHM COIN DROP

When you lose the rhythm and flow in your stroke, it shows up most obviously in the change of direction. Instead of a comfortable and controlled move, it becomes quick and jerky. This exercise will help you smooth it out...



Place a coin on the back of your putter...

This is probably easier with traditional blade putters like the one I'm using here, but most designs allow you to rest a coin somewhere. Then take your regular set-up.



... Swing the putter back...

All you're trying to do here is keep the coin on the back of the putter until it changes direction. If you move too fast, the sudden acceleration at the start – or deceleration at the change of direction – will see the coin fly off the back of the putter.

3 ... Leave the coin behind

Now swing the putter forward. The ideal rhythm sees the coin drop just as you start forward, effectively marking the length of the backswing. This reveals a smooth but important acceleration in the putter – move forward too slowly and the coin stays on the putter.



BETTER STRIKE TARGET THE SWEETSPOT

A centred strike is vital to good putting because...

- It delivers the expected energy transfer for the length of stroke, helping distance control.
- It stops the face twisting at impact, improving direction control.



Tack room

To improve your strike quality, frame the sweetspot of your putter with something soft and mushy – Blu Tack is ideal. With the penalty for missing the middle now so severe, you have no option but to find and train a stroke that delivers that sweet-zone impact. Inevitably, the problems that saw you miss it – perhaps some head movement or a poor swing path – will disappear as you work harder to find an effective strike.

BETTER FOCUS SHARPEN YOUR SCORING INSTINCTS

Sometimes we three-putt because we are simply not sufficiently focused. That's fine – after all, we are not playing for a living – and yet sloppy three-putts are one of the most frustrating ways of marring the scorecard. The best way to cut these out is to train your focus, just as you might train your technique. Here is a scoring game that will help you do just that. It's called Par 15...



Three times three

Set up nine balls in three groups of three. Each group should represent a different length of putt – let's say 5ft, 10ft and 15ft. A par score of 15 sees you hole all three of the short putts and two-putt all six of the longer ones.

Sharper score

This game is a great way to work on shorter and longer putts at the same time... and both under the pressure of a scoring situation. It quickly becomes addictive; can you make up for a missed shorter putt by holing a longer one? Can you beat your personal best? But best of all, you become immersed in the process of trying to score... and that's exactly the mindset you need to be in to avoid those needless three-jabs. **GP**

3RD DEADLY SIN HITTING YOUR IRONS FAT

One of the most common golfing sins, heavy iron strikes are also one of the easiest to correct. All you have to do is grasp the concept of 'low point' – where the club bottoms out on its circular journey. The low point always falls opposite the lead chest, so the quickest route to a duff is to allow your lead chest to fall behind the ball. Here are two drills that will help you guard against it...

DRILL 1 TRAIL SIDE CONTAINER

The most common reason for your lead chest falling behind the ball is a simple lateral sway.



Slide show

In the classic sway, your trail hip doesn't so much rotate as slide; it simply drifts away from the target, your weight shifting to the outside of the foot. Your upper body shifts with it, placing the lead chest behind the ball. This is the classic duff move.



Trail side guide

To check if you are swaying, position an obstacle close to the outside of your trail leg. Ideally you will use an alignment rod, angled parallel to the leg as shown, but a golf bag can work too. Make sure there is a small gap between your trail hip and the obstacle.



Hip works back

To check you are not falling into this trap, and to train a better backswing move, practise preserving or even increasing the gap between your trail hip and the rod as you swing back. There are two key feelings to look for...

1. Your trail-hip pocket works behind you.
2. Your weight gathers on the inside of the trail foot, favouring the heel.

Let that rod contain your lateral motion and you will hold a much more effective lead-chest position, over the ball. This will help you achieve a clean, compressing strike.

DRILL 2 LEAD-SIDE TRAINER

You can also tackle the problem of falling behind the ball by focusing on your lead side. Try this...



Get on the front foot

Take a mid-iron. Address the ball opposite your lead toe cap. Withdraw your trail foot so you are balanced on your lead foot and trail toe. This gives you a lead-side orientated set-up, the lead chest level with the ball.



Centre stage

Make a half-backswing. Without your trail leg there to permit and support any lateral swaying, you are forced to stay centred and stacked if you want to stay balanced. At first, use half swings to feel this. Gradually build to a fuller motion as your ability to stabilise yourself improves.



3 Balance challenge

After hitting a series of shots from just a half-backswing, build up to a fuller, faster action. By challenging your balance and forcing you to play off your lead foot, this drill forces your upper body to adopt good form. As soon as your chest drifts behind the ball, you will quite simply lose stability and fall backwards.

Look for these signs of progress...

- Forward shaft lean (handle leads head) at impact.
- Some ground interaction – a bruising or shallow divot – after the ball and not before it.
- A lower, more driven strike.

Once you start to feel these on a regular basis, take your regular two-footed stance; but aim to repeat that same centred, stacked feeling throughout your backswing. **GP**

SANTA CLAUS GOES BIG FOR CHRISTMAS 2021

By Randy O. Williams

The editors of Golf Plus have forwarded all your wish lists to Santa and it's pretty clear that the range of holiday gifts is long and wide, so this year we will attempt to capture that spirit and present an absolute treasure trove of gift ideas for this year's Christmas shoppers.

So along with the help of some of his expert helpers, here now are some items that are sure to bring smiles to all those you share this festive time with.

We tee off of course with clubs, because every player is always looking for an edge. And you can't go wrong with gifting that special golfer in your life with a wedge.

"Many golfers spend an inordinate amount of time, energy and money focusing on their driver selection (a club they might hit 13 or 14 times during a normal 18-hole round), when they really should be spending more time selecting wedges which they will use MUCH more often (perhaps on up to 40% of their shots during a round)," suggests Scott White, CEO of the Ben Hogan Golf Company.

And in today's game, high-tech reaches beyond

the science of the swing.

Helping with club selection is the rangefinder.

Drew Koehler, Co-Founder and Head of Business Development at Blue Tees Golf, talks about what is trending in terms of technical and design developments with rangefinders.

"Industry wide, as it relates to premium rangefinders on the market, we are seeing the addition of slope switches and built-in magnets."

The California-based executive emphasizes the importance of having a slope feature.

"For the everyday golfer, slope is incredibly helpful for an accurate distance measurement. Per the USGA, slope is not allowed to be used in competition golf, thus a slope switch is more important than ever and why we added a slope switch to our Blue Tees Series 3 Max."

And carrying your clubs from shot-to-shot has never been easier as high-tech has been building up in the cart sector as well with the rapid development of the automatic carts.

"One of the great things about the electric cart market is that there is something for almost

every golfer. At the lower price points there are basic 'single motor' models that will get your clubs around a course without you having to push, in the middle there are nicer looking units with features like screens and built in GPS, and then at the top end there are remote control and even automatic following carts. Most will be using lithium batteries which is a great technology, and most fold to go in the trunk if you need to take your cart home at the end of the round, with some designed to be very compact if you have a small car," explained Mark Stewart, CEO, Stewart Golf (based in the UK) who adds, "A golf cart that follows the golfer automatically is the next best thing to a caddy, some argue it is even better as it won't take 10% of your winnings!"

