The Masters ended with Scheffler draping the Green Jacket over Rahm's shoulder p22

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Jorge Campillo claimed his third DP World Tour title

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# **POSITIVE THOUGHTS MAKE SURE SHOTS!**

Olf is a sport that requires a combination of skill, strategy, and mental fortitude. Golfers must remain calm, focused, and confident throughout a round of golf, even when facing challenging shots or unfavourable conditions. Positive thinking can play a significant role in a golfer's success, both on the driving range and while playing a round of golf.

Positive thinking is especially important while playing a round of golf. When golfers approach each shot with a positive mindset, they are more likely to make successful shots and achieve their desired outcome. Positive thinking can help golfers stay calm and focused, even when they encounter challenges or make mistakes. Golfers who think positively are more likely to trust their instincts and make creative shots, leading to better results on the course.

Positive self-talk can also be incredibly beneficial to golfers while playing a round of golf. By encouraging themselves and focusing on their strengths, golfers can stay motivated and engaged, even when things aren't going as planned. Positive self-talk can also help golfers stay present and focused on the shot at hand, rather than worrying about past mistakes or future outcomes.

Positive thinking is also critical while on the driving range. When practicing, golfers should focus on the process rather than the outcome. By visualizing successful shots and focusing on good form and technique, golfers can build confidence and trust in their abilities. Positive self-talk can also be helpful while practicing, as it can help golfers stay motivated and engaged during long practice sessions. Finally, positive thinking can be particularly beneficial to a golfer's short game where big muscles don't have a role. The short game requires precision, creativity, and confidence, and having a positive mindset can help golfers succeed in this aspect of the game. When golfers approach short game shots with positivity, they are more likely to trust their instincts and make successful shots. Positive self-talk can also be helpful during the short game, as it can help golfers stay motivated and encouraged, even when they miss a shot or encounter a challenging situation.

In conclusion, positive thinking can play a significant role in a golfer's success, both on the driving range and while playing a round of golf. By embracing a positive mindset, golfers can build mental toughness and resilience, leading to better performance on the course. Golfers who think positively are more likely to trust their instincts, stay focused on the present, and make successful shots, ultimately leading to better scores and a more enjoyable golfing experience.

I would also like to emphasise that what we believe we become, if you have been imagining going OB while standing on the tee you have a high chance of proving yourself right, think water and you shall be in the water, think shank and you shall shank, so always remember positive thoughts make sure shots! Happy Golfing!

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Subscription: subscription@golfplusmonthly.com

Printed at: HT Media Limited Plot No. 8, Udhyog Vihar, Greater Noida - 201306, U.P. on 1st May, 2023

Owner, Printer & Publisher: Anil Dev

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#### Ladies on the Link

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Bengaluru's Khalin Joshi completed a wire-towire win with a final round of four-under 68 at the Asian Games Selection Trials held at the RCGC in Kolkata. Khalin maintained his overnight two-shot lead after he topped the leaderboard followed by Kolkata's SSP Chawrasia who took second place in the 19man field and as a result booking his berth for the Hangzhou Games.

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# IS IT BETTER TO HAVE AN EXCLUSIVE, Committed Relationship?

**Question**: Does God intend human beings to have only one partner in their lifetime? Is it better for a person to maintain an exclusive, committed relationship?

**Sadhguru**: God may not have intentions for you. The question is, what is the sensible thing for you to do? There are two aspects to this - one is a social one. Generally, they always said "one man - one woman" in order to stabilize society. In parts of the world where they said "one man several women," they had to rule with a stronger hand to keep society stable. I will not go further into this.

The other aspect is, all substances in existence have memory. Your body still actively remembers what happened a million years ago. Genetics is just memory. In Indian culture, this physical memory is called runanu bandha. It is your memory that binds you to things around you. Suppose you went home and you forgot who your father and mother are, what would you do? It is not the blood or the love, it is the memory that tells you this person is your mother or father. It is only memory that breeds relationship and bondage. If you lose your memory, anyone will look like an absolute stranger to you.

Your mind's memory is miniscule compared to your body's memory. If you just touch something or someone once, the mind might forget, but in the body, it is registered forever. When people have sex with each other, the mind may forget it, but the body will never forget. If you get a divorce, no matter how much you hate your spouse - still you will go through pain because the physical memory can never be lost.

Even if you just hold someone's hand intimately enough for a certain period of time, this will never be forgotten, because your palms and your soles are very effective receptors. Whenever you see somebody you do not want to get involved and entangled with, just do "Namaskar," because when you bring your two hands together (or you bring your big toes together), it stops the body from soaking in memory.

The idea is to keep the physical memory to the minimum because otherwise, taking you to a different level of experience becomes difficult. Those who have indulged excessively in pleasure have a certain grin on their face that is of a leery superiority, but there is no joy in them. It takes a lot of work to get rid of that, because physical memory entangles you in a way that your mind cannot even figure out. So it is very important that you learn to be conscious about what you expose your body to.

#### THE PRICE TO BE PAID

There is a price to pay for too much intimacy all over the place - unless you know how to keep the body at a distance from yourself. For such a person it does not matter what he does. But such a person has no inclination to do such things. He is not compelled by the limitations and compulsions of the body - he is using the body as a tool. Otherwise, it is best to limit intimacy to the minimum. That is why we said one to one, unless one of them dies and the other one remarries. But now, before you are 25, you had 25 partners - people are already paying the price for that - 10% of the population in the United States is on antidepressants. One major contributing factor is they do not know where they belong, because the body is confused.

The body needs stable memory – people feel this. Their spouse may not be physically great or intellectually great, they may be quarreling on the surface, but still they would sacrifice anything to be with them, because somewhere, they understand that this gives them maximum comfort and wellbeing. This is because your physical memory rules your life much, much more than your mental memory. The very way you are right now is ruled by your physical memory, not by your mental memory. Mental memory can be thrown away tomorrow morning, but you cannot throw your physical memory away. That would require a completely different level of spiritual evolution within you.

#### MINIMIZING THE PHYSICAL MEMORY

Modern science says this, and in the yogic system, we have always known this: the five elements - water, air, earth and so on - have a strong sense of memory. If I go to any place that is of some significance on an energy level, I do not ask people about it - I just place my hands on a rock. By being with it, I will know the whole story of the place. Like the rings of a tree tell you the ecological history of the place, rocks

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have an even better memory.

Generally, the denser the substance, the better its ability to retain memory, and inanimate substances have better memory than animate life. Today's technology is proving it - your computer has better memory than you. The human mind is not for memory - it is for perception. The inanimate cannot perceive - it can only remember. Deities and other consecrated objects have been created because they are powerful forms of memory.

In India, there was a time when you could only enter a Shiva temple naked. Only after the British came into the country and started banning all these things, we have become very prudish. The idea of going naked to the temple was to take the memory of the Divine into the body. You take a dip and then lie down on the floor with wet body so that it soaks in memory of the Divine. The mind looks at other people, what is happening, but the body absorbs the energy of the space.

Both at the entrance of Dhyanalinga and Linga Bhairavi, there are sculptures of prostrating devotees. This is to show you that the body soaks in the Divine much better than the mind. It is just that human beings cannot go nude anymore because we have become so civilized - we put on so many clothes that we do not know whether there is a body or not. Only when sexual urges come up, people know that they have a body.

#### ERASING THE PHYSICAL MEMORY

You can erase your physical memory through deep devotion or certain other practices. I have seen quite a few devotees like this, but one man really struck me. There was a woman who came down south to Kanyakumari, which is the southern tip of India. We do not know where exactly she came from, but looking at her face, probably from Nepal. She just walked around, never uttered a word, and always a bunch of dogs were following her. She would even steal food just to feed these dogs, and many times, she was beaten up for that. But then, people would sometimes find her floating on the waves. This was a coastal town where three oceans meet. She would go to the beach, sit cross-legged on

#### Feature



the water, and float around. Then people started worshiping her. When she came, they would still protect their food, but they could not beat her anymore because she was something more.

Her whole life she had lived outdoors. She slept on the street or on the beach without any kind of shelter. She had a completely weather-beaten face – very similar to pictures you would have seen of old Native Americans. Towards the end of her life, when she was over 70, a famous South Indian musician saw her and became her devotee. He brought her to Salem, Tamil Nadu and built a small house for her there, and a few devotees gathered around her.

About 15, 16 years ago, I happened to be in a hill station near Salem. There, someone told me about this woman – her name was Mayamma. She was already dead by then. It was a full moon night, and they said there would be a pooja at Mayamma's samadhi. I drove down with my wife and daughter, who was just about five or six at that time, to spend the evening there. It is the most unimpressive little place – a concrete samadhi. When I came there, it just hit me in the

face – the very energy of that place was like an explosion. As we sat there, hours flew by. Later, there was a free dinner. A devotee of hers was serving us food. I looked at this man's face and I could not believe it – he looked exactly like her! He was a South Indian man, but he looked like a Nepali woman. Out of devotion, his face had become almost like hers.

If you erase your physical memory, your body will become like that which matters most to you. The very shape of everything in you will change. That means you get rid of your genetic compulsions. When someone takes sanyas, the first thing is to do a certain process for the parents and forefathers. Normally, we conduct this process for the dead, but for sanyasis, we do this even if the parents are still living. Not that we intend them to die - the idea is to wash off one's physical memory.

When you were 18, you might have rebelled against your father and your mother, but by the time you are 45, whether you like it or not, you begin to talk like them and act like them. It is not just your parents - your forefathers are

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acting through you right now. Your behavior is generated and controlled by them. That is why, if you become serious about the spiritual process, the first step is to distance yourself from your genetic memory. Without doing that, you cannot get rid of the compulsions of your forefathers. They will live through you and rule you in so many ways.

When the memory of the body rules you to such an extent, it is better to keep it to the minimum in this lifetime. After all, you still have to get rid of a million years of memory from your forefathers. You have a reptilian brain - the crawling snake and the lizard, and even the scorpion still live through you. Do not think the brain is mind - the brain is body. At least in this lifetime, you want to limit these impressions so that your body does not get confused.

People who were aware of this context created spiritual processes in such a way that the body would become most conducive. Everywhere in the world, it is understood that if someone gets very serious about his spiritual process, the first thing that he does is keep away from all kinds of relationships, because if he builds any physical relationships, naturally, it will complicate things. Only if he is either so compulsive that he needs it, that you cannot take him beyond that right now, or he is so free that he does not identify with the body, we let him have it - otherwise, we generally say no. But if you must, at least stick to one body, because too many will confuse the physical system.



The Indian Golf Union
The governing body for Golf in India



Aarav has many accomplishments at the young age of 15 from being the Youngest winner of The Bangladesh Amateur championship to recently winning the IGU Delhi state NCR Amateur cup. in this section he discusses his passion, routine and future plans.

## GP: Who prompted you to take up golf out of all the other sports?

I was encouraged to play many different sports growing up. I enjoy cricket, basketball, soccer, skiing, tennis and golf. But Golf was the only sport I competed in tournaments and I think that made it fun for me. I looked forward to golf tournaments. I narrowed my focus on golf once I turned 14.

# GP: How did you manage your time to juggle between golf and studies?

Till middle school, i was a full time student at the British School, New Delhi. They encouraged my golf tournament travel and my taking time off from school to pursue Golf. Now that I'm in high school (in my sophomore year) I've moved to an online school, Laurel Springs school, which allows me the flexibility with my busy tournament schedule. I play about 18-20 tournaments a year, which means almost 25 weeks of travel, overseas and within india. I log into school 3 hours a day at my convenience but ensure all the required work is completed on time.

# GP: What has been the role of IGU in your journey as an amateur golfer?

I am still a junior amateur, since I'm 15 years old. However, IGU has been great in providing me with a platform to compete. I earned my rights to compete on the IGU Men's amateur tour when I was 13 year old and the last two



years, I've played IGU junior and amateur tournaments. I am happy with my progress on both tours, winning the IGU All-India Junior Boys championship in 2022 and my first IGU Amateur tournament last week has given me more confidence to compete harder. IGU is definitely a positive platform for golf in india. My owe the IGU a lot of credit for giving me these opportunities.

#### GP: What are your future plans?

In the immediate future, I am focused on getting my tournament scoring average to under 70. It's currently 71.4 By bringing it lower, I do hope to have better chances at winning amateur events abroad and in India. College golf in the USA and then professional golf is definitely the plan in the next 5-6 years.

#### GP: How important is fitness for your game and what is your regime?

Being physically fit is critical to train long hours, in the heat and cold. This will allow me to compete at my best during long tournament trips. As I'm growing older, I am valuing the importance of my fitness routines. I've been working with Mr Matt Greene, a golf physio and golf biomechanics specialist from Sydney for the past 3 years and he's helped me a lot with posture, mobility and flexibility. These are very important areas for me to focus on as I've had a massive growth spurt, at 15 i am already 6 feet 3 inches tall. Another aspect of fitness that's been helping me is Yoga. I've been doing online yoga with Ms Mansi Mahajan for 2 years and I can see how it's helping me with my flexibility, breathing and mindfulness. I try to do yoga atleast twice a week. I try to get to the gym with my long term golf coach Amit Dube and sporting ethos when i am at home. This area of my development is a big focus area for me over the next 2 years. A good fitness routine will keep me injury free and help me get stronger.