And in golf, a winning wardrobe is a constant pursuit in chasing down that adage, 'looking good, feeling good'.

One of the sport's favorite apparel companies is Tommy Bahama.

To help Golf Plus readers optimize their shopping budget, Dawn Brandl, Senior Vice President of Men's Design for Tommy Bahama

1

▶▶ Choosing the right wedges can be one of the fastest and most effective ways to improve your score. Here's one to ask Santa for Christmas. New from well-regarded golf club manufacturer the Ben Hogan Company comes

The Equalizer II. A fully forged design, it produces incredible feel and feedback from any and all conditions. "Ben Hogan Equalizer II wedges are forged from soft 1025 carbon steel for a soft, buttery feel and exceptional feedback. They truly are some of the best-looking and best-performing wedges on the market. The gap, sand and lob wedges utilize an ingenious 'Progressive Center of Mass Weighting System'. In short, this helps create optimal trajectories and maximum spin from the fringe, bunkers, and on less-than-full shots from the fairway," said Scott White, CEO of the Ben Hogan Golf Company.



2

▶▶ From Callaway comes a new generation of **Chrome Soft Balls**. Both the Chrome Soft and Chrome Soft X have been fully re-designed to promote more speed and distance while maintaining the great feel and spin characteristics they are known for. This includes a redesigned Dual SoftFast core with a 34% larger volume inner core and a thinner, graphene-infused outer core to promote faster ball speed and increased wedge spin for the former and a new lower drag aerodynamic dimple pattern which promotes a penetrating flight and longer distance for the latter.



explains what is trending regarding sweaters, as well as the latest technical developments to keep the player comfortable.

"We are seeing much more texture and dimension in sweaters. Gone are the days of heavy scratchy sweaters. Men want to wear more breathable, weightless sweaters that are versatile," Brandl explains. "They want yarns and silhouettes that have multiple wearing occasions – sweaters that can go from day to night or course to clubhouse."

In many of our sportswear products we are adding technical performance yarns, and this includes sweaters. In our Coolside Island Zone

sweaters we added Coolmax Yarn -- this helps keep you cool in humid temperatures and also allows this sweater to be worn on course or in the clubhouse."

As far as what is popular in hues and tones, Ms. Brandl said, "... any shades or tones of blues, and seafoam green/blues, as well as pinks and jade greens".

Another global apparel brand with a highly-respected reputation for enduring quality is Dale of Norway. Where the deep fjords of west coast Norway ends, tucked away between towering mountains, this company is crafting the finest knitwear from 100% pure wool.

Håkon Dyngeland Solem, Dale of Norway's Creative Director, advises readers on what they should be looking for in terms of components when shopping for a sweater from any company that indicates they are acquiring a quality product.

"Consumers should look for quality details such as linked seams instead of sewn garments, the recovery of knits and longevity of the product itself. Both in terms of the design and in the product quality itself. Also, the finishes of the garment details in hem and neck lines, the stitching of accessories etc., products with less peeling. Consumers should also look into

3



- ▶▶ Celebrating their 140th Anniversary, this **Dale of Norway men's sweater** pays homage to the long-standing Norwegian knitting tradition Dale of Norway has been a part of for 140 years. Made with 100% long-lasting Norwegian wool, this classic sweater features the traditional Norwegian eight-petal rose combined with pattern from the Setesdal male folk costume. Braided side panels, Norwegian-made pewter buttons, and the letters CXL, the Roman numerals for 140, discretely integrated in the back, tops it off.

- ▶▶ On the women's side is the versatile **Veskre** a warm, windproof and water repellent sweater made of 100% Norwegian wool. It also features a breathable windproof lining made with a technical polyester/polyurethane blend, hand gaiters with thumb holes, zippered pockets, and a practical drawstring at the hips.



4



- ▶▶ The iconic **Pike Mini Pennant Polo** from Cutter & Buck is engineered for exceptional versatility, a golf polo that looks sharp on its own, under a sport coat, or with a sweater. Super smooth with stretch, it blends the best DryTec polyester with spandex. UPF 50+ UV Sun Protection.



- ▶▶ The **Forge Heather Wave Print Polo** features a water inspired design and is lightweight, breathable, moisture wicking and has a four-way stretch. 50+ UPF Sun Protection.



- ▶▶ The popular **Adrenaline GTS 21** from Brooks continues to move along in fine form. Besides the distinct GuideRails support that keeps you moving comfortably by keeping excess movement in check, new this year is that the DNA LOFT now extends all the way from heel forefoot for a smooth heel-toe transition.

5



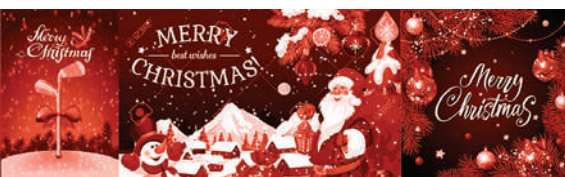
- ▶▶ The **Tartan Wrinkle-Free Comfort Stretch Long-Sleeved Shirt** from Orvis will become a favorite as you will enjoy exceptional comfort with easy-care good looks. Available in several different patterns, this shirt also offers a patented two-step Wrinkle-Free process that treats the fabric and then the seams to ensure you look great all day long.

6



- ▶▶ It may be called **The Beast** but with its smart support, soft cushioning and enhanced fit, one thing for sure, it will be your reliable friend out on the road. Loyal fans of Brooks call it the best road workout shoe out there.

7





the sustainability in a garment made in high quality, it gives longevity and a quality knit, like the Dale of Norway sweater, will reduce production footprint due to its longevity.”

And looking good also extends to being fit, so if someone on your gift list is keen on staying in shape there’s a new product that has put a new twist on exercise poles.

Stickmobility co-founder Neal Valera explains how these flexible devices can help every golfer.

“To maximize your golf technique, you have to be able to get into and maintain different positions and postures at a high speed.

Unlocking your mobility is the first step. This will not only allow you to improve your swing and increase clubhead speed, but it will also help longevity in the sport. Better mobility and body awareness will help distribute forces in the right places, mitigating potential injury. We developed a golf specific training program to help improve a players golf swing and progress from beginner to advanced mobility.”

And when it comes to business, mobility is also of growing importance. One of the leading companies in this area is Targus. Andrew Corkill, the company’s VP, Global Marketing & eCommerce tells us what shoppers should look for in general when considering a purchase

To maximize your golf technique, you have to be able to get into and maintain different positions and postures at a high speed. Unlocking your mobility is the first step.

8



▲ Redefine smart casual with a **Romeo Merino** vest. This iconic men’s classic is crafted with 100% sustainably sourced merino wool. Wrinkle and pilling resistant, a timeless silhouette thoughtfully crafted for easy layering.

9

▶▶ Whether you are chronicling a bold adventure, or quietly sketching at home, this **Tactile Craftworks Journal** will remind you of a city you love. Each item is made by hand. is made of full-grain leather and closes securely with a solid brass Sam Browne closure. It includes a lined Moleskine notebook which can be replaced again and again. It’s a long-lasting gift for the artist, writer, or adventurer in your life.



10



▶▶ Footjoy wants to stretch your golf season with these **cart mitts**. They are water resistant. Using a durable polyester shell helps keep your mitts dry during mist or light rain conditions. A soft warm liner provides hand warmth and comfort provides a thermal feel. And a Velcro pocket offers the convenience of added room for storage.

▶▶ Extend your play in foul weather with these gloves from Footjoy. Engineered fleece and an all-climate grip, experience the ultimate in thermal performance with a pair of The **StaSof Winter** men’s golf gloves.



11



▲ What is a Christmas these days without a few tech toy gifts under the tree? **Smart Tablet M8 with Google Assistant** from **Lenovo** has it all. It’s fast & powerful as nothing spoils a great video or an immersive game like sluggish performance and sketchy connectivity. That’s why they powered it with a quad-core processor for fast performance and up to 5GHz Wi-Fi for reliable streaming. Connect it to the Smart Charging Station dock and open a world of possibilities with the Google Assistant’s Ambient Mode.

12

▶▶ Merge intelligent weather protection and ultra-soft warmth with the **Cedar Park fleece vest** from Cutter&Buck as you’ll enjoy a garment that features a self-fabric mock neck to keep the wind away while the hybrid fabric piecing at the collar, shoulder and back yoke repels water.



13



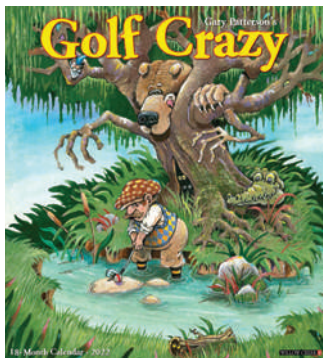
- The **Merino Wool Inner Ribbed Beanie Hat** is where major style meets full protection. Lightweight but insulating enough for winter, it also features temperature regulating properties that make this a fine accessory come spring. Featuring an ultra-soft feel and UV sun protection, it is naturally antibacterial.

14



- Everybody can use a pair of golf shoes from Santa Claus. The **ZG21 Motion Primegreen Boa Mid** golf shoes from Adidas provide a solid foundation for your game with a Boost and Lightstrike hybrid midsole for cushioned comfort and energy return. The waterproof PerformFit Wrap powered by the BOA Fit System lets you dial in a precise fit and keeps your feet dry in damp conditions.

15



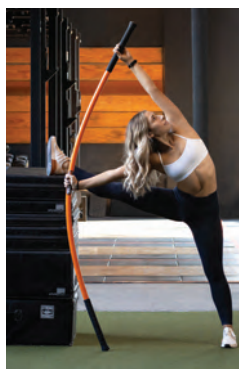
- In **Golf Crazy**, world-renowned artist Gary Patterson brings to life all the triumphs and frustrations of weekend warriors with his endearingly funny illustrations about the game of golf and those who play it. You'll rate this hysterical collection way above par - and score a hole in one with golfer friends who receive it as a gift. Printed with soy-based inks on FSC certified paper, this 12" x 12" **wall calendar** features large monthly grids that offer ample room for jotting notes.

16



- On the golf course, out for a hike, and just about any outdoor adventure you take on, be seen, be comfortable in this **softshell vest** from Orvis. Moisture-wicking, using a fabric that is breathable, highly water resistant, and windproof, you will have a very versatile layer in your wardrobe.

17



- Here comes a terrific new twist for the golfer in your life. These **Stick Bundlers** as company co-founder Neal Valera so succinctly explains it will help - "To maximize your golf technique you have to be able to get into and maintain different positions and postures at a high speed. Unlocking your mobility is the first step. This will not only allow you to improve your swing and increase clubhead speed, but it will also help longevity in the sport."

18



- The **Pro-Tek Universal 9-11 inch Keyboard Case** is a universal keyboard case that delivers everyday versatility and protection for most tablets with 9 to 11 inch screens. Patented 360-degree cradle rotation enables easy portrait and landscape viewing. Flexible cradle with reinforced corners secures and protects the tablet. Bluetooth 5.0 keyboard magnetically attaches and is compatible with Windows, Android, and iOS.

19



- This **Tablet Pillow Stand** allows you to prop your tablet, phone or papers up to 12.9". Featuring three angles for your viewing preference and made of lightweight foam, it delivers a comfortable, hands-free viewing experience.

20



- With power on demand, this **Juice Pack Connect Battery** from Mophie lets you easily charge your phone without the need to constantly have a battery attached. Simply attach the juice pack battery when low on battery and slide off when you're charged up.

21



- True Linkswear's **Tru Lux Sport** is state-of-the-art comfort for your feet. One of its keys is that features a superfoam midsole for maximum rebound, comfort and transitional (6mm) drop for a more athletic feel. Stylish, comfortable and breathable, featuring their new Adaptive Sport Knit Technology, the LUX Sport is ready to handle any endeavor. You'll soon buy a second pair and find yourself wearing them on and off the course often.





that lets them know they are getting a quality product.

“When considering a product to purchase for the mobile, tech-savvy consumer, you want to make sure the company stands behind its product’s quality, capabilities, and brand promise. One way to determine this is whether it backs up its products up with a lifetime warranty. A lifetime warranty is a good indication that the product will offer the quality and features it promises – and that if something goes wrong, the consumer will be protected. Few companies do this. Also look for a brand you know and trust.”

Quickly earning the trust of both travelers and leather enthusiasts is the new Tactile Craftworks Company.

“Our Map Journals make an excellent gift for

the writer or traveler in your life, a physical reminder of a beloved place you can keep with you wherever you go”, explained co-founder Sarah Heck, “We combine the highest quality leather working techniques with modern technologies to create a product that feels personal, and will last a lifetime. The leather cover includes a Moleskine Notebook and pencil that can easily be replaced, making it the last journal you’ll ever need to purchase.”

There are many popular holiday gift-giving ideas that are such welcome stocking-stuffers year-after-year including sunglasses, calendars and travel accessories.

Here are a few suggestions from Santa’s Helpers at Golf Plus Magazine.

Happy shopping and Merry Christmas. **GP**

22



▶▶ Toomy Bahama’s **Sandover Full-Zip Sweater** is an example of style that transcends time. 100% cotton and easy to clean, this long-sleeve full-zip sweater with rib trims embodies casual elegance.