### FAVORITE

Food	Pan Asian food and steaks
Book	l do not read
Golfer	Brooks Keopka

# GP: How are you keeping up your practice regimen?

Over the past 2 years, my team comprising of my golf coaches Coach Amit Dube and Coach Rob Watts, along with my putting coach Pro Pomtech and my fitness team Sporting Ethos and Matt Greene have ensured I have periodization training in the year. My tournament season starts in March, so I take Jan and Feb off for 8 weeks off-season training, then do 3 months of tournament golf, then I take 6 weeks off again as mid year off-season, then do another 3 months of tournament golf. This helps me practice, make changes to my golf skill, focus on fitness and recovery. My off season training usually amounts to 3 hours short game, 2 hours range work, and 9 holes on course. I also try to get in at least two rounds of 18 holes a week. Online school allows me sufficient time to train, compete, rest and put in the time for school.



# **IGU HARYANA LADIES & JUNIOR GIRLS GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP**

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# KHALIN JOSHI AND AMANDEEP KAUR DRALL TAKE LEAD IN THE ONGOING ASIAN GAMES TRIALS, CURRENTLY BEING HELD AT CALCUTTA





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Bv Jon Rahm

# PLAYER BLOG

Spaniard Jon Rahm captured his first Masters title at Augusta National by four shots following a closing 3-under 69. He became the first European golfer in history to win a Masters and U.S. Open, and achieved the feat on the 40th anniversary of his idol, the late Seve Ballesteros's second Masters victory and on what would have been his 66th birthday. It was Rahm's fourth PGA TOUR win of the season, propelling him back to the top of the Official World Golf Ranking and cementing his position as No. 1 on the FedExCup points list.

t's very hard to put it into words what it means for me to win the Masters Tournament. We all dream of things like this as players, and you try to visualize what it's going to be like and what it's going to feel like when you achieve this goal.

When I hit my third shot into the 18th green on Sunday, I could tell it was close by the crowd's reaction and the wave of emotion of so many things just overtook me. I'd never thought I was going to cry by winning a golf tournament, but I got very close to doing so at the end. A lot of it is because of what winning the Masters means to me, and to Spanish golf. It's Spain's 10th major victory, the fourth Spaniard to win the Masters, and my second career major title. It's a pretty incredible feeling.

The history of the game is a big part of why I compete and one of the reasons why I play this game is because of the late, Seve Ballesteros. If it wasn't for the Ryder Cup at Valderrama in 1997 where he was the European team captain, I really don't know where I would be or where as a family we would be today, as it was at that event my family fell in love and got involved with the game of golf.

For me to win the Masters on the 40th anniversary of Seve's second Masters win, and also on what would have been his 66th birthday and Easter Sunday, is so incredibly meaningful. To finish off the tournament the way I did with an unusual par, which is very much a Seve par, it was in a non-purposeful way, a testament to him. I know Seve was pulling for me and this



one is for Seve. He was up there helping, and help he did. There is a lot of pride in winning the Masters and I'm really proud of myself. To play the way I did with only one bogey in the final round under difficult conditions and later coming in with a good lead – it is hard to explain. It still really hasn't sunk in yet.

I also find it hard to believe I'm the first European golfer to win a U.S. Open and Masters Tournament. If there's anything better than accomplishing a feat like this, it is making golf history. It is a very humbling feeling to know I accomplished something like this considering the many great players that have come before me. It's a pretty good duo of majors and to get that done, I can't help to feel anything but thankful.

During the final round, I was calm despite starting two back of Brooks Koepka. I knew I needed to bring the fight to him. When I got to the fourth tee tied with Brooks, the goal was to keep giving him something to think about. If I hit a good shot or have a birdie chance, I wanted him to see that and I wanted to keep putting the ball in the fairway and making good swings for him to feel more of the pressure rather than me. I felt I did that really, really well.

After I got the lead on the sixth, the goal at that point was to not come back to the rest of the field, and to have them chase me. I knew I could make a few birdies and pars on the back nine and it was going to be pretty difficult for someone to catch up, especially with the wind conditions.

My lead narrowed very, very quickly and it made the 10th, 11th and 12th holes a lot harder for me. I might have looked calm, but I was definitely nervous. I'm glad that's the way it looked! That's what you strive for and you don't want to panic when you're fighting for the tournament. I felt comfortable with my game and I had a plan to execute.

What is going on on the outside is not always a reflection of the inside. I never allowed myself to get too frustrated. I never felt like anything was out of control, but obviously you're nervous and there's always tension. The only time I was a little upset was actually in



the morning during the conclusion of the third round on the 16th hole. As I had three-putted 13, three-putted 15, and then hit a terrible shot on 16 and made a bogey, I felt like at least one of those shots was avoidable. That was the only time I was truly upset. But I reeled it back in quickly and made two good pars on the last two holes to put myself in the final group, which was what I needed. All I had asked for was a chance.

Walking up to the 18th tee box with a four-shot lead, I felt confident. I think it was karma as I was telling my caddie Adam (Hayes) how great I have been hitting a low fade the entire week. And of course on 18, I hit an average drive which was maybe two feet from missing that tree on the right and fell well short of the fairway. I guess it will be a good story in the future .... I won the Masters and didn't even make it to the fairway on the 18th tee shot! However, I'd rather want to remember my second shot on the 14th hole, because if there was a key moment throughout the day, it was that shot. To be able to hit it to four feet from being out of position was incredible.

I've always been confident when I've been close to the lead. I have full faith in all parts of my game. And maybe because we had difficult conditions, I was just so focused on what I had to do. We've put in a lot of effort to try and beat the best guys in the world. So maybe that level of intensity and that determination is what you see and that's why I'm characterized as a fighter. I'm really proud of myself for winning this.

**Note** : Jon Rahm is now an 11-time PGA TOUR winner and you can watch him and the best golfers in the world on Eurosport.

# AMAZING THAILAND – PART OF YOUR LIFE

# SIRIGES-A-NONG TRIRATTANASONGPOL

Director, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) New Delhi Office

Mrs. Siriges-a-nong Trirattanasongpol has been with TAT for almost 30 years with extensive experience working in various divisions including Service Development, ASEAN-South Asia and South Pacific Region, as well as in the overseas offices at TAT Ho Chi Minh Office and TAT Seoul Office.

Prior to her assignment to head the TAT New Delhi Office, she was the director of East Asia market division facilitating, coordinating and promoting Thailand for East Asian tourist market. In her previous assignments, she had been posted at TAT Ho Chi Minh Office as the deputy director for Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos market between 2007-2011 and at TAT Seoul Office as the director for South Korea market from 2016 to early of 2020.

s the Director of TAT New Delhi Office, she is responsible to promote Thailand as a preferred destination for travellers from South Asia in the area of Northern and Eastern India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan.

Taking her current office from 1st February 2023 in post pandemic period, the earnest focus is to resume tourism traffic back to same scale in 2019 and keep increasing of traveling growth rate to enhance the market expansion.

#### Tell us about your journey in Tourism Authority of Thailand and your last posting?

I have had a long journey in the organisation from the day of joining since 1993. My first position was Tourism Development officer in charge of services development through training for those who engaged with air-landsea transportation services. 10 years later I moved to Event Division for a period of 4 years.

In 2007-2011, I had been assigned to work as the Deputy Director in Ho Chi Min office which brought me good experience in opening a new TAT overseas office to an emerging market. I came back to HQ in 2011 as the Chief of marketing planning section in ASEAN, South



Asia, and South Pacific Market Division and was promoted to directorial level in 2014 as the director to the governor's secretariat.

In 2016-2020, I moved to Korea as the Director, TAT Seoul office. After finished my term there I was the Director of East Asia Market Division until the end of January 2023 and after that here I am heading the New Delhi office.

You have recently arrived in India, please let us know your initial experience? During 2011-2014, I came to India to collaborate with TAT New Delhi office and TAT Mumbai office in organizing Amazing Thailand Roadshow to metro, 2nd tier and 3rd tier cities. I learnt about the Indian tourism business and culture through these valuable opportunities.

# How important is the Indian market as per your perception?

Indian market is and has always been a significant and primary tourism contributor to Thailand. In 2019, the number of Indian tourists

to Thailand was 1.96 million.

In 2022, Indian tourists were the 2nd largest group of tourists arriving to Thailand by air numbering almost 1 million. And our target for Indian tourist arrivals in this year is 1.4 and up to 2 million in the best scenario. We are quite positive to reach the target since in the first 4 months of this year or from the 1st of January to the end of April, Thailand has welcomed more than 4.5 lakhs of Indian tourists which we hope the resumption will continue in this good rate to the end of the year.

#### Has the number of golfers reached the pre covid levels?

In term of picking up the market after Covid, golfer is bringing a great resumption. Though their contribution to the market is quite impressive but as same as all other segments that they are not fully resumed yet. But we believe that it will be growing a lot in this coming winter.

#### What are the new initiatives you have planned for the Indian market?

In my opinion, I think the resumption period will take about 2 years therefore my plan in the first 2 year is 'The Resumption' to push up the resumption of the market with BMC strategy which are bring it back, make it full

**INDIAN MARKET IS AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT AND PRIMARY TOURISM CONTRIBUTOR TO** THAILAND. IN 2019, THE NUMBER OF INDIAN **TOURISTS TO THAILAND** WAS 1.96 MILLION.



Mai-Han Tueng Jiang Mai Rest

and continue traveling. After that there will be 'The Expansion' to grow more in term of numbers and areas.

#### What are the new destinations being opened by TAT for the Indian Market?

We would love to introduce more destination to Indians as many as we can but first, we will focus on beach destinations such as Krabi and Phang Nga. For golfers we will encourage them to go further to Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and Khao Yai.

#### What would be the 'To Do List' as per your recommendations?

Thailand is destination for all, and we have activities that fit all. So, it depends on who they are and what they are interested in. If they are golfers, of course the to do list for them is trying some new golf courses which they have never played before. Thailand has more than 250 golf courses around the country, playable all year round. For golfers who come to Thailand with group of family members, there are activities for kids, the elderly, ladies in main destinations that no one can get bored during their trip. They can enjoy water theme parks, cooking classes, cultural & historical sites, local market visit or café hopping.

Anyhow beside their main activities of their interest, Thai food and Thai massage are must to try, either street food or starred restaurant, local Thai massage of wellness spa, all are unmissable. And one last thing that will



completely fulfil their trip is shopping, Thailand being a Shopping Paradise destination.

#### What would be the Thai Cuisine recommended as per vour choice?

All dishes in Thai Cuisine are full of flavours. Vegetarians, can have almost all kind of Thai dishes, they just need to inform the chef. I would recommend Tom Yum Hed or Mushroom in Tom Yum soup. The taste of this dish comes from the harmony of spices, sourness with a hint of savoury.

For non-vegetarian, beside all Thai menus that having as Kab Khao or side dishes, I would love to recommend Sea Food with Thai spicy sauce which makes the fresh sea food much more tasty comparable to none other!

#### There is talk of new Covid protocols expected for many countries, are there any new regulations for Thailand?

Thailand policy is 'living with Covid'. During Covid, we had set up safety health instructions and administrations on Covid for all sectors related to tourism industry. These are still in practice and complying in letting our tourists be sure that Thailand is taking best care of them, and we are never lower our guard on this. We will not create any new regulation to restrict the travel It is time for everyone to live their lives and travel freely with the new normal.

Cover Picture Courtesy : Alpine Golf Resort, Chiangmai

# AMAZING THAILAND GOLF PARADISE HIDDEN GEMS OF THAILAND

## **CHIANG MAI**

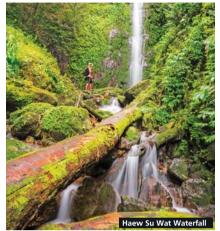
For an unforgettable golf holiday, Chiang Mai offers golfers a city rich in culture, crafts, temples and natural beauty along with eight championship golf courses. Chiang Mai is filled with various entertainment centres, shopping opportunities, while gourmets can feast on tasty local Lanna cuisine and Chiang Mai nightlife.

For a golf holiday with luxury accommodations Chiang Mai offers an unbelievable choice. Those who enjoy other treasures won't be disappointed. Chiang Mai offers its visitors a city rich in culture, spas crafts, temples and natural beauty.

#### GOLF

Chiang Mai has a number of designer courses which can be enjoyed anytime of the day due to cool temperatures.

- Alpine Golf Resort
- Chiang Mai Highlands Golf Course and Spa Resort
- 🛤 Gassan Khuntan Golf & Resort
- Mae Jo Golf Resort and Spa
- 🛤 North Hill Golf Club
- Summit Green Valley Chiang Mai Country Club.



#### **HOTELS & RESORTS**

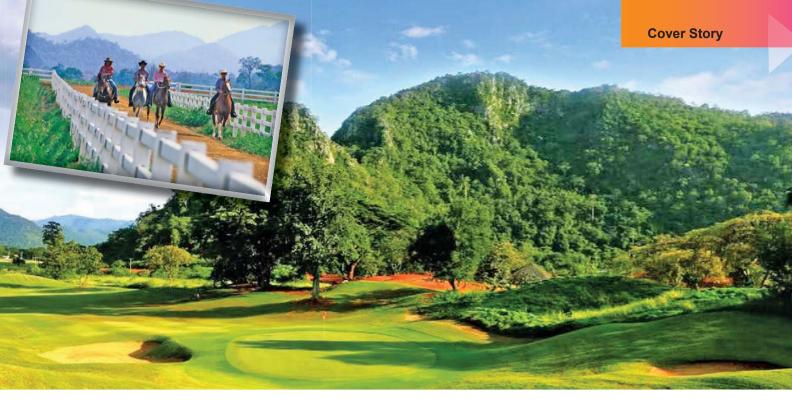
- U Nimman Chiang Mai
- Melia Chiang Mai
- Ratilanna Riverside Spa Resort
- Raya Heritage
- Shangri-La Chiang Mai
- Anantara Chiang Mai Resort
- 137 Pillars House Chiang Mai
- Four Seasons Resort Chiang Mai
- Veranda High Resort Chiang Mai MGallery
- Le Meridien Chaing Mai



#### **ACTIVITIES**

- Wellness
- Shopping
- Doi Inthanon
- Doi Suthep
- Grand Canyon Water
- Borsang Umbrella Village
- Elephant Sanctuary
- Coffee shop





### **KHAO YAI**

Just 3 hours' drive from Bangkok on the North lies a beautiful plateau on a mountain called Khao Yai, which itself means 'Large Mountain', in Thai. The area stretching 200 Square km is home to Thailand's most famous and the oldest National Park. It has two major rivers and a number of hills and waterfalls. Khao Yai also boasts of some amazing Golf and cool temperatures!