23



▶▶ The **Tahitian Border Camp Shirt** is stylish and versatile. You might use it for golf. You might use it for travel. You might use it for dining out. You might use it for everything because this vibrant shirt always fits perfectly, and the sea of color options with the subtle floral details lets this piece shine in anyone’s wardrobe. That smooth 100% silk fabric will keep you relaxed and cool-looking.

24



▶▶ “The Series 3 Max combines industry leading technology, modern design and expert craftsmanship at a fraction of the price of our competition. Distinguishing features that our customers have been incredibly impressed with are the pinpoint accuracy and how easily the rangefinder locks on to its target, our ultra clear display (highest quality display in any rangefinder), our auto-ambient technology and our best in class built-in magnetic strip,” said Drew Koehler, Co-Founder and Head of Business Development at Blue Tees Golf.

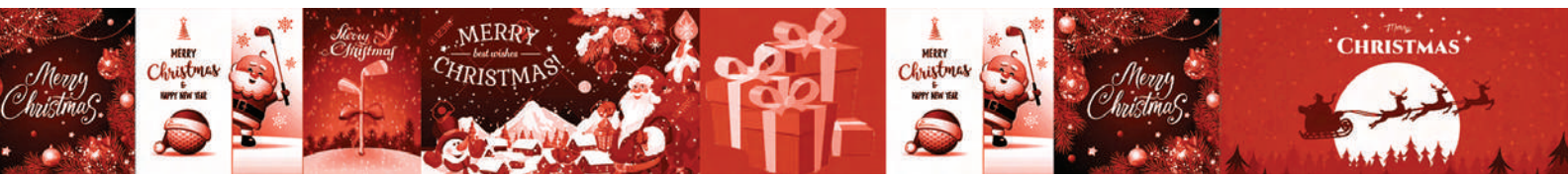
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◀◀ Incorporating a pioneering microcellular composite chassis and combining it with cutting-edge technology, the Q Follow is designed, engineered and hand-built in Great Britain.

“The Q Follow was designed to be as compact as possible, and it will even fit in the front of a Porsche,” explained Mark Stewart, CEO, Stewart Golf. “The structure is made from a microcellular composite material, which is strong, light and gives a unique surface finish to each unit produced.”

There are many popular holiday gift-giving ideas that are such welcome stocking-stuffers year-after-year including sunglasses, calendars and travel accessories.





PAGES

FROM MY DIARY...

DECEMBER 2021

By Brandon de Souza

I hope everyone had a safe Diwali and to the many who celebrated, Saal Mubarak! As we got done with the festivities and followed it up with what is now the annual smog festival in the northern part of the country, the Race to Dubai finale saw an entertaining finish.

What a player young Collin Morikawa is! Truly, the potential of this guy is enormous and the form he has shown just underlines the fact. Not that many have tried in all fairness, but becoming the first American to win the tour championship across the pond could open up a more favourable view especially with the PGA Tour & European Tour trying to find common synergies.

In the era of globalization, we need to golf to stay up to speed and coupled with the Greg Norman story in Asia, the signs are encouraging. We must have the best players playing around the world and give young fans in developing markets the opportunity to see them live in action. While having been successful in bringing the European Tour to India for the first time, I am fully aware that it needs to make financial sense at the end of the day for events to repeat themselves over several years.

We also saw another edition of 'The Match', the winner takes all event. This one was supposed to be a cracker-jack with adversaries Bryson DeChambeau and Brooks Koepka going head to head. While the idea of the event is to have mic'd up players bantering over a round of golf, this one got as one-sided as it could get with Bryson not winning a single hole!

Bryson has demonstrated that his approach works and spectacularly so by winning the toughest scoring major last year, US Open. I've




Nelly Korda is leaving no stone unturned building on the legend of the Kordas, started by the father Petr, along with her soon to be married elder sister Jessica and younger sibling, Sebastian an emerging tennis star.

watched and commented with a lot of interest since the time he came on the scene using single-length clubs. At present, I have been left to wonder how sustainable will this power-hitting mode be in the medium to longer term. We have already seen the likes of Rory McIlroy influenced by the approach only, to later revert to type and trust his original processes having seen success eluded him.

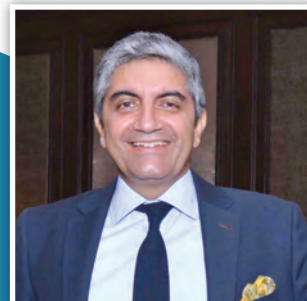
The LPGA season also wrapped up last month and in the end, it became the 'Jin Young Ko Show' on the final day of the season. Tied with Olympic Champion Nelly Korda, she just took the bull by the horns with the 63 and also took home the Player Of the Year honours with her fifth win of the season. The Korda family has much to be proud of Nelly in her breakout season. She is leaving no stone unturned building on the legend of the Kordas,

started by the father Petr, along with her soon to be married elder sister Jessica and younger sibling, Sebastian an emerging tennis star. All, including their tennis player mother Regina, have been top 50 in the world. The odds are in favour of this only getting better with the sisters reaching the top of the rankings and Sebastian became the first player born in the 2000s to advance to the fourth round of any grand slam event.

Patricio Apey, who managed Petr Korda during his career and now manages his children as well, once mentioned in an interview, that Petr had been guiding the careers of all three from a young age, expecting them to all peak simultaneously. More power to them and greetings of the season to you and your loved ones! 

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.

DEAR PARENTS, USE MOTIVATION AS A TOOL...



By Digraj Singh

I have this distinct memory of a conversation with my father when I was a kid and had just started playing regularly at the US Club in Colaba, Mumbai. I was a 16 handicapper and one day, while analysing my game, I reached a conclusion and stated to my father that I can play 9 over on this course.

An avid sportsman who had completed his college on a football scholarship, in those days, he understood a thing or two about motivation, but his first remarks to me riled me up.

"I don't think you can do it", he said, when I made my comment. That wasn't the answer I had hoped to hear and when he said I couldn't do it, it really upset me. Then he added, "Okay, if you do it, I will give you a 100 rupees. And for every shot that you improve beyond 9, I will give you an additional 100 rupees" And suddenly, that upset had been replaced with a challenge. And while it wasn't the money, the fact that he had offered a reasonable amount, it was in those days, his offer said that he was serious and was willing to put a decent incentive to back the challenge.

Immediately after that conversation, I remember sitting down with a note book and creating a plan on how I would tackle the US Club. Which clubs will be used on which hole, how many regulations were possible, how many chip and putts I would require etc. I remember that I decided to play the par three 8th hole, like a par 4, because I couldn't carry the water hazard on that hole consistently enough. It was to be played with a 9 iron and then another 9 iron to the green.

I remember Milkha Singh Ji used motivation as a very strong tool with his son Jeev. In fact he motivated all the kids in Chandigarh and all those who came in touch with him, including me.

And then I started practicing hard keeping the plan in mind, with a clear target to play 9 over. I just had to do it.

Exactly five weeks later, I shot a 6 over in a club event and won it by a huge margin, amidst hushed statements of false handicap. And I think I shot a round of 4 over within another month. It was gratifying, but it was only much later in life that I realised the significance of that conversation with my father. He provoked me, then challenged me and sweetened it with an incentive, knowing very well that I would fall for it hook, line and sinker. He understood me and had figured out what would motivate me, the challenge, and he sweetened it with the prize.

I remember Milkha Singh Ji used motivation as a very strong tool with his son Jeev. In fact he motivated all the kids in Chandigarh and all those who came in touch with him, including me. And it's pertinent to mention that I remember him stating on several occasions that the parent of a talented child has to work doubly as hard as the kid to help the kid realise his potential.


However, for all parents who have motivated their kids and have been able to help them achieve success, there have also been a few who have inadvertently harmed their kids irrevocably. They have done so by really pressurising the kids by being result oriented. The paradox is that they love the kids, mean well, and yet the child ends up under so much pressure to perform that he invariably stops enjoying the sport. And I am aware of some really sad stories in Indian golf.

On the contrary, it's also a fact that to ensure discipline and rigor, sometimes one requires having some hard conversations

with the kids. But overdoing it can turn off the kids from the sport. So what's the right way to do things?

Well, each child is different and there are different things which motivate them. But it has been observed that motivation as a tool is more powerful in the long run, as compared to using the stick, which may work in the short term. And as long as love for the sport has been inculcated and they are having fun, the child will eventually take ownership of his own development and performance. It's a matter of time and being patient.

I have also been cautious of throwing kids into competition too early. There has to be some level of preparation and ability to compete, otherwise one does risk demotivation. And hence the need for setting realistic expectations and also teaching the kids how to handle failure. Additionally stressing on process versus outcomes will help them in the long run. And finally, if you have a coach for the kids, then let them coach and play a supportive role instead of confusing the kids with additional or conflicting instruction.

During the lockdown I had the opportunity of interviewing the parents of Aadil Bedi and Shubhankar Sharma and they shared some wonderful insights for all parents. These talks are up on youtube and worth a watch. Here I'm reminded of Petr Korda, the tennis player, whose son Sebastian is a leading tennis player and daughters Nelly and Jessica are top golfers. He is certainly doing something right and it would be incredible to have his insights on how to help kids achieve their potential. However, the points made above should give all parents some useful food for thought. 



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TEAM OWNERS AND PARTNERS



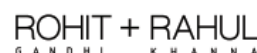
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Bajaj Foundation	Pankaj Bajaj
BMW-Deutsche Motoren	Gaurav Kapur / Yadur Kapur WINNERS
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SwingKKings	Sanjay Khanna, K Khullar
Tee Birds	Navin and Pia Sahni
TEEm edc	Sandy Khurana/ Kapil Khurana
The A-Team	Forza Medi (India) Private Ltd
The Pioneers	Pioneer Urban Land and Infrastructure Limited
24 Lions	Sunil Duggal

LEAGUE PARTNERS



Ravissant





MICROGRAVITY AND SLW GOLF MANAGEMENT TO HOST INDIA'S BIGGEST INDOOR GOLF TOURNAMENT SERIES

Microgravity Ventures Private Limited, a facilitator of world-class gaming hubs and eSports tournaments in India, has partnered with Sports & Leisure Worldwide (SLW) to host **Microgravity Corporate Masters, India's biggest Indoor Golf Tournament Series**. The first of its kind Indoor Golf Tournament series is now open for registration with a nominal fee of Rs. 3,000 per player and will kick-off on 20th November with hundreds of golfers and enthusiasts taking a swing on the latest state-of-the-art indoor golf simulator at one of the most iconic courses in the world, Pebble Beach Golf Links. The tournament will be held on 20th, 21st, 27th and 28th November at Microgravity, 1st Floor, JMD Empire Square, MG Road, Gurgaon.

Microgravity and SLW Golf Management will announce the winners of the thrilling tournament on 28th November followed by prize distribution across exciting categories like Winner Gross Men & Ladies, Winner Nett Men & Ladies, Runner-up Gross Men, Runner-up Nett Men, Longest Drive Men & Ladies, Closest to the Pin and Straightest Drive. To add-on to the exhilarating experience, all Winners will also get a chance to immerse themselves with their family for a full day with the best of unlimited gaming at Microgravity's gaming hub.

Talking about the tournament, **Mr Rahul Bhattacharya, Co-Founder and MD, Microgravity** said, "We are very excited to

partner with the best in the industry for our upcoming tournament series. These tournaments will bring the best Golf technology with the best of Golf courses from across the globe. It is exclusively designed to fuel the growth of the sport in the gaming ecosystem. At Microgravity's state-of-the-art indoor Golf simulator, players can not only gain a better understanding about the sport but also have a safe and immersive experience while being carefree about the weather conditions. The Golf community in India needs support and motivation to pursue their passion, and we want to offer just that. Our aim is to provide the best learning and playing experiences to anyone and everyone who is a Golf enthusiast. The pre-registration phase has already seen great success among the golfing fraternity. We are proud to present India's biggest Indoor Golf Tournament Series. We look forward to an exciting tournament and wish all the participants the best of luck."

Commenting on the partnership, **Anil Dev, CEO, Sports & Leisure Worldwide**, said, "It gives us immense pleasure to be a part of an indoor golf tournament series which is a great step in promoting golf and help people gain expertise in the sport. Microgravity is a unique gaming hub that offers high quality and immersive gaming experiences with the best of safety features. With this tournament, we are entering the new era of indoor Golf which will be a great value addition to take the golf experience to the next level."

"We at IGPN are thrilled to announce our partnership to run a professionally managed golf programme with certified 'A' level instructors like Arun Kumar and help people enhance their skills in Golf. Microgravity is a purveyor of safe and immersive gaming hubs and IGPN Academies believe in having fun and falling in love with the game of golf. We are confident that with this partnership we will usher in a paradigm shift in the world of Golf. These programmes are well established, tried and tested for all levels of golfers. These coaching techniques are also at par with international standards. The top of the line golf simulator at Microgravity arena provides data on ball flight and swing analysis. This helps the coach and player get great feedback from swing path, club head rotation, spin rate, spin axis, smash factor, launch angle which accelerates the rate of learning and make the experience more interesting and enjoyable. The world is going through unprecedented changes and it would be safe to say that with this initiative by Microgravity, we are ready to embrace the new era of Golf in India." said **Monish Bindra, Founder & CEO, Integrated Golf Performance Network**.