#### **HOTELS & RESORTS**

- Lala Mukha Tented Resort
- Movenpick Resort Khao Yai
- InterContinental Khao Yai
- DusitD2 Khao Yai
- Botanica Khao Yai
- Greenery Khao Yai
- Sala Khao Yai.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

- Khao Yai National Park
- PB Valley Khao Yai Winery
- Thames Valley
- Midwinter Green
- Water fall.

an the state of the sea

#### GOLF

#### Khao Yai offers golf courses which can be enjoyed without the pressure of too many golfers trying to get a round in.

- 属 Kirimaya Golf Resort & Spa
- 🝋 Bonanza Golf & Country Club
- Nancho Charnvee Golf & Country Club
- Not the test of te
- Nountain Greek Golf Resort and Spa



#### **Official PGA TOUR Content**



# RAHM REIGNS SUPREME IN BITTERSWEET MASTERS

By Jim McCabe

s the rain came barreling in Friday and created havoc with both the second round, which had to finish Saturday, and the third round, which was completed Sunday, it was clear that the officials who administer the Masters Tournament at Augusta National Gofl Club in Augusta, Georgia, needed to catch some sort of break.

They did, too. First in the form of Sunday weather – cool, but sun-splashed -- that enabled the leaders to play as many as 30 holes, then in the perfect winner to capture arguably the most coveted championship in professional golf: The best player in the world.

Yes, Jon Rahm wears the No. 1 next to his name

in the Official World Golf Rankings and so it's fitting that he wears a Green Jacket, too. The 28-year-old from Barrika, Spain, followed in the footsteps of countrymen Seve Ballesteros, Jose Maria Olazabal and Sergio Garcia by chasing down a major with 30 holes of grueling golf on Sunday, the marathon session made necessary by torrential rain that started falling Friday and went into late Saturday evening.

That the 87th Masters ended with Scottie Scheffler draping the Green Jacket over Rahm's shoulder is as it should be, because they have been the best two golfers in the world the past two seasons. They have traded the top spot in the OWGR back-and-forth and if Scheffler's four-win season in 2021-22 made him the top dog, then Rahm winning four times in 10 starts in 2022-23 on the PGA TOUR has to answer that emphatically.

Not that they won't have ample opportunities to settle the issue, not with the PGA Championship coming in May, the U.S. Open in June, and the Open Championship in July, along with the PGA TOUR's ultimate prize, the FedExCup in August. Three more majors in such a short period of time is a delectable offering to ponder as you savor Rahm's trips of 65-69-73-69 to finish at 12-under 276 and win his second major championship, and for good measure give a round of applause to Scheffler, 25, who put up an admirable defence and finished T10 at 4-under 284.



There was much to love about this year's Masters, not only that such a force of nature as Rahm won or that he had to outplay four-time major winner Brooks Koepka head-to-head over the final 36 holes, in and around a couple of heavy downpours. There also was a stirring performance by Norway's Viktor Hovland, who opened with 65 and remained in the hunt throughout the 72-hole grind.

For good measure, young stars Patrick Cantlay, Xander Schauffele, and Collin Morikawa all finished in the top 15 and a name that is rising quickly in world circles, Sahith Theegala, finished ninth and delivered so much good cheer that his esteemed playing competitor, Tony Finau, wore a smile wider than Rae's Creek.

A rousing week for all, though Rahm was the showcase attraction and Fred Ridley, Augusta National Chairman, explained made sure everyone knew what had transpired. "Forty years ago, your hero, Seve Ballesteros, won his second Green Jacket; today, you've won your first and it happens to be on the day (when he would have turned 66)."

Rahm fought to control his emotions. "History of the game is a big part of why I play," he said. "Seve being one of them."

That is when it had to hit you that this was a bittersweet Masters, for sure. Yes, Rahm deserved the tributes flowing his way and the memories of Ballesteros were special, but another historical figure was involved in this Masters and his presence invoked a sense of sadness. At 47, Tiger Woods failed in his bid to prove that he was capable of winning a sixth Green Jacket.

Playing for just the second time this season and for only the 21st time in the four years since he posted a shocking win in the 2019 Masters, Woods gutted his way to a 73-74 performance to make the cut for the 23rd consecutive time in this major that he loves the most. But it went no further and it was a sad stoppage, to be sure.

> Before rain pounded Augusta National GC Saturday, Woods hit golf balls in the water at the 15th and 16th holes and was noticeably limping. It is tough to see any competitor in such pain, but even worst when it's arguably the greatest talent the sport has ever known.

Woods has not only won five of these Green Jackets, but 15 major championships in all and when you talk about the most important players of his generation, you start with him and needn't go any further. A famous refrain is, "Wood doesn't move the needle; he is the needle."

Specifically, he cited the painful presence of plantar fasciitis for his withdrawal, but truth be told, Woods could also mention an array of surgeries on his back, his foot and ankle, and his knees. While he's still physically gifted when it comes to the hand-eye coordination needed to hit a golf ball, his strength and his movements are limited and it's quite clear that you are fair to wonder every time he tees it up whether it will be the finale.

At press conferences, he talks of a desire to play in the major championships. But they are long, grueling walks, which is to say nothing of the strength and stamina that practice sessions will require should he want to show up in public with a polished game. And make no mistake about it, Woods' pride is relentless and he became the greatest player of his generation – and maybe of all time – by committing himself to excellence.

Should he not be able to prepare, one has to wonder if he'll want to even tee it up.

Was it his final Masters appearance? The gut tells you no, that he loves the tournament so much he'll do whatever he has to to to tee it up there in April of 2024, even it means resting his body for months and skipping major championships this summer.

Woods knows full well that the game is in good hands with power brokers such as Rahm. This year's Masters proved it. But we also know that Woods deserves a grander exit. This year's Masters proved that, too.



#### **Official PGA TOUR Content**



# EARNING THE GOLD IN PARIS WILL GO WELL WITH MATSUYAMA'S GREEN JACKET

or all that Hideki Matsuyama has achieved to honour his home country, delivering an Olympic gold medal in Paris 2024 will surely go a very long way to cement his legacy in the game and equal his historic Masters Tournament victory. The Japanese superstar has flown his nation's flag proudly over the past decade in the men's game where he has now won eight times on the PGA TOUR, which includes winning the famous green jacket at Augusta National in 2021. He was the first Japanese male golfer to savour victory in a major championship.

#### - By Chuah Choo Chiang

Matsuyama, 31, came agonisingly close to winning a medal when the Olympic Games was held in Tokyo in 2021, which took place a year later than scheduled due to COVID-19. He was part of a wild seven-man playoff for the bronze at Kasumigaseki Country Club but bowed out early in the shoot-out following a



bogey in the first extra hole.

He was heart-broken, even deflated, after failing to deliver a much desired result for a golfmad country, especially after he had a birdie opportunity on the 18th hole in regulation play to secure a podium finish. However, it is almost certain the Tokyo disappointment will provide the fuel to fire him up for another challenge in Paris next summer.

am Japan from left Hideki Matsuyama, Rikuya Hoshino, Nasa Hataoka and Mone Inami. In

"Since I was in contention, I was really hoping I could win a medal. I'm really disappointed I wasn't able to realize that," said Matsuyama, who had entered the final round in second place and one stroke off the lead.

"My goal was of course to win the gold. I knew if I had ended my round with birdie, I was going to get a bronze medal. I'm left with a frustration that I wasn't able to convert the opportunities. I have no energy or endurance left at this point. But I kept fighting at the end with my heart. Unfortunately, I fell short at the end."

Since bursting onto the scene with back-to-back

wins in the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship in 2010/11, Matsuyama quickly built a reputation as one of the world's leading golfers with his rapid success on the PGA TOUR that he now jointly holds the record of having the most number wins by an Asian golfer alongside Korean great, K.J. Choi.

As a 22-year-old rookie, he produced a stunning victory at the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village in 2014, and it proved to be his career launch pad in the U.S. Jack Nicklaus, the Memorial Tournament host and holder a record 18 major victories, has since become a big admirer of Matsuyama's rise in the game.

"I've been blessed to spend a lot of time in Japan and I know they love the game of golf. I competed against the great Isao Aoki, and know how revered he was and is. Hideki will also now forever be a hero to his country," said Nicklaus in a tweet following Matsuyama's win at the Masters.

"I was able to watch every shot and Hideki played beautifully. He kept cool and calm

"SINCE I WAS IN CONTENTION, I WAS REALLY HOPING I COULD WIN A MEDAL. I'M REALLY DISAPPOINTED I WASN'T ABLE TO REALIZE THAT."

Hideki Matsuyama

... the day and moment belongs to Hideki Matsuyama! This is a great day for him, for Japan, and for the global game of golf."

Australian Adam Scott, a former Masters champion himself, has known Matsuyama since taking him under his wing when the latter featured in his first Presidents Cup in 2013. He predicts Matsuyama will continue to blaze the trail for Japanese and Asian golf.

"He's a bit like a Tiger Woods to the rest of the world, Hideki in Japan," said Scott. "He's obviously developed a lot. He's continued to

#### **Official PGA TOUR Content**



win. I think he goes through his process very well and seems to have a pretty level head on his shoulders. He's quite an intense character, actually, even though we don't really see that, and obsessive about his game."

As a child, Matsuvama idolised Tiger Woods and watched the American legend win the 1997 Masters on TV, and began dreaming about competing at Augusta National. He realised his childhood goal by winning the 2010



Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship, which the winner is invited to play in the Masters. The experience of competing on the hallowed turf at Augusta National marked the beginning of his American odyssey, which he now hopes many others will emulate.

"Hopefully I'll be a pioneer, and many other Japanese will follow. I'm glad to be able to open the floodgates hopefully, and many more will follow me," said Matsuyama following his Masters triumph.

Behind the trademark wraparound sunglasses, Matsuyama portrays himself as a man of mystery and is certainly a man of few words. Every shot he makes on the PGA TOUR is closely followed by the TOUR's Japanese TV partners and he conducts interviews with Japanese media after every round, irrespective of whether he had shot a 64 or 75.

Even then, he keeps his cards closely to his chest. Known for his privacy, he surprised the media back in 2017 by announcing he and his wife had welcomed their first born. The thing was, most media were not even aware he was married. "No one really asked me," Matsuyama said ruefully.

However, those who know Matsuyama well say he is funny, thoughtful and humble.

Chinese Taipei's C.T. Pan, who won the bronze medal in Tokyo after prevailing in the play-off which included Collin Morikawa and Rory McIlroy, said Matsuyama was an ideal partner

**A TIGER WOODS TO THE REST** OF THE WORLD. HIDEKI IN JAPAN. **HE'S OBVIOUSLY DEVELOPED A LOT. HE'S CONTINUED** TO WIN."

#### Adam Scott

when they partnered for the International Team in the 2019 Presidents Cup.

"He's kind of funny. The matches I played with him, I mean he was really serious but was always trying to lighten the mood at the same time. I think he knows what to do as he's the veteran, but in general he's funny," said Pan.

Whether or not Matsuyama realises his goal of earning an Olympic medal, his countryman, Shigeki Maruyama, who won three PGA TOUR tournaments before Matsuyama's emergence, knows the latter has paved the way for others to follow in his footsteps.

"He gave us a big dream. That's what I think he did. Japan's experiencing a golf boom right now. Because of that, the number of junior golfers who want to become the next Hideki will increase for sure." said Maruyama.

# THE PGA TOUR'S ULTIMATE PRIZE AWAITS

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#### On the PGA Tour

# MATT FITZPATRICK WINS RBC HERITAGE IN PLAYOFF

Matt Fitzpatrick defeated defending champion Jordan Spieth on the third playoff hole at the RBC Heritage, stuffing his approach in close on the par-4 18th at Harbour Town to secure his first victory since the U.S. Open last June.

Fitzpatrick hit 9-iron to within 1 foot on the famed, closing lighthouse hole to set up the winning birdie on the Pete Dye layout he played as a child on vacation.

Fitzpatrick had to sweat out a couple of prime chances by Spieth on the first two extra holes. Spieth raised his putter in triumph before watching his 12-foot birdie putt catch the right edge and spin out the first time the pair played the 18th. Then Spieth's 9-foot birdie attempt ran out of steam on the right edge at the 17th hole.

There was no doubt about the final hole as Fitzpatrick, from 187 yards out, hit the front of the green and watched the ball settle next to the hole. Spieth's attempt from 26 feet away rolled past and Fitzpatrick tapped in for the victory.

"It's hard to describe," Fitzpatrick said. "It doesn't get better than this."