Microgravity Corporate Masters, powered by SLW Golf Management is a call out to Golfers and Corporate folks to come, experience and take a swing at one of the best Golf Simulators in the world at one of the most iconic PGA certified courses, Pebble Beach Golf Links. **GP**

FIRST EVER VIRTUAL INDOOR GOLF TOURNAMENT

Put your best swing forward at India's Biggest Indoor Golf Tournament Series! Microgravity Corporate Masters being played at world class golf simulator in Gurgaon. Play on our state-of-the-art indoor golf simulators and teleport to the iconic Pebble Beach Golf Links course. Accepting registrations on first-come-first-serve basis! **GP**



**BIGGEST
INDOOR GOLF SERIES
TEES OFF**



THE 14TH ANNUAL OSA HINDU ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT



The Old Students' Association (OSA) of Hindu College organized the 14th Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, the 13th of November 2021, at Qutab Golf Course. More than 108 Golfers participated in the tournament. Mr. Rao Inderjit Singh, Union Minister for Planning was the Guest of Honour. Shri Arjun Munda, Union Minister, Justice Ravindra Bhat, Judge Supreme Court of India, Justice Manmohan, Judge Delhi High Court and Justice Sistani were amongst the participants.

The morning saw a lot of action on the greens with juniors and seniors exhibiting their prowess and skills with the clubs. Amidst rekindling of the college day's memories and the alumni bonhomie, the players really enjoyed the thrill and fervour of playing Golf on a charming Saturday Morning, leaving behind the humdrum of life. **GP**

RESULTS

Winner Nett	Rao Inderjit Singh
Runner Up Nett	Ranjit Singh Yadav
Winner Gross	Dhruv Gurwara
Runner Up Gross	Gautam Gupta
Hole in One	Rohit Relan
Longest Drive Overall	Jaskaran S. Khurana
Winner Golden Years	Raj Bhargava
Winner Ladies	Suneeta Trivedi
Runner up Ladies	Abha Jain
Winner Invitee	Vishesh Khanna





THREE SIXTY DLF CUP

The first ever Three Sixty DLF Golf Cup Tournament, held on 11th Nov, was a spectacular success hosted by Three Sixty. The tournament featured 36 DLF Golfers for a morning of sportsmanship and merriment, followed by an evening ceremony of prize distribution and dinner along with their better halves.

A special touch was the auction in the name of Genesis Foundation of the exclusive Three Sixty Bar, the proceeds of which would help the foundation treat as many children as possible. The event was generously co-hosted by Jindal Buttons and Study By Janak. **GP**



INDIA'S KARNATAKA GOLF ASSOCIATION WELCOMES NEW SUPERINTENDENT

Karnataka Golf Association, one of the India's finest golf courses, is pleased to welcome Coman Mulry as the club's new Golf Course Superintendent. In his new role, Coman will manage and oversee the agronomic maintenance of the distinguished 18-hole course designed by Thomson and Wolveridge, located in Bangalore, India.

Prasanth Sakhamuri, Chairman Golf Course Committee at Karnataka Golf Association, said: "KGA is delighted to have Mr. Coman Mulry join us as the Course Superintendent and help KGA in its quest for excellence as a premier golf course in the world. KGA has a long-standing agreement in agronomy support and management with Troon International and Coman joins KGA on behalf of Troon. His

extensive experience with some of the best golf courses in the world will help propel KGA to higher heights of excellence."

Coman Mulry, who hails from Ireland, has 13 years of experience with Troon working in facilities in five different countries worldwide, including Greece, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, UAE, and India. He now leads the agronomy team at Karnataka Golf Association after two years as Superintendent at Al Zorah Golf Club in the UAE. This will be Coman's second posting in the garden city of Bangalore, where he has been the superintendent at another Troon-managed facility in Bangalore, Prestige Golfshire Club. Coman is well versed in the Indian market and understands the importance of introducing sound agronomic practices as well as robust



staff training and development programs. He has a proven track record in producing superior playing surfaces and building a team environment. **GP**

VARMA DENIED A LOW ROUND BY COLD PUTTER IN ABU DHABI

India's Anika Varma could not take advantage of the numerous chances she gave herself in the third round of the Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific (WAAP) championship on Friday, but still managed to shoot a two-under par 70 round to have an outside chance of winning the region's premier tournament going into the final round.

At Abu Dhabi Golf Club's National course, the 17-year-old Varma provided a masterclass of ball-striking, but in a space of five holes from the sixth onwards, she converted only one birdie

chance on the eighth hole from less than a foot and missed the other four from inside five feet.

The two-under-par 70 moved her to tied sixth place at nine-under par 207, six shots behind Thailand's Natthakritta Vongtaveelap, who continued to dominate the championship and opened up a three-shot lead at the top after a brilliant birdie-eagle finish.

Japan's Mizuki Hashimoto added a third straight 68 to move to 12-under-par and in second place, one ahead of Australian Kelsey Bennett (69). **GP**



SHAAN SINGH EKAMJOT WIN JUNIOR GOLF

Amateur 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**



GOLF MUSINGS



By Pramod Kir

Q: "In golf, where did the term 'caddie' come from?"

A. When Mary Queen of Scots went to France as a young girl, Louis, King of France, learned that she loved the Scots game 'golf.' He had the first course outside of Scotland built for her enjoyment. To make sure she was properly chaperoned (and guarded) while she played, Louis hired cadets from a military school to accompany her. Mary liked this a lot and when returned to Scotland, she took the practice with her. In French, the word cadet is pronounced 'ca-day' and the Scots changed it into 'caddie'. **GP**

SHIV KAPUR PREVAILS OVER RASHID KHAN IN A PLAYOFF; KAPUR SALVAGES DAY WITH LATE SURGE AT JEEV MILKHA SINGH INVITATIONAL 2021 PRESENTED BY TAKE SPORTS



Shiv Kapur receives the winner's cheque and trophy from Mr. Srinivasan H R, Director, TAKE Sports Management Pvt. Ltd. (2nd from left) and Indian golf legend and tournament host Mr. Jeev Milkha Singh (2nd from right). The others seen in the picture are Mr. Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI (extreme left), Mr. Arvind Bajaj, Captain, Chandigarh Golf Club (3rd from left), Mr. Ravibir Singh, President, Chandigarh Golf Club (extreme right)



Shiv Kapur - Winner



Rashid Khan - Runner-up

Shiv Kapur prevailed over Rashid Khan in a playoff at the Rs. 1.5 crore Jeev Milkha Singh Invitational 2021 Presented by TAKE Sports to register his first ever win at a PGTI Order of Merit event. The tournament was decided in a playoff for the fourth year in succession.

The Dubai-based Kapur (64-68-67-70), who originally hails from Delhi and Khan (65-67-69-68), another Delhi golfer, were in a deadlock at 19-under 269 at the top of the leaderboard after regulation play having shot final rounds of 70 and 68 respectively at the Chandigarh Golf Club.

Olympian Udayan Mane (69-68-67-67) took third place at 17-under 271 after returning a second straight 67.

The event featured a star-studded field with other big names also participating such as Gaganjeet Bhullar, SSP Chawrasia and Ajeetesh Sandhu. As a gesture to honour the legendary Shri Milkha

Singh, TAKE Sports named the Pro-Am event as the Milkha Singh Pro-Am Day, a Tribute to the Legend.

Shiv, a six time international winner, who also has three previous wins on the Indian domestic tour to his name, came up with a brilliant second shot from the rough to make a two-putt for par on the playoff hole (18th hole) even as two-time Asian Tour winner Rashid hit his second shot into the water which effectively ended his challenge.

Earlier in the day, 39-year-old Shiv, the overnight leader by one shot, struggled with his hitting and as a result dropped three bogeys on the front-nine with just one birdie in exchange. A monster 50-foot birdie conversion on the 11th seemed to be the defining moment of the day for him.

Thereafter, Kapur kept landing it within six feet to pick up birdies on the 13th, 16th and 17th. He missed a four-footer for birdie and outright victory on the 18th but came back stronger in the playoff to lift the title at his close friend Jeev Milkha Singh's event and take home the winning

cheque worth Rs. 24,24,750.

Shiv said, "Winning Jeev's event is special since he's like my elder brother and his family is like my second family. Without Jeev's guidance I wouldn't be half the player I am.

"There could be no better preparation for the upcoming Asian Tour events as I put myself in contention, felt the pressure coming down the stretch and then closed out a win. The season's just begun for me. All the effort in practice and at the gym is paying off," added Kapur, who last won at the Chandigarh Golf Club as a 15-year-old junior golfer.

Rashid Khan, who was two shots off the lead at the start of the day, went steady on the front-nine with two birdies and a bogey before emerging as a hot contender for the title with a much better back-nine that saw him make three birdies. Rashid, a three-time PGTI Order of Merit champion, sank a 30-foot birdie putt on the 17th. He made par on the 18th but found the water with his second shot on the playoff hole. **GP**

Content Editor: Nikhil Kalaan, Media Manager, PGTI



Yuvraj Singh Sandhu receives the winner's trophy from Mrs. Archana Bhardwaj, ED Shipping RHQ, IOCL. Mr. S S Pandita, ED (Coordination), Corporate Office, IOCL, is also seen in the picture.



Yuvraj Singh Sandhu - Winner



M Dharma - Runner-up

YUVRAJ SINGH SANDHU CLINCHES MAIDEN TITLE IN STYLE WITH DOMINATING FINAL ROUND OF 64 AT INDIANOIL SERVO MASTERS GOLF 2021

Sandhu records lowest winning total in Digboi for thumping six-shot victory margin

Digboi, November 20, 2021: After knocking on the door several times earlier this season, Chandigarh's Yuvraj Singh Sandhu finally pushed the door open by clinching his maiden title on the TATA Steel PGTI in style with a dominating final round performance of eight-under 64 at the Rs. 60 lakh IndianOil SERVO Masters Golf 2021.

Sandhu's (66-68-67-64) tournament tally of 23-under 265 set the record for the lowest winning total at the Digboi Golf Links as he registered a thumping six-shot victory with Bengaluru's M Dharma (69-68-68-66) finishing runner-up at 17-under 271 following his last round of six-under 66.

The 24-year-old Yuvraj, the overnight leader by two shots, came up with an eagle, eight birdies and two bogeys in round four to pick up the winning cheque worth Rs. 9,69,900 and thus zoom from 11th place to sixth position in the PGTI Order of Merit for 2020-2021.

Sandhu, the son of an Army officer, had enjoyed

an exceptional season prior to landing in Digboi with nine previous top-10s including six in the last seven events. The two-time winner on the PGTI Feeder Tour began the day with a bogey on the first but soon regained ground with birdies on the third, fifth and seventh.

From the third till the eighth hole, M Dharma was breathing down Yuvraj's neck as the former sank five birdies to trail the latter by just one shot. However, a couple of erratic shots led to Dharma's double-bogey on the ninth.

Sandhu, who turned pro in 2018, then made a crucial chip-putt birdie on the 11th to seize the momentum as he got on a hot streak making three birdies, an eagle and a birdie on the next five holes that stretched his lead to seven shots and sealed the deal for him.

Yuvraj's 23-under 265 bettered the previous lowest winning total of 20-under 268 at the Digboi Golf Links achieved by Mukesh Kumar

in 2002, Shankar Das in 2015 and Honey Baisoya in 2016.

Yuvraj, the leader for the previous two days, said, "I've let my clubs do the talking, all the hard work I've put in is paying off. I can't be more thankful to my team consisting of my coach and physio. They've all been part of this process. It's a special moment for me and I want to treasure it. I want to let it sink in and get my

tub of ice cream to celebrate.

"Winning before on the Feeder Tour did help me today. I said to myself that if I've done it before, why not today.

"I picked up golf as a little kid in the North-East while my father was posted in Dimapur, Nagaland. So coming to the North-East is always nostalgic for me. Now winning in the North-East further strengthens my special connection with the region," added Sandhu, who's 64 was also the final day's best score. **GP**

**M DHARMA
FINISHES
RUNNER-UP**





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KSHITIJ NAVEED KAUL WRAPS UP SECOND TITLE WITH 'ICE-COOL' 72 AT ICC RCGC OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 2021 POWERED BY URBANA

ANKUR CHADHA RECORDS A CAREER-BEST SECOND PLACE FINISH

ALUK BUILDING SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED WINS PRO-AM TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Kshitij Naveed Kaul of Delhi wrapped up his second title with an 'ice-cool' even-par 72 at the Rs. 40 lakh ICC RCGC Open Golf Championship 2021 Powered by Urbana played at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC).

The 20-year-old Kaul (69-65-70-72), the overnight leader by one shot, maintained his hold at the top of the leaderboard through the day after getting out of trouble on a number of occasions. He ended up with a tournament tally of 12-under 276 to prevail by one shot.

Gurugram's Ankur Chadha (68-69-69-71) struck a 71 to move up one spot and finish a career-best second at 11-under 277.

The ever-smiling Kshitij Naveed Kaul, who hardly displays any emotions on the course, made some outstanding recoveries from the rough and the bunker to keep his lead intact through the final day.

The six-foot tall Kshitij, playing his third season on the PGTI, wrested the initiative as he produced a fabulous bunker shot on the 15th for a tap-in birdie. He then went on to sink a four-foot pressure putt on the 18th to win the title.

Kshitij said, "Even when my lead came down



Kshitij Naveed Kaul receives the winner's cheque and trophy from Mr. Mehul Mohanka, Senior Vice President, ICC. The other dignitaries in the picture (L - R) are His Excellency Mr. Nakamura Yutaka, Consul General of Japan, Mr. Ajay Kumar Mishra, Chief Marketing, Industrial Products & Projects, TATA Steel, Mr. Prashant Jalan, Executive Committee Member, ICC, Mr. Rohan Ghosh, Captain, RCGC, His Excellency Mr. Nick Lowe, British Deputy High Commissioner & Mr. Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI



The Pro-Am Team Championship winners Aluk Building Systems Private Limited receive their prizes

to just one shot, I didn't change anything and continued to play in my natural aggressive style. Just before making the winning putt, a four-footer for par, I was mindful of the fact that in Pune too I made a four-feet conversion to win back in 2019. So I addressed the ball with that positive thought.