Fitzpatrick won \$3.6 million from the elevated purse of \$20 million in the sixth designated event of the year on the PGA TOUR, topping a field that included seven of the world's top

#### 10 players.

Fitzpatrick trailed Spieth by two with five holes to play, but made birdies on the 15th and 16th holes to tie for the lead at 17-under.

# **COREY CONNERS** WINS VALERO TEXAS OPEN FOR SECOND TIME IN FIVE YEARS

Corey Conners won the Valero Texas Open for the second time in five years for his second PGA TOUR title, closing with a 4-under 68 for a one-stroke victory over rookie Sam Stevens.

"I had been feeling really good about my game, and looking forward to getting back here to San Antonio," Conners said. "When I won in 2019, it was different, a real rollercoaster final round. I dug deep on the back nine, so I tried to channel that part of it today."

A shot behind Patrick Rodgers starting play, Conners had a three-shot lead after he birdied No. 15. Stevens eagled the 17th, but missed a 9-foot birdie putt at 18 that would have tied it. Connors ended it with a 3-foot par putt on 18.

"I saw he had hit in the fairway, so I figured he could manage making a 5," Stevens said. "He had it in the bag when I missed that putt on 18. I knew I had to do something cool on the last couple of holes, and I was pretty at calm, pretty at peace on 17. I couldn't believe I got it as close as I did, and was able to make that one. That gave me a chance."

Sam Ryder (66) and Matt Kuchar (68) followed at 13 under.



# IMAHIRA GETS JGTO SEASON OFF TO A WINNING START

Shugo Imahira picked up his eighth JGTO title by triumphing in the season-opening Token Homemate Cup as American Han Lee earned a morale-boosting joint-third placing.

Lee, 45, enjoyed a birdie-birdie finish as he signed off the week with a five-under-par 66 to finish on 20-under 267 total, just three shots adrift of Imahira, who sparkled with a 63 at the Token Tado Country Club.

Starting the day two shots off the pace, Imahira charged up the leaderboard with a flawless round containing eight birdies.

After picking up his first on the fourth hole, he birdied seven of his last 10 holes to storm up the leaderboard before sealing a two-shot win over Rikuya Hoshino, who carded a 67.

Ryo Ishikawa, who held the joint lead with Hoshino, had five birdies to go against two bogeys for a 68 to join Lee in third.

For Lee, it marked his second straight top-10 finish in the tournament after coming in tied ninth last year.

It was also his best result since finishing outright third at the Kansai Open in April last year.

"Very happy with the week. I got to play with Shugo, who won the Order of Merit twice, a top,



top player on Tour," said Lee.

"Definitely a learning experience and eye opener for me to see how he made the back nine charge. You got to make a lot putts and he did just that. "Watching what he did kind of burned the desire in me." Michael Hendry, the 2015 winner, failed to mount a strong challenge on the final day as he had to settle for tied 11th with six others including Song Young-han of South Korea.

The New Zealander could only muster a 71 after trading three birdies with as many bogeys.

# **RISING STAR SEIMIKAWA SHINES AGAIN AS BAEK SETTLES FOR T10**

Japan's Taiga Semikawa further underlined his status as the next big

thing in Japanese golf after he fired a final round four-under-par 67 to win by four shots from compatriot Takahiro Hataji at the Kansai Open Golf Championship on Sunday.

It was Semikawa's third title on JGTO but his first as a professional.

Semikawa was pleased to have made amends after last year's final round meltdown saw him settle for tied-17th after having entered the final day in solo third.

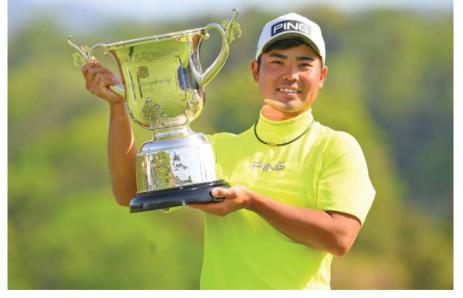
"I really wanted to make up for last year's disappointment, and I think I've become more mature since last year," said an emotional Semikawa.

Buoyed by his latest victory, Semikawa has swiftly set his sights on becoming the prize money king on JGTO.

"Higa won this tournament and went on to top the prize money rankings, it's my hope that I can do the same too!" he said.

American Todd Baek was, meanwhile, unable to win his first JGTO title after ending his week in a tie for 10th place.

Baek went into the final round in joint third and four shots off the pace. But he could



only close with a 72 to finish the week on eight-under-par 276 total - nine shots behind Semikawa.

Despite the disappointment, Baek believes securing a top-10 result early in the season was still nevertheless encouraging, and he's keen to build on it.

"Absolutely bad," Baek lamented after

managing only a solitary birdie on the 13th hole to offset the two bogeys conceded on holes five and 14.

"Hit it terrible, putted terrible...nothing went right for me. It just wasn't my day, but it's over now and let's move on.

"It's just the beginning of the year, I'm still looking to having a good year."

#### **ON THE JAPAN TOUR**

# HIROSHI IWATA WINS THE CROWNS FOR THE SECOND TIME





Hiroshi Iwata fired a five-under-par final round of 65 to win The Crowns for the second time in three years.

Iwata, 42, had six birdies to offset a lone bogey at the Nagoya Golf Club's Wago Course for a 15-under-par 265 total, and won by three shots from penultimate stage leader Rikuya Hoshino.

The victory propelled Iwata, who had also finished an impressive fourth at the ISPS HANDA Championships last week, to the top of the JGTO Money Rankings.

It was Iwata's fifth title of his JGTO career, with the last being at the Shigeo Nagashima Invitational Sega Sammy Cup in August last year.

Interestingly, he also lifted the Sega Sammy Cup twice after having claimed his first back in 2015.

Trailing by one shot at the start of the play, Iwata came out with all guns blazing, birdieing his two opening holes to seize the lead and never relinquishing the top spot since.

He picked up four more gains on holes five, eight, 11 and 12 to pull clear from his closest pursuers and could even afford to bogey his last.

Iwata was delighted to have reclaimed the title he won in 2021 after coming close last

#### "UNTIL NOW, I'VE NEVER WON MORE THAN ONCE IN A YEAR. I WANT TO TAKE A BREAK AND PREPARE FOR THE NEXT BATTLE,"

year with a solo third finish.

He immediately set his sights on becoming a multiple winner in a season, something he hasn't accomplished throughout his career.

"Until now, I've never won more than once in a year. I want to take a break and prepare for the next battle," said Iwata.

Hoshino's hopes of staging a comeback were fading fast the moment he bogeyed the parthree fourth. He fought back with birdies on the eighth and 16th, but if those gains were nothing but a consolation.

Three-time Tour winner Taiga Semikawa birdied his first four holes of the day but could not make further headway as his 66 was only good enough to place him solo third on 11-under 269.

Ryo Ishikawa was a further shot back in fourth after firing an eagle and six birdies to trade with three bogeys on his way to 65.

Jbe Kruger of South Africa squandered a chance to claim a top-five finish after conceding back-to-back bogeys to close with a 68 and settle for joint-ninth on 274.

Juvic Pagunsan of the Philippines was the next-best international finisher at a distant tied-35th 281 following a disappointing 73.

#### Leading final round scores

- 265: Hiroshi Iwata 67-67-66-65;
- 268: Rikuya Hoshino 67-66-66-69;
- 269: Taiga Semikawa 70-66-67-66;
- 270: Ryo Ishikawa 69-69-67-65;
- 272: Mikumu Horikawa 66-68-69-69
- 273: Tomoharu Otsuki 72-66-69-66 Shugo Imahira 71-68-66-68 Masaya Hattori 67-67-70-69
- 274: Taiga Sugihara 71-71-66-66 Taiki Yoshida 65-72-70-67 Jbe Kruger (Rsa) 71-67-68-68 Mikiya Akutsu 67-69-69-69

## **GOUVEIA PRODUCES DRAMATIC EAGLE TO WIN ABU DHABI CHALLENGE**



Ricardo Gouveia eagled the final hole to win the Abu Dhabi Challenge in dramatic fashion after posting a six under par final round of 66 at Abu Dhabi Golf Club.

The Portuguese, who started the day four shots off the lead, climbed into contention with a chip-in eagle on the eighth hole before birdieing the 17th and eagling the last to get to 19 under par for the week and secure a sixth Challenge Tour title.

On a pulsating final day, where five different players held the lead, it was Gouveia who triumphed, finishing two shots ahead of England's Tom Lewis and Joshua Grenville-Wood, South African Wilco Nienaber and Spaniard Ivan Cantero Gutierrez who shared second on 17 under par.

Gouveia, who topped the Challenge Tour Rankings in 2015, was pleased to rediscover his form in Abu Dhabi and return to the winner's circle.

"It was a crazy day." he said. "I didn't feel like I brought my best game off the tee, but I managed myself really well. I knew the pins were going to be tucked away and my strategy was really good. I holed some nice putts and I'm so happy to finish on top.

"I tried to focus on finishing the round strong because in golf you never know what can happen. It was a special way to finish, and I'm delighted right now."

The 31-year-old, who will tee it up at the UAE Challenge next week, admits his experience of winning Challenge Tour events in the past helped him get over the line.



# LARRAZÁBAL SEALS TWO-SHOT VICTORY IN KOREA

Venue: TJack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea, Incheon, Korea Prize Fund: USD \$2,000,000



Pablo Larrazábal won the 2023 Korea Championship Presented by Genesis by two shots after

producing a back-nine birdie blitz to see off a high-quality chasing pack.

A tight battle unfolded at Jack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea on Sunday afternoon, with Larrazábal finding himself in a five-way share of the lead on nine under when he reached the turn following two front-nine birdies.

The Spaniard slipped from the summit after dropping his first shot of the round at the tenth but roared back, making four birdies in the next five holes to open up a three-shot lead.

He then safely parred his way home to complete a closing 67, to finish the tournament on 12 under par and claim an eighth DP World Tour title just a couple of weeks before his 40th birthday.

Dane Marcus Helligkilde signed for a



fourth-round 68 to finish in solo second on ten under, one clear of home favourite Park Sanghyun, Spain's Jorge Campillo, Dutchman Joost Luiten and Scotland's Scott Jamieson.

## **CAMPILLO CLAIMS MAGICAL KENYA OPEN CROWN**



#### Venue: Muthaiga Golf Club, Nairobi, Kenya Prize Fund: US\$2,000,000



Jorge Campillo claimed his third DP World Tour title as he won the Magical Kenya Open presented by absa by two strokes.

The Spaniard was seeking his first victory since the 2020 Commercial Bank Qatar Masters, almost three years ago to the day, but showed no sign of nerves as he carded four birdies on the front nine at Muthaiga Golf Club.

In spite of a bogey on the par three 11th, cancelling out his fifth birdie of the day on the tenth hole, the 36-year-old held a threestroke lead on the 18th tee. Campillo finished with a par to sign for a five under par round of 66 and an 18 under par total, two strokes clear of Japan's Masahiro Kawamura.

Campillo added his name to the trophy alongside his compatriot, the late, great Severiano Ballesteros, who won the tournament in 1978.

Kawamura recorded his best finish of the season as he finished runner-up on 16 under par. Spain's Santiago Tarrio and Ryo Hisatsune shared third on 15 under.

Jorge Campillo said "I was trying to focus so I couldn't enjoy the moment (walking down 18). You never know in this game. It was a good day to be able to finish the day good, having the lead is not easy and it's such a special feeling to win a golf tournament. The crowds were quite fun here and you know the history of the tournament is quite nice as well."

# **BALDWIN CLAIMS MAIDEN DP WORLD TOUR** WIN ON 200TH START

#### Venue: St. Francis Links, Eastern Cape, South Africa Prize Fund: USD \$1,500,000



Matthew Baldwin stormed to a seven-shot victory at the SDC Championship 2023, producing a final-day masterclass to secure a first DP World Tour title in his 200th event.

Baldwin's 11-year journey to the winner's circle has contained plenty of ups and downs, with illness forcing him to cut his campaign short in 2015

But he made the final stretch look easy as he marched to victory at St. Francis Links on Sunday, signing for a closing 68 to finish the tournament on 18 under par.

The Englishman began the day alongside Kristian Krogh Johannessen at the top of the leaderboard but made three birdies in the last four holes of his third round early on Sunday morning to take a four-stroke advantage into round four.

Baldwin extended that lead to six shots early in the final round, making three birdies on the front side to reach 17 under at the turn and keep the chasing pack at bay.

With no-one able to apply any meaningful pressure on him, Baldwin enjoyed a stress-free back nine as he made two further birdies, with



his only bogey of the day coming at the 11th.

Spaniard Adri Arnaus finished alone in second on 11 under after making seven birdies and two bogeys in his closing 67.

Reflecting on his journey to this moment at the trophy presentation, Southport native Baldwin said: "I'm not 100 per cent sure what's just happened! It's been a tough few years, so obviously to get the win means absolutely everything.I can't process it right now but it just means the world to me."

## **BURNS STORMS TO VICTORY AT AUSTIN COUNTRY CLUB**

Venue: Austin CC, Austin, Texas, USA Prize Fund: USD \$20,000,000



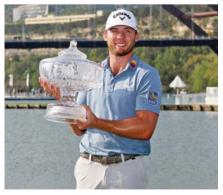
Sam Burns secured the 2023 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play title in style, storming to a 6&5 victory

over Cameron Young in the final having ended World Number One Scottie Scheffler's title defence earlier in the day.

The 26-year-old American found himself behind early on against Young but responded brilliantly, winning four holes in a row from the fifth to turn the match on its head at Austin Country Club.

He kept his foot on the gas after the turn, with wins at the tenth and 12th stretching his lead to five, and the contest ended at the 13th as Burns' eighth birdie of the match wrapped up a convincing win.

Rory McIlroy came out on top in his heavyweight clash with World Number One Scottie Scheffler in the consolation match, winning 2&1 to finish third, and moves to the top of the Race to Dubai



Rankings in Partnership with Rolex.

Earlier in the day, Burns had beaten his close friend Scheffler in a back-and-forth semi-final encounter which was decided at the third play-off hole. Young, meanwhile, defeated McIlroy at the first extra hole in their evenly-matched contest.

## HERBERT SECURES PLAY-OFF VICTORY IN JAPAN



#### Venue: PGM Ishioka Golf Club, Omitama, Japan Prize Fund: USD \$2,000,000



Lucas Herbert beat Aaron Cockerill in a play-off to win the 2023 ISPS HANDA -

CHAMPIONSHIP and secure his third DP World Tour title.

Australian Herbert got the job done at the second extra hole, recovering from an errant tee-shot before holing from 12 feet to banish the memory of the travel issues which saw him arrive late into Japan. Extra holes were required after both players finished the tournament on 15 under par following a thrilling final round in the historic first event to be co-sanctioned by the DP World Tour and Japan Golf Tour Organisation.

After Herbert had narrowly missed his 20foot birdie try at the 18th, Cockerill played the 72nd hole knowing a birdie would be enough to clinch his first title. But having found the fairway with a perfect drive, Canadian Cockerill sent his second shot into a greenside bunker - and it looked like Herbert had the advantage. Cockerill produced a stunning recovery from the sand, though, almost holing his bunker shot before tapping in for a par to force a play-off.

Both men were just off the green after two shots at the first extra hole, with Herbert slightly further back in the fringe. After Herbert missed his birdie try, Cockerill's effort looked to be heading in before an agonising lip-out extended the contest.

Despite sending his tee-shot at the second extra hole into the trees, Herbert managed to knock his second shot onto the green and roll in the putt to claim the title. **GP** 

# BACHEM BREAKS THROUGH IN JONSSON WORKWEAR OPEN

# **Venue:** The Club at Steyn City, Johannesburg, South Africa **Prize Fund:** USD \$1,500,000

Nick Bachem won the 2023 Jonsson Workwear Open by four strokes after a final round of 64 in Johannesburg. The German headed a crowded leaderboard for much of the final day before pulling clear as his rivals faltered on the back nine. The 23-year-old finished 24 under par at The Club at Steyn City for his first win on the DP World Tour, with home duo Hennie Du Plessis and Zander Lombard sharing second place on 20 under.

He said: "It's just amazing. I can't understand what's happening the last couple of days, it's just amazing and feels great.

"I just had the goal to enjoy today, it's just the beginning of my career so I just enjoyed it as much as possible and played great and got lucky that it was my day.

"I thought it was super-close and then I saw the leaderboard on 15, saw I was four shots ahead or whatever and then I was supernervous. I just kept on going and it was a pretty nice finish."

Bachem and playing partner Gavin Green hit the front early on, each making three birdies in the first four holes, before overnight leader



Alexander Knappe responded at the fifth.

Double-bogeys at the 12th dropped Green and Knappe back to 18 under, leaving Du Plessis alone in second until he too double-bogeyed the 13th - his first dropped shots in 59 holes, since bogeying the eighth in round one. Bachem capitalised with a birdie thanks to a perfect tee-shot at the par-three 14th to take a five-shot lead with four to play and rode the wave the rest of the way home.

# LOWRY SET FOR HORIZON IRISH OPEN HOMECOMING



Major Champion Shane Lowry cannot wait to tee it up on home soil once again when the Horizon Irish Open returns to The K Club from

September 6-10.

The 2019 Open Champion, who finished in a share of 16th at the Masters Tournament last week, made headlines on his Irish Open debut ten years prior when he became the first amateur winner of the tournament, and just the third player to win on the DP World Tour before turning professional.

Since his victory at County Louth in 2009, Lowry has gone on to win a further five times on the DP World Tour, including his Open Championship victory at Royal Portrush, a World Golf Championships title at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational in 2015 and two Rolex Series titles, as well as making his debut Ryder Cup appearance at Whistling Straits in 2021. Having grown up in Clara, an hour away from The K Club, the fan favourite cannot wait to tee it up so close to home in his national open,



alongside Ryder Cup teammate and four-time Major winner Rory McIlroy and Séamus Power, who is bidding for a Ryder Cup debut of his own at Marco Simone later this year.

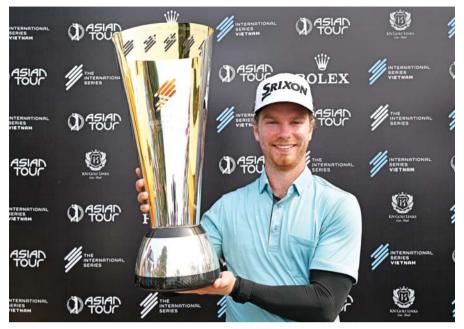
"I'm really excited to tee it up in the Horizon Irish Open later this year, I still get goosebumps when I think of my victory in 2009 and a lot of that was down to the reaction I received on the 18th green. " said Lowry.

# **KIERAN VINCENT** JOINS BROTHER SCOTT AS INTERNATIONAL SERIES WINNER

Kieran Vincent made it a unique brotherly double on the Asian Tour, when he claimed the International Series Vietnam at KN Golf Links – just 10 months after his brother Scott won the International Series England. The Zimbabwean, in just his second year as a professional, holed a decisive 12-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to beat Anirban Lahiri from India and Australian Kevin Yuan by one stroke. Vincent shot a six-under-par 66, for a four-round aggregate of 19 under, while Lahiri carded a 64 and Yuan, who missed a similar length birdie putt on the last to force a sudden-death play-off, a 68.

Japan's Takumi Kanaya had started the day with a three-shot advantage but, unlike the International Series Oman in February where he triumphed after also holding the thirdround lead, he struggled on the back nine and closed with a 73 to tie for fourth, on 16 under, with American Michael Maguire (66), Korea's Taehee Lee (67) and Thailand's Phachara Khongwatmai (67), Pawin Ingkhapradit (68) and Jazz Janewattananond (70).

"It is surreal right now," said the 25-yearold Vincent, who won US\$360,000. "I think



there are so many people I have to thank at this stage that have put so much time and effort into me that they deserve it more than myself." I feel like I am a lead singer in a band of people that have done so much for me. I am very appreciative. I don't think it is going to sink in for a while."

The Zimbabwean's putter seemed to go cold on Saturday, but he bounced back today with six birdies and no dropped shots.

# **NEW GROUND WITH FIRST-EVER EVENT ON SCOTTISH SOIL !**

The Asian Tour is set to make history by staging an event for the first time in Scotland at the much-acclaimed Fairmont St Andrews on 24-27 August 2023.

The inaugural St Andrews Bay Championship will take place at the venue's Torrance Course, a 7,320-yard layout set among 520 acres of stunning Scottish coastline with views of St Andrews Bay. Designed by former Ryder Cup and golfing legend Sam Torrance, the course is marked by its deep revetted bunkers, large greens and links design. Less than five miles from the Home of Golf, where there is recorded evidence of golf being played as long ago as 1552, Fairmont St Andrews has previously staged many notable international events including on the DP World Tour, the European Seniors Tour, on six occasions between 2009 and 2014, as well as Open Qualifying.

Following immediately after the International Series England in an Asian Tour 'UK summer swing', the 156-strong field will compete for a minimum of US\$1.5m prize purse on the modern links layout in the sixth installment of The International Series 2023 schedule.

Cho Minn Thant, Commissioner & CEO of the Asian Tour, said: "There are few greater



experiences in golf than playing in Scotland. It is widely known that Scotland's golf fans are among the most knowledgeable fans anywhere in the world and our players are really looking forward to teeing it up at a venue that is linked to the origins of the game as we know it. It is a true privilege.

"This is testament to the global vision of The International Series, and we are grateful to the dedicated team behind the scenes which has enabled the Asian Tour to grow from strength to strength over a short period of time."

# **BRAVE LAHIRI** RIDING EMOTIONAL ROLLER COASTER

Anirban Lahiri has turned one of the most demanding and tragic moments of his life into a source of immense strength and inspiration. The 35-year-old Indian, a seven-time champion on the Asian Tour, finished second in LIV Invitational – Adelaide after starting the final round 11 shots behind eventual champion Talor Gooch and closing the gap to two at one stage.

Lahiri shot 66 and 65 over the weekend at The Grange in Adelaide, matching his 13-under par show (67-64) over the final two rounds at the International Series – Vietnam the week before. At KN Links as well, he came close, falling one short of winner Kieran Vincent.

The two performances came for the world No91 after a couple of tumultuous weeks for the family, which saw him reach Vietnam without touching his clubs for more than a fortnight.

Lahiri was in the US, getting ready for the LIV Invitational in Orlando when he received a call from India that his motherin-law, battling cancer, had to be rushed to the hospital after her vitals crashed. He had to pull out of the tournament and rush to Pune (near Mumbai). In Adelaide, moments after he closed with a bogey in his 65, Lahiri switched on his phone to be notified that his mum-im-law passed away during the round.

"The last few weeks have been tough for



the family. Mom was in a lot of pain the last few days. So, we're just relieved that she is probably at peace and she's in a better place now," Lahiri said.

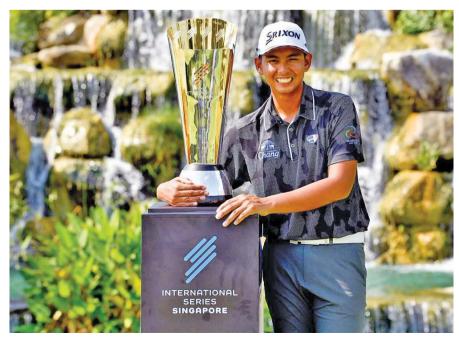
"I was forced to hit the refresh button. You

have to still look at the positives and try to receive the messages that the universe is sending. What happened the last few weeks made me kind of reset and re-establish my goals, my perspectives in life."

# **INTERNATIONAL SERIES SINGAPORE** TO MAKE POPULAR IN OCTOBER

The International Series Singapore will return to one of the Lion City's most-renowned golfing venues later this year, Tanah Merah Country Club (TMCC), and will be played from October 5-8. TMCC's Tampines Course, the scene of Nitithorn Thippong's dramatic victory last year in the inaugural edition of the tournament, will once again be used for the event, which will boast a total purse of US\$2 million, up from US\$1.5 million.

Ronald Ong, President of Tanah Merah Country Club, said: "Tanah Merah Country Club is once again proud to play our part in helping to bring world-class golf to Singapore. The International Series Singapore was a resounding success last year and, like this year, it is an important addition to Singapore's increasingly busy sporting calendar. Tanah Merah is one of the region's foremost golfing facilities and we have always felt it important to host major international tournaments."



# RSA THE 2023 WOMEN'S AMATEUR LATIN AMERICA CHAMPIONSHIP

host the 2023 Women's Amateur Latin America championship presented by The R&A and ANNIKA Foundation from 16-19 November.

The third edition of the championship will feature the region's most talented women's amateur golfers and the winner will earn exemptions into the AIG Women's Open at St Andrews, The Chevron Championship at The Club at Carlton Woods and The Amundi Evian Championship at Evian Resort Golf Club in 2024.

Mark Lawrie, Director – Latin America and the Caribbean at The R&A, said, "Pilar Golf is a renowned venue that will present a tough but fair challenge for the leading women's amateur golfers from Latin America.

"We look forward to staging another memorable championship there and seeing who emerges from a talented field to become champion and earn exemptions into three major championships."

"I look forward to getting back to Pilar Golf for the third edition of the Women's Amateur Latin America," said Annika Sörenstam. "It has been so enjoyable to work with The R&A and very gratifying to see the prestige of this event grow



in the region in such a short period of time. We can't wait to see what the future holds."

"The mission of our Foundation is to develop and empower the next generation of women around the world through the game of golf," said Rob Ohno, President and CEO of the ANNIKA Foundation.

"We strive to provide young women with unique opportunities and inspire them to pursue their dreams. We are grateful to The R&A for our

see live music and entertainment feature as

part of their event experience and so we have

developed an enhanced offering that aims to

attract new and diverse audiences into attending

partnership to conduct this special event for these talented athletes."

The format for the championship will be 72 holes of stroke play over the Blue and White course at Pilar Golf and 60 players will be invited to participate based on their position in the World Amateur Golf Ranking<sup>®</sup> (WAGR<sup>®</sup>).

The winner also receives an exemption into the Women's Amateur Championship at Royal Birkdale in 2024.

# **ELLIE GOULDING** TO HEADLINE MUSIC CONCERT AT THE AIG WOMEN'S OPEN

lobal superstar Ellie Goulding is set to thrill fans as the headline music act in a concert performance being staged during the AIG Women's Open at Walton Heath.

For the very first time, live music will feature as part of a new, enhanced fan experience that aims to attract new and diverse audiences to the championship to enjoy women's golf at the very highest level. BRIT Award winner Goulding will entertain fans on Saturday 12 August following the close of play.

Ellie Goulding said, "I'm honoured to be the first music artist to perform at the AIG Women's Open. The elevation of women's sport is something I'm a huge champion of, so I can't wait to be surrounded by inspiring women in August. I'm looking forward to seeing you all there!"

Martin Slumbers, CEO of The R&A said, "We and our valued partners in AIG have been clear that our ambition is to elevate the AIG Women's Open as a world-class sporting event. We have made important strides in recent years to enhance prize money, championship venues and facilities for the benefit of the world's best women's golfers, but we also see the spectator experience as crucial to increasing the appeal of the Championship and encouraging more fans to attend.

"Our research shows that fans would like to



the Championship and supporting women's golf at the very highest level. We are excited by what we have to offer them and look forward to welcoming fans to Walton Heath this summer."

The elevation of the AIG Women's Open fan experience and event strategy has been informed by research commissioned by The R&A into the UK golf audience which highlighted that two-thirds of fans are interested in live music and entertainment at women's golf championships.

### **RSA Rose Zhang** Sets New Record as the World's Leading Women's Amateur Golfer

ose Zhang of the United States of America today broke the record for the total number of weeks as the number one golfer in the women's World Amateur Golf Ranking® (WAGR®).

Zhang has now spent 136 weeks as the world's leading women's amateur golfer, surpassing the record total of 135 weeks set by Leona Maguire of Ireland in 2018.

The 19-year-old ascended to the number one position in WAGR® for the first time in September 2020 and has gone on to beat Lydia Ko's record of 130 consecutive weeks by remaining at the top of the ranking ever since.

"It's an unbelievable honour and a testament to a lot of hard work not just by me but by my team as well. Passing names like Lydia and Leona on any list is incredible; they've both gone on to have such impressive professional careers and are great role models in golf. I'm grateful for all the support I've received and look forward to continuing to pursue my dreams in this game."

"I want to congratulate Rose on this amazing achievement," said Leona Maguire. "It takes so much hard work and determination to become the world's number one amateur golfer and to consistently hold that position for a record-breaking number of weeks shows



just how good a golfer Rose really is. She is a future star of the game."

Zhang was awarded the Mark H McCormack Medal in 2020, 2021 and 2022 as the world's leading women's amateur golfer, joining Maguire and Ko as the only three-time recipients of the accolade.

Notable wins in this time include the recently

held Augusta National Women's Amateur, the 2022 NCAA Championship and US Women's Amateur two years ago. Last year, she also won the Smyth Salver as the leading amateur at the AIG Women's Open at Muirfield, finished T-11 at the Chevron Championship in 2020 and qualified for the 2019 US Women's Open as a 16-year-old.

### THE **R&A AND USGA** HAVE UNVEILED A REGULAR UPDATE TO THE RULES OF GOLF AS THEY CONTINUE TO MAKE THE RULES EASIER TO UNDERSTAND AND APPLY. THE NEW RULES EFFECTIVE FROM 1 JANUARY 2023.

he 2023 edition continues the modernization process, with an emphasis on both inclusion and sustainability. For the first time, the modified Rules for players with disabilities have been fully incorporated into the playing rules without the need to adopt a local rule.

The governing bodies, supported by longstanding partner Rolex, will also promote digital and mobile app access to the Rules while significantly reducing the production and distribution of more than four million printed books. Several penalties have been relaxed and language has been clarified to help golfers at all levels of play.

#### **KEY CHANGES INCLUDE :**

• Modifications for Players with Disabilities: The modifications to the Rules for players with disabilities have been made part of the Rules and are in effect for all players who fall under the categories covered in Rule 25.

• Handicap Usage in Stroke Play: With the continued growth of digital scoring following the adoption of the World Handicap System, players are no longer required to show their handicap on their scorecard in stroke play. The Committee will be responsible for calculating the player's handicap strokes for the competition and using that to calculate the player's net score.

• Club Damaged During Round: The Rule has been amended to allow a player to replace a club that is damaged during a round, provided the player did not damage it through abuse.

• Ball Moved by Natural Forces: A new Exception provides that a ball at rest must be replaced if it moves to another area of the course or comes to rest out of bounds after being dropped, placed or replaced.

• Back-on-the-Line Relief Procedure: The back-on-the-line relief procedure, often used for penalty area and unplayable ball relief, has been simplified so that the player now drops their ball on the line, and the ball must come to rest within one club-length of where it is dropped.

## **masterclass** INSTRUCTION

# THE SHORT GAME CHIP IT CLOSE FROM ANY LIE

Scramble pars like a Tour pro with England Golf coach Chris Jenkins' eight-page guide to saving your score around the greens.

Forget hitting the ball miles down the middle of the fairway. There's nothing more satisfying in golf than pulling off an amazing recovery shot from around the green. As any Tour pro will tell you, the quickest way to lower your scores week in, week out is to develop a razor sharp short game. Missing greens is an inevitable part of golf - even for the world's best - so if you can nullify the effects of errant approach shots, you'll see your handicap tumble.

Over the next few pages, leading coach Chris Jenkins demonstrates the techniques and strategies you'll need to sharpen up around the greens.

If you can introduce the techniques demonstrated

into your game over the next few months and dedicate some time for regular practice, you're going to notice a huge improvement in your scrambling and a marked difference in your scoring this summer.





Like any part of the game, improving your chipping, pitching and bunker play requires more than just an upgrade in technique. You'll need to develop solid basics, club selection, good strategy and decision-making skills, and practice habits.

#### MASTER THE BASICS FIRST

Having an arsenal of fancy recovery shots is all well and good, but you need a stock shot to rely on. A simple chip-and-run will get you out of trouble far more often than a risky flop over a bunker, so master the simple option before working on the adventurous shots.

#### PLAY THE PERCENTAGES

Just as the best strikers in football never take on the complicated finish when an easy one will do, the same rule applies to the short game. The more difficult the shot, the higher propensity for disaster! As a rule, this means playing the ball along the ground where possible.

#### DON'T NEGLECT YOUR PUTTING

Realistically, you won't hit every chip stone dead. More often than not, you're going to have to rely on your short-range putting to finish the job. In addition to improving your short game, focus on improving holing out inside six feet. Make more than you miss from this range, and you'll see your scores tumble.

#### COMMIT TO REGULAR PRACTICE

Ask any Tour pro how they structure their practice and they'll likely tell you that they spend at least twice as much time working on their chipping and putting as they do their long game. The reason for this is simple – a sharp short game will compensate for bad shots and approach shots keep your scorecard tidy.

#### UNDERSTAND YOUR WEDGES

Equipment is important for every shot, but for the short game you need to know how the ball will react using different clubs in your bag. For example, if you don't know how far you can carry the ball and how far it will run out with each iron using different length swings, you'll never get the ball close. You'll also need wedges that suit your swing characteristics.

#### masterclass

### THE BASIC CHIP SHOT Perfect your set-up to hit pure chips

Setting your hands way ahead of the ball and playing it way back in your stance may feel like it's going to create that slightly steep attack we've always been told is desirable for chipping, but it actually causes more problems than it cures. To play chip shots well, you want to use the true loft on the club at impact. You also want to use your spine angle to pre-set that downward attack, not the ball position and shaft lean.



#### SET-UP SHOULDER TILT MATCHES SHAFT ANGLE

With the ball in the middle of your stance, feel like your left shoulder tilts slightly downwards to match the very slight forward lean of the shaft.



#### BACKSWING CONTROL THE SHOT WITH YOUR SHOULDERS

Control the shot as you would a long-range putt, allowing your shoulders and arms to move the club back and through.



#### IMPACT KEEP YOUR HANDS QUIET ALL THE WAY THROUGH

Maintaining your spine tilt, focus on keeping your shirt buttons left of the ball to create a downward strike and use the full loft of the club.

### HOW TO FIX THE TWO BIGGEST CHIPPING FAULTS

Many chipping faults can be traced back to address – in particular, standing too far from the ball with your hands set too low. Another factor is playing the ball too far back in your stance with the shaft leaning towards the target.

Since chipping requires a fairly slow swing, gravity can cause the shaft to drop to a more vertical position. This means the clubhead is lower at impact than at address. The solution is to set up with the shaft at a steeper angle. It also helps to set the grip more in your palm. While the heel of the club will be slightly off the ground, it means the clubhead cannot get any lower

throughout the shot, thereby guaranteeing a good strike.



### CLUB SELECTION Think 'minimum effort, maximum roll'

Many players opt to chip with just a few lofted wedges, but that's usually not the smartest play. As with any other shot, good chipping is all about reducing your margin for error and giving yourself the best chance of executing the shot well. In most instances, from just off the green, chipping with one of your straighter-faced clubs like a 6-iron or 7-iron is a higher percentage play than, say, a 54-degree wedge. You can keep your backswing shorter and therefore more controlled, as well as get the ball rolling forwards rather than upwards.

CLUB	CARRY	ROLL
5-iron	20%	80%
6-iron	30%	70%
7-iron	40%	60%
8-iron	50%	50%
9-iron	60%	40%
Pitching wedge	70%	30%
Sand wedge	80%	20%
Lob wedge	90%	10%



To get a feel for how each club performs around the green, create a ladder to the hole laying some shafts or sticks on the green a few feet apart just to the side of your line to the hole. Using different clubs, aim to land the ball in each segment of the ladder and see how it rolls out. This will quickly train your brain into knowing which club is appropriate for the situation.

#### **masterclass**

### THE FLOP SHOT Widen everything to add maximum loft

You pull or push an approach and, when you get to your ball, you find that not only is there a bunker between you and the hole, the pin is cut just a few feet onto the green. The smart strategy is to chip to the widest part of the green and accept you'll probably drop a shot, but there are times when you want to take this shot on. The good news is that it's not nearly as difficult to play as it looks.

### GET WIDE AND

One of the secrets to adding loft at impact is to get the club approaching the ball at a shallow angle. Widening your stance and standing a little further away from the ball than you normally would will help you lower your body and your hands at address. These adjustments will give you more confidence to open the face of your sand wedge or gap wedge.



### FLARE YOUR LEAD TOE TOWARDS THE TARGET

Rotating your lead toe helps with two things. First, it presets a little extra hip clearance. This will enable you to turn your body through to the target with more freedom. Second, it helps anchor a little bit of extra weight on to your front foot. This will discourage you from allowing your weight to fall onto your back foot and trying to 'scoop' the ball into the air – which is absolutely the last thing you want to do when playing this shot.

### 3

### SET CLUBSHAFT IN A VERTICAL POSITION

Think about the relationship between the clubshaft and the clubface. If the shaft leans towards the target, the clubface loses loft. To maximise the loft on your wedge, set up with your hands directly above the ball. You can even play this shot with the shaft leaning slightly away from the target, but that requires a little extra practice to master.

#### CHOKE DOWN A LITTLE ON THE GRIP

This shot is all about keeping loft on the clubface at impact and being able to swing with speed without worrying that the ball will fly too far. Once you've widened your stance as I suggested in the first step, you'll most likely find it more comfortable to move down an inch or so on your grip. This small adjustment will improve your control and add a little extra wrist action to the shot – not to mention some additional height.



### THE FLOP SHOT TECHNIQUE Eliminate the wrists and focus on rotation

The longer the swing and the more wrist action you use, the more difficult it becomes to control your impact point and the exact loft on the clubface. Keep your hands passive and directly over the ball at impact. Too far ahead will de-loft the clubface and take height off the shot. The best way to maintain the full loft and, at the same time, create the speed you need to get the ball in the air and carry it to the green is by rotating your upper body to deliver the club to the ball, keeping your hands out of the release.



### STILL NOT CONFIDENT? TRY A SIMPLER METHOD

The shot I've just demonstrated is easier to play than the long, lazy lob, but it requires a few adjustments to play it well. Here's a simpler version. It won't fly as high and the ball will run more on landing, but if you just want to clear a hazard and get back in play, this is a good option.



#### SHOULDER ANGLE MATCHES SPINE ANGLE

It's not true you need to have the ball back and weight forward. With the ball in the middle, tilt your left shoulder down to match the shaft's slight forward lean.

#### CONTROL THE SHOT WITH YOUR SHOULDERS

Control the shot with your arms and shoulders – as you would with a long putt. Resist the temptation to break your wrists to add more height to the shot.

#### ROTATE YOUR BODY THROUGH THE BALL

Maintaining your spine tilt, keep your shirt buttons left of the ball to create a downward strike and use the full loft. Keep your chest rotating through to the target.

#### WEIGHT FINISHES ON YOUR FRONT FOOT

The finish is simply a slightly curtailed version of the flop shot opposite – again a sign I have delivered the club with my upper body and not my hands.

#### masterclass

### CHIPPING STRATEGY How to read your chips like putts

Great chipping is as much about strategy and preparation as it is technique. Many amateurs make the mistake of simply looking at the distance they need to hit the ball rather than looking at the shot, figuring out where they need to land the ball on the green and deciding what club is best-suited to the situation. Here's a routine you can quickly integrate into your game to chip it closer more often. It doesn't have to slow up play – in fact, it'll speed things along if you're chipping it dead every time!

Once you've chosen the club you believe will enable you to hit your landing spot and roll out to the pin, set up next to the ball and make a couple of practice swings while looking at your landing

spot to groove your feel.

Before you even think about club selection, walk to your ball, assess the lie and the shot you think you'll need to play. Start to visualise the flight and roll of the ball in your mind. Finally, set up to the ball and focus on your landing spot. You no longer need to look at the hole now if you've done your prep work. Play your shot and watch the ball roll to the hole. If you've selected the right club and landed the ball where you wanted to, this shot cannot fail!

If you're a little unsure as

to the break of the green, walk to a central point between your ball and the hole and take a look. Again, this doesn't have to slow up play if you do this while others are preparing to play.



Pick a landing spot a few feet onto the green, taking into account any slope the ball might encounter on the way to the hole. Now you can pull the club from the bag. Also remember that once the ball starts rolling it will take the slope on the green just like a putt, so always factor in break.



### QUICK DRILL

It's easy to fall into the trap of practising your chipping from perfect lies. While that's great for helping you groove your technique, it doesn't help you develop a deep and versatile short game. On the course, you'll have to adapt to a wide range of greenside scenarios. Every practice session should include time spent chipping from unorthodox lies, like longer grass, rough or slopes.

#### **Practising your short game**

How to make the quickest improvements in the shortest time.



#### GROOVE YOUR TECHNIQUE AND YOUR PROCESS

short game

To really sharpen up your chipping skills, divide your practice time between refining your technique and grooving your decision-making and pre-shot routine. With so many variables in lie and distance around the green, it's important to have a wide repertoire of shots at your disposal as well as a robust decision-making process to help you select your club and the shot.

Practise how you play
 replicate real on-course situations.

Avoid hitting too many shots from one location.

 Refine your process for shot assessment and club selection.
 Set measurable goals to keep you focused.

#### CLOSING THE DEAL – HOW TO HOLE OUT WITH CONFIDENCE

Holing out from inside five-feet is all about process, discipline and repetition. Any practice for short putts should recreate the pressure of holing them on the course. There are plenty of drills out there, but whichever ones you choose, start with easy two-footers and build up to about five-feet with ramifications for missing. You could make it a goal, say, to hole 50 short putts with the penalty of starting again if you miss. They're important on the course, so make them important in practice.

Go through your pre-putt routine on every practice putt to develop the focus you need on the course.

Keep track of your stats so that you always have a measurable goal to aim for. 69

### 14-YEAR-OLD AMATEUR LANDGRAF WINS 2023 TERRE BLANCHE LADIES OPEN



French amateur Louise Uma Landgraf held her nerve to triumph in a three-way playoff and win the 2023 Terre Blanche Ladies Open.

The 14-year-old had a solid final day at Golf de Terre Blanche where she rolled in five birdies during her round of 74 (+2).

Despite a shaky start with a double bogey on her first hole, the amateur held her nerve to secure a place in the playoff and then clinch her first professional victory.

"It feels amazing to win," said the teenager. "Especially, to win on a professional tour is something I've wanted to accomplish for a really long time.

"Having accomplished it in France in my home country is really nice. It was my first time playing this course, I think I did a good job."

Landgraf rolled in a birdie on the 18th hole to put her in the playoff alongside fellow French player Charlotte Liautier and Pasqualle Coffa of the Netherlands before going on to win the second LETAS tournament of the year.

The French youngster explained: "Before the last putt I was telling myself that I did a good job, even if I missed the putt. I thought it would be nice to hole it.

"I exceeded my expectations by a long way. My dad was my caddie this week, he used to caddie for me a lot when I was younger, so it was really nice for him to join me this week."

Liautier, who led at the end of the first day after play was suspended, has an excellent round of 68 (-4) on the final day which included two eagles, three birdies and three bogeys to put her in the early clubhouse lead.

The Frenchwoman was soon joined by amateur Landgraf and Dutch golfer Coffa, who topped the leaderboard at the end of the second day, on



one-under-par with the trio competing in the playoff.

France's Chloe Salort narrowly missed out on the playoff, finishing in outright fourth place on level par with French duo Agathe Sauzon and Emie Peronnin one shot further back in a share of fifth place.

### **STORYLINES TO KEEP AN EYE ON**

It's nearly time for the golf to begin again, as the Ladies European Tour (LET) gets set to resume at the Jabra Ladies Open.

The 2023 LET schedule features 30 official events in 21 countries across the world with the Tour starting again next week in France.

There have been six different winners from the first six events of 2023, but what will happen throughout the rest of the season?

#### Who Will Clinch The 2023 Race To Costa Del Sol Crown?

The 2023 Race to Costa del Sol is well underway with India's Aditi Ashok leading the standings having accumulated 1,210.00 points from the three events she has played in this season. However, the next run of events comes thick and fast and there is the potential for the standings to change a lot especially if someone finds their groove and has a consistent run of form.

#### Can The European Solheim Cup Team Get Their Hat-Trick?

Team Europe are vying for a third win ina-row at this year's Solheim Cup, which is



taking place in Spain for the first time in its history. Finca Cortesin will host the prestigious competition between September 22-24 as the U.S. Team battle against the Europeans for the coveted trophy.

Suzann Pettersen is at the helm of Team Europe

and will be looking to guide her team to a third consecutive win after triumphs at Gleneagles in 2019 and Toldeo in 2021. However, Stacy Lewis will be working hard to make sure her U.S. Team give it all they've got to try and win back the trophy.

# **STUBBORN' WOODS ACCEPTS** CURRENT 'LACK OF MOBILITY' BUT FEELS HE CAN STILL WIN

The interview was taken by **V Krishnaswamy** during The Masters press conference.

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tubborn is how Tiger Woods described himself on the eve of his 25th Masters, a tournament he has won five times between 1997 and 2019. Even though he was happy to have made the cut last year overcoming so many physical hurdles, he yearns to

win it once more and join Jack Nicklaus at the summit with six Green Jackets.

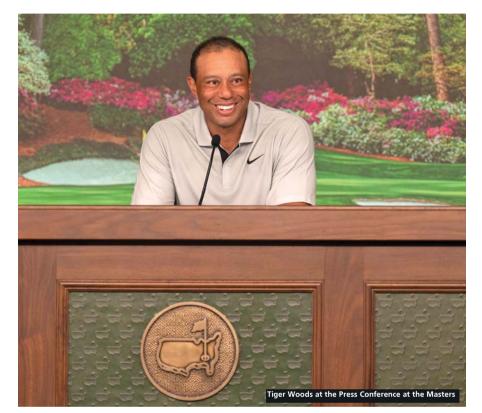
Woods will go on Thursday with Viktor Hovland, the young Norwegian, who has twice won his tournament, the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas, and received the Trophy from the legend himself. Now they will play together in three threesome that includes Xander Schauffele.

Woods has played just once this year, three times in 2022 and that was all at the Majors, including the 2022 Masters. He even missed his own event, the Hero World Challenge, pulling out a day before the start.

In 2022, he made the cut at Augusta and called 'the finishing four rounds' as a small victory by itself, because of his troubles while walking post injuries and accidents.

At the Masters last year Woods has indicated that he would not be there unless he thought he had a good chance of winning the tournament. It may have changed a lot, for he said, "Well, it's different. I didn't win the tournament, but for me to be able to come back and play was a small victory in itself. Yeah, I still would have liked to have gotten the W, but I didn't, but I think I got my own smaller version of that, to be able to come back and just be able to play. I had a little time off there before; I had not played in a while. I know the golf course and I know where to miss and I know where to hit it. I was able to do that and somehow shoot under par and make it to the weekend. It was a little tough on that Saturday."

Comparing 2022 and 2023, he said, "I think my game is better than it was last year at this particular time. I think my endurance is better. But it aches a little bit more than it did last year just because at that particular time when I came back, I really had not pushed it that often. And I had a little window in which I did push it and was able to come back. Fastforwarding, I didn't really play a whole lot afterwards. Took a little bit to recover from



#### the event.

I played in February at L.A. and then took a little time off before getting ready for this. You know, I just have to be cognizant of how much I can push it. Like Rory was saying, I can hit a lot of shots but the difficulty for me is going to be the walking going forward. It is what it is. I wish it could be easier."

Asked what has helped him overcome all the hurdles that he has come across in his career, Woods shot, "Stubbornness. Yeah, you guys have seen me. I'm a little on the stubborn side. I believe in hard work, and I believe in getting out there and getting out of it what you put into it. I've worked very hard throughout my career and in my craft; I've always loved it. "I've certainly had my share of adversity physically and had multiple surgeries and I've had to come back and work through that. You know, those were tough. They were never easy. But it's just the overall desire to win has always been there, and I've always worked at

Woods is not sure how long he will continue

it and believed in what I could do."

to come to the Masters, where he is loved. He said, "I don't know how many more I have in me. I know more guys on the Champions Tour than I do the regular tour."

"The overall desire to win has always been there," Woods said. "And I've always worked at it and believed in what I could do." He has pushed himself getting ready for the Masters. "I've been able to re-create a lot of

the chip shots at home in my backyard, or I'm at Medalist (golf course) hitting balls off the side of lies," said Woods. "I'm trying to simulate shots and rehearsing again and again each and every flag location, each and every shot I would possibly hit."

He went on, "I'm very lucky to have this leg; it's mine. Yes, it has been altered and there's some hardware in there, but it's still mine. It has been tough and will always be tough. The ability and endurance of what my leg will do going forward will never be the same. I understand that. That's why I can't prepare and play as many tournaments as I like, but that's my future, and that's OK. I'm OK with that."

# THE GOLF PLUS ANNUAL GUIDE TO THE BEST IN MEN'S SHIRTS By Randy Q. Williams

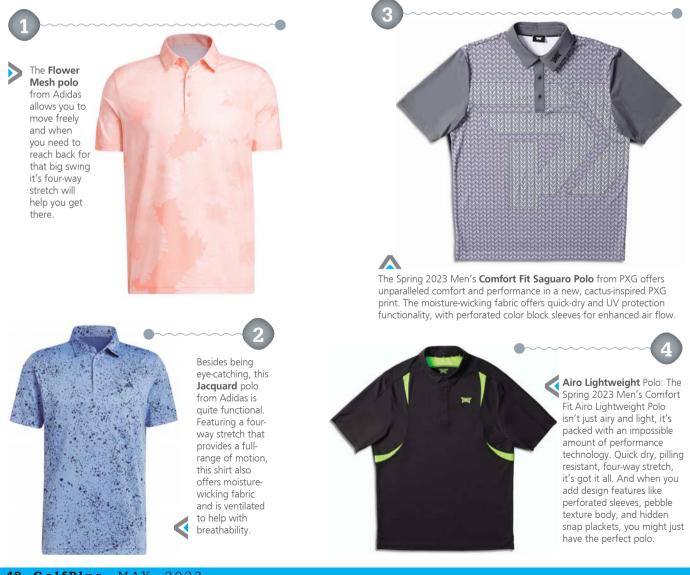
olf courses all around the world may differ in terms of difficulty, weather conditions and terrain, but most have one thing in common – their dress code and that almost universally means a collared-top.

So when the subject of shirts is brought up, since we tend to think visually, it inevitably seems the first thing that comes to mind are colors and patterns. And for golf tops, the same holds true. So, to tee off this story, let us take a look at what is trending in that area.

Looking beyond the standard solids, with such eye-catching patterns being introduced with names like Blue Giraffe, Afternooze and Peace Flowers (see story images), a good place to start is the Loudmouth Company. An apparel manufacturer that prides itself in appealing to the golfer who embraces a free and dynamic spirit, sartorially-speaking, a player that tosses all rules out the window, we're informed about what is actually trending is something that goes

#### beyond shirts.

"Clearly, people are looking for more and more bold patterns. Although we are the leaders in patterned pants and shorts, our client is asking for increased options with matching tops and sets," stated Loudmouth's CEO, Andrew Seibert. "This allows for additional outfit opportunities while traveling and makes it very easy to match. This is not simply a golf thing, but you can see this trend across all of fashion right now and for Loudmouth, this is something





#### The new Golden

Fleece polo from esteemed clothier Brooks Bros. is now out and available in many long-lasting colors that will not fade over time. From a company known for great craftsmanship producing apparel that is comfortable and durable, this style is knitted from pure Americangrown Supima cotton with spandex for superior feel. Its great performance finish enhances shape retention while resisting shrinking and pilling.



The Praia short-sleeve shirt from 7 Diamonds has a luxury look, but at the same time it is performance wear that features a 4-way stretch, is moisture wicking, and wrinkle resistant.



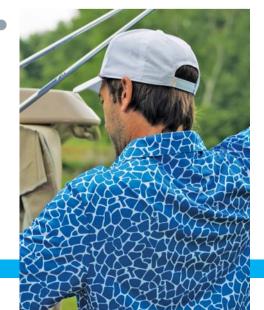
The Orvis Signature Polo Shirt now with performance tech upgrades including UPF 50+ sun protection has the feel of both luxury and durability (no wonder they call it their "signature" shirt). Available in over a dozen colors and print designs, the secret behind all the science is that it is made of cool piqué fabric that is knitted in organic Peruvian cotton with a soft hand. A great feeling of comfort on and off the course.



The **Colin** Polo from 7 Diamonds....



The Breezy Blue Giraffe polo from Loudmouth provides a different artistic element to your golf wardrobe. And on top of that it is super lightweight, stretchy and with a breathable fabric that make this polo the easiest thing you'll wear all day.





#### Feature



The Afternooze polo, with its eye-catching design, will make you stand out wherever you go. And being quite lightweight and breathable, you will feel comfortable all day.





The **Country Twill Long-Sleeved Button-Down Shirt** from Orvis features pure, 4-oz. cotton twill that is brushed soft and offers a sophisticated addition to a casual wardrobe. The British are famous for their checks and tattersalls, so with these classic patterns, you'll find they are a perfect complement to your favorite vest or sweater.

Made a poly-cotton combo, and with an all-over, tropical-inspire palm leaf print, the **FOREVER YOUNG** polo will become an easy favorite for any occasion. Built-in collar stays for the perfect shape.





The **Zinna Polo** from Travis Mathew uses a poly-cotton blend that provides a distinct level of comfort. Being featured as part of the company's Must-Haves collection should tell you something really good can be part of your wardrobe.

we do so very well so the more color, the better!"

Well after you spot a solid-colored or patterned shirt on the rack that catches your attention, the next step is one of the most important, to make sure it fits! But that has different permutations too, because while we know not everybody comes with the same body shape and size, there also different preferences in how it wears.

"Fit to Be Tied" is an expression with a double negative meaning for the game of golf. Obviously, you don't want to play in a rage and you don't want to have such form-fitting tops that you can't breathe let alone make a backswing just so you can show off your abs rippling through your shirt.

And since there really is no strict standardization between brands, it is a good idea to have a general understanding of sizing before you buy (especially if you do it online). Generallyspeaking, there are three categories: Athletic fit shirts feel tailored and hug the body; regular fit typically means true to size and feels "fitted" but looser than their athletic alternatives; and relaxed fit shirts are the loosest fitting of all (but also tend to focus more on comfort over performance). Certainly it is about personal taste, but one element regardless of fit preference is the importance of fabrics.

And the one word you hear over and over is s-t-r-e-t-c-h.

"I think the big word here is stretch," said Seibert. "Customers seem to find comfort in additional stretch allowing for increased movement and more flexibility during the swing. I also think a shirt with a lot of added stretch will have a smoother hand feel so customers simply find the shirt more comfortable overall."

Feature



The **Freedom Micro Pique Classic Stripe Polo** from the Greg Norman Collection is just that. A classic design but with the latest in performance wear technology. It offers advanced moisture wicking performance with a luxury look and feel.



The **ML75 Lab Fin Foulard Polo** allows you to stay cool, comfortable and protected from the sun. Featuring state-of-theart wicking fabric and stretch materials, you'll perform in comfort.





This new **Jacks Print Polo** is a highperformance shirt features industryleading ML75 technology that produces advanced moisture wicking performance in a stylish design.



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Bring a little "peace" to your game with this distinct **Peace Flower shirt**. The earthtone is versatile with many colors and it features several performanceenhancing components.

Spandex or elastane are often added to increase stretchability and durability.

And related to the durability quotient, with the better-quality shirts selling at premium prices, multifunctionality is also at play here as many golfers look for something they can both play golf in then step off the course and still look good and fresh (don't forget the higher-quality manufacturers include advanced antimicrobial properties) so that your quite comfortable socializing at the 19th Hole or dining out with friends right after your round. "We have a deep understanding of producing a garment that works for whatever the day or night has in store, playing a round and then heading off to the evening festivities, or a in a business casual environment for work and then out to the range to get some practice in," noted Greg Marshall, CEO of 7Diamonds.

So, when you think you've found the garment that checks all your boxes, how do you measure its quality? What kind of 'bang for your buck' are you getting? How do we know we're buying a premium product? "We always recommend looking at the "inner beauty" of any garment you purchase," suggested Marshall. "Turn the garment inside out and look to for the quality of the needle work and finished treatments. You can tell the craftsmanship and care that goes into the product."

Whatever your budget, fit, fabric and color preferences, shirts are the part of any golfer's wardrobe that presents the best opportunity to change your look, sometimes if only to change your luck on the course!

#### **Club News**

# **RECORD COLLECTION OF ₹1.70 CRORES** FOR DEVELOPMENT OF UNDERPRIVILEGED GOLFERS

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he Golf Foundation hosted its 12th edition on Friday the 31st of March 2023 with the objective of creating awareness and raising funds for helping and promoting young underprivileged talented golfers. The tournament witnessed serious and yet fun and competitive golf. Participants included dignitaries, golfers and sponsors who support the efforts of the Golf Foundation to develop champions from India, especially those from underprivileged backgrounds who are passionate, highly dedicated and have a dream of making it big in golf on National and International platforms.

The tournament was played as a 'Two Man Team Scramble', a format which encourages aggressive and bold golf and also requires



some strategizing between the two partners. The pair of Sandy Kashyap and Devesh Tripathi combined extremely well to shoot a team total of Net 57 (15 under) to take home the laurels this year. Regular podium finishers Sanjay The Winning team of Devesh Tripathi and Sandy Kashya bing felicitated by Devendra Jhajharia and Amit Luthra'

Date and Dhiraj Jha again brought their A-game forward when they shot a combined team total of Net 59 (13 under). The pair of Raman Sohi and Siddharth Sangwan finished a close third with a Net 60 (12 under).

The event saw some special talent on display from the Golf Foundation which included kids from the Jandali village who showcased their golf skills by competing with a 'Saria' and Harsh Singh, who despite having a speech and hearing impairment has made it to the Order of Merit (ranked 3rd) in the Junior Feeder Tour in Category B.

The tournament was followed by a Prize Distribution which was graced by Guests of Honour – Mr. Kapil Dev, Padma Shri Devendra Jhajharia and Miss India Supranational 2022, Ms. Pragnya Ayyagiri.

It also had an innovative event during which Golf Foundation protégé Savdeep Kadian had a face-off (chip by Savdeep Vs Javelin throw by Devendra to a target) with Guest of Honour, Paralympian Devendra Jhajharia. The success of the 12th edition of The Golf Foundation Invitational Fund Raiser can be gauged from the fact that it raised a record collection of ₹1.70 Crores.

COAL

#### **RESULTS AT A GLANCE**

#### ON COURSE OVERALL SKILLS PRIZES

1. The Imperial "Straightest Drive" **Winner :** Cmde Sharat Mohan

2. Suryaa "2nd Shot Closest to Pin" Winner : Angad Luthra

#### MAIN TOURNAMENT PRIZES

2nd Runner Up Team - 12-under 1. Raman Sohi

2. Siddharth Sangwan

Runner Up Team - 13-under 1. Saniav Date

2. Dhiraj Jha

Winning Team - 15-under (Countback) 1. Sandy Kashyap 2. Devesh Tripathi

#### **Club News**

# **LEARNING ON THE GREEN TURF** IIM SHILLONG'S DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE OF GOLF

n 4th March, the Shillong Golf Links witnessed an event that was unique in many ways. It was the 'Learning on the Green Turf' event conducted by the IIM Shillong Amateur Golf Club. The event aimed at imparting knowledge to the IIM students through interaction with CXO level corporates, along with a golf tournament and site visits to integrate the local community of Shillong and showcase the Northeast. The event was attended by 11 corporate golfers and around 100 golfers from across the country.

IIM Shillong has taken it upon itself to innovate at the pedagogical level to ensure the emerging business leaders are attitudinally equipped to perform and lead Indian businesses to higher echelons, and to do so with Golf as one of its instruments. While today's management education is challenged to provide a real context for decision making, many seasoned corporate leaders around the world pursue this through the game of golf. Golf for such leaders is a game where they learn to challenge their intellectual and tactical capabilities by "winning against themselves" and "overcoming their handicaps." It is also a game where they connect and play with the leaders of other businesses, who may be their partners or even competitors. Shillong is blessed with one of the most serene golf courses in this part of the world, providing an opportunity for the institute's students to hone their leadership skills by engaging firsthand with the most accomplished industry leaders, while also contributing to the region by bringing such corporate executives to experience the abundant nature and potential of Northeast India.

IIM Shillong is the only b-school in India to organize a golf tournament. A golf tournament organized totally by students of a management institute bodes well for the promotion of Golf as a sport in the country, with its focus on the Northeast. The event was a much-awaited one as there had been a 3-year gap in organizing the tournament due to the pandemic. The organizing committee of students and the Institute officials not only bridged this gap but conducted it on a grander scale than ever before. The theme of the event was 'Rediscover. Redefine. Rebuild.', something that echoes with the event and the overall rising India.

The event also showcased the beauty of the Northeast region. The Shillong Golf Links is a beautiful and well-maintained golf course that offers a breath-taking view, also known as the 'Gleaneagles of the East'. The golf tournament was an 18-hole one, with winners and



runners-up prizes in Net, Gross, and Stableford category, for different handicap players and Juniors. The winners of the tournament were felicitated with trophies and certificates. But the tournament was just a part of the event, the main aim was to give the students an opportunity to interact with corporate golfers and learn from their experiences.

The event was graced by the presence of some top corporates like Mr. Abhijeet Dhar, Director of Sales, CNN; Mr. Ajay, Member of CII; Advisory Board member for IIM B; Venkatraman Ramakrishnan, Director, Standard Chartered Bank; Bhaskar Sengupta, General Manager, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, among others. Many of the corporate golfers said they felt like they were at a home away from home due to the hospitality and the beauty of the Northeast. The event also saw the participation of top diplomats of Northeast such as the Ex-Chief Secretary of Meghalaya, Hector Marwein, and Tony Curtis Lyngdoh, ex-Sports Minister of Meghalaya.

The corporate engagement program was the highlight of the event. The program included interactive sessions and discussions on topics such as leadership, management, entrepreneurship, and innovation. The corporate golfers shared their experiences and insights with the students, which were invaluable for their learning and growth.

The event was not just about golf, it was also about integrating the local community of Shillong with the institution and showcasing the potential of the Northeast. The event saw participation from local golfers, who got a chance to interact with the corporate golfers and the IIM students. This interaction helped in creating a bond between the local community, top level corporates, and the institution. The participants and their families stayed in local hotels and restaurants, and visited Laitlum canyon and an immersion trip to the Sacred Forest. This boosted and promoted the local tourism industry through more pan-India visitors and social media and word of mouth promotion. The 'Learning on the Green Turf' event was a great success and achieved its objective of promoting golf and corporate engagement in the Northeast region. It showcased the beauty and potential of the region and provided valuable learning opportunities for the students. The event was a great example of how sports and corporate engagement can come together to create a positive impact on

the society and economy.

### **JAI BAHL WINS BUT PRETISHA IMPRESSES**

the first event of the Gem Young Master Golf Tour, a collaboration between Gem International Tour (UAE) and Young Master Tour (India) was played at Golden Greens Golf Club. The course conditions were tough with the breeze blowing in different directions and the tough pin positions.

This mixed event had a surprise leader on Day 1, Pretisha Gill with a 71 only under par score on Day 1, she was closely followed by Jai Bahl 72, Anshul Kabthiyal 73, Harman Sachdeva, and Vihaan Reddy both on 74.

Day 2 saw Tarun Ajay play the best round of the tournament a 4 under 68 and move up the leaderboard, but Jai with a one-under 71 regained the lead. Pretisha made a few mistakes and shot a 75, Anshul 73, Harman 74. Vedant 73, Mahreen 76, and Zoravar Randhawa 76 kept the battle interesting.

Day 3 saw a close contest between Jai,



Pretisha, and Anshul but after the 13th hole, Jai was looking comfortable and shot a 75 to win the event by 4 strokes. Pretisha who impressed all with her game shot 76 to finish second while Anshul also shot a 76 to finish third.

### **VIHAAN'S HARD WORK PAYS OFF**



he Young Master Tour had its first event outside Delhi NCR for the 2023 season. The 3-day event took place at the FRIMA - IMA golf course in Dehradun. This event was an Individual and Inter-School event. Day 1 saw the local boy Utkarsh Negi take the lead with a round of 77 closely followed by Vihaan who shot an 80. A distant third was another local boy Udai who shot an 87. On day 2, Vihaan shot a 77 and was 2 shots ahead going into the final round. Utkarsh shot an 82.

The Inter-school team event was won by Utkarsh and Udai Negi of St. Joseph Academy while the team of Ayushman Pandey & Devansh Malik of Selequi International School came second. Day 3 Vihaan brought his A game and shot the best score of the tournament 75 and won the Individual event by 5 shots. Utkarsh had a 78 and finished second 5 shots behind. Chaitanya Pandey only 11 played exceptional golf to finish third and another local boy Samirddh Thakur finished 4th.



# **PHD GOLF TOURISM CONCLAVE**



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TOURISM CONCLAVE

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e conclave promoted new innovative strategies to assist golf tourism business, it was an exclusive networking opportunity with representatives from the Golf industry focused knowledge sessions and presentations.

The golf event was held at Kenesville Golf Course, Ahemdabad which saw His Highness King of Baroda as Guest of Honor, alongwith Ambassadors, senior Diplomats, Golf Industry stakeholders, Tourism boards, Hotels and Airlines.

The conclave aimed to bring more Golf tourists to India enabling them to experience the magnificent array of Golf from the mountains to the cities. Golf travellers stay longer at a destination and spend more than the average tourist, therefore they can become an engine for growth of the tourism economy for India.





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## KHALIN JOSHI AND SSP CHAWRASIA QUALIFY FOR ASIAN GAMES



halin Joshi and SSP Chawrasia have made it to the Indian men's team for the Hangzhou Asian Games which will be held in September – October later this year.

Bengaluru's Khalin Joshi (67-68-68) completed a wire-to-wire win with a final round of four-under 68 at the Asian Games Selection Trials held at the RCGC in Kolkata. Khalin maintained his overnight two-shot lead after he topped the leaderboard with a total score of 13-under 203 at the 54-hole event.

Content Editor : Nikhil Kalaan, Media Manager, PGTI



Kolkata's SSP Chawrasia (69-68-68), who represented India at the 2016 Rio Olympics, also shot 68 in the third and last round at his home course to total 11-under 205 thus taking second place in the 19-man field and as a result booking his berth for the Hangzhou Games.

International winner Joshi and four-time DP World Tour winner Chawrasia will join Anirban Lahiri and Shubhankar Sharma in the men's team.

Lahiri, who in 2006 won a team silver at the Doha Asian Games, has since represented

India at the 2016 Rio Olympics and 2020 Tokyo Olympics (held in 2021) and will now represent India in his second Asian Games.

TATA STEEL PGTI PROFESSIONAL GOLE