"I've been pretty consistent this season and this win is a result of that consistency," added Kaul, who took home the winning cheque worth Rs. 6,46,600 to move up from 19th place to 14th position in the PGTI Order of Merit.

Ankur Chadha was Kshitij's nearest challenger for the title through the day. Chadha, struggling to find fairways through the day, kept himself in contention with his brilliant putting.

The Pro-Am Team Championship that ran concurrently with the main event was won by the team representing Aluk Building Systems Private Limited. The winning team consisted of professionals Yuvraj Singh Sandhu, Shivendra Singh Sisodia, Arjun Sharma, Sanjeev Kumar and Karan Pratap Singh and amateurs Abhikants Basu, Jaikishan Lakhmani, Brijraj Singh and Garv Lakhmani. **GP**



Ankur Chadha - Runner-up



Kshitij Naveed Kaul - Winner





PGTI Board Member Mr. Kapil Dev addresses the media. The other dignitaries at the head-table are (Left to Right) Mr. Rohan Ghosh, Captain, RCGC, Mr. Pradeep Sureka, President, ICC, Mr. Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI and Mr. Prashant Jalan, Executive Committee Member, ICC.



Dinner party hosted by ICC and RCGC where the Indian cricket legend was the Chief Guest



Mr. Kapil Dev practices putting while posing for the cameras at the RCGC



Interview on the putting green

PGTI BOARD MEMBER KAPIL DEV VISITS THE ICC RCGC OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 2021 POWERED BY URBANA

PGTI Board Member Mr. Kapil Dev visited the ICC RCGC Open Golf Championship 2021 Powered by Urbana to express his support for the event.

Mr. Dev addressed the media at a press conference during his visit. He thanked the media for their contribution in promoting golf in India.

He was also seen posing for the shutterbugs at the putting green as he practiced some putting.

Later on in the evening, the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC) hosted a dinner where the cricket legend was the chief guest.

During his visit, Mr. Dev, in his interview with PGTI, said, "I would like to thank ICC, RCGC

and all the other event partners for making this event possible. I'm delighted to be here in Kolkata to support this event. As someone associated with the PGTI, I'm happy that the tour is back on track after going through a tough phase earlier this year due to the pandemic. I look forward to the PGTI going from strength to strength from here on." **GP**



TATA STEEL PGTI ORDER OF MERIT

Order of Merit as of ICC RCGC OPEN Golf Championship 2021 (Event - 18)

POS	GOLFER	HOME TOWN	PLAY	WIN	CUT	TOP-10	TOTAL PRIZE
1	KARANDEEP KOCHHAR	CHANDIGARH	15	2	15	9	₹ 4959880
2	CHIKKARANGAPPA S	BENGALURU	15	2	15	9	₹ 4604630
3	UDAYAN MANE	PUNE	16	3	13	7	₹ 3622275
4	KHALIN H JOSHI	BENGALURU	15	1	14	11	₹ 3589208
5	YUVRAJ SINGH SANDHU	CHANDIGARH	18	1	16	11	₹ 3522000
6	VIRAJ MADAPPA	KOLKATA	16	1	14	10	₹ 3474800
7	VEER AHLAWAT	GURUGRAM	15	0	14	10	₹ 3169954
8	MANU GANDAS	GURUGRAM	18	1	16	8	₹ 3066875
9	RASHID KHAN	NOIDA	14	0	13	5	₹ 2896233
10	SHIV KAPUR	DELHI	3	1	3	1	₹ 2739850
11	AMAN RAJ	PATNA	16	0	16	6	₹ 2529700
12	M DHARMA	BENGALURU	18	0	15	4	₹ 2298500
13	OM PRAKASH CHOUHAN	MHOW	16	1	15	8	₹ 2286600
14	KSHITIJ NAVEED KAUL	FARIDABAD	13	1	12	2	₹ 2054317
15	AADIL BEDI	CHANDIGARH	12	1	8	4	₹ 2001650
16	ANIRBAN LAHIRI	BENGALURU	2	0	2	1	₹ 1962000
17	AKSHAY SHARMA	CHANDIGARH	17	1	10	3	₹ 1713800
18	AMARDEEP MALIK	GREATER NOIDA	17	0	14	3	₹ 1611300
19	ANGAD CHEEMA	MOHALI	18	0	14	4	₹ 1587510
20	SUNIT CHOWRASIA	KOLKATA	17	0	15	4	₹ 1573483
21	SACHIN BAISOYA	DELHI	16	0	12	4	₹ 1558098
22	HARENDRA GUPTA	CHANDIGARH	17	0	14	3	₹ 1422433
23	SSP CHAWRASIA	KOLKATA	5	0	5	2	₹ 1357750
24	ABHIJIT SINGH CHADHA	CHANDIGARH	15	0	13	4	₹ 1306433
25	KARTIK SHARMA	GURUGRAM	15	0	12	4	₹ 1291400
26	MUKESH KUMAR	MHOW	16	0	13	3	₹ 1208300
27	DHRUV SHEORAN	DELHI	18	0	12	2	₹ 1162471
28	HONEY BAISOYA	DELHI	14	1	7	2	₹ 1154800
29	ANKUR CHADHA	GURUGRAM	16	0	9	3	₹ 1143900
30	ABHINAV LOHAN	FARIDABAD	17	0	12	3	₹ 1114733





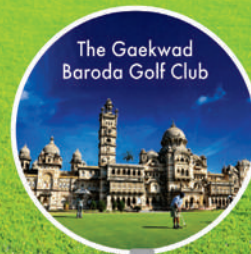
THE AMAZING WONDERS IN INDIA'S GOLF COURSES GUJARAT'S MAGNIFICENT SEVEN



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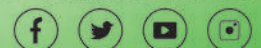


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Beyond Mobility has technology at its heart

Tomorrow's hyperconnected automobiles will not only have advanced technology power their core, but also have intuitive features. These will greatly enrich your lives by adding quality time to every moment. In our vision of the future, all this will seamlessly integrate with your lifestyle choices for a superior ownership experience.



Sustainability holds the key to the future

This world is not ours alone. Progress for humanity lies in sustainability. How we treat our resources will chart the course for the future. Therefore, true to our vision, we are determined to play our role in making the world a better place. We are committed to creating sustainable solutions for everyone.



Clean energy propels us to newer milestones

Imagine clean mobility that leaves no traceable footprints, instead goes the extra mile to restore the planet for coming generations. A future that is safe for all species to thrive and prosper together in. We are leaving no stone unturned to create mobility solutions that take little from the environment. For Hyundai, that is the true essence of going Beyond Mobility.



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From one of the world's leading automakers to the most innovative connected mobility solutions provider, we are transitioning Beyond Mobility. We are evolving towards an innovative ecosystem that offers connected technology, choice of transmissions, convenience of ownership and lifestyle membership programs.

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Hyundai initiatives Beyond Mobility.



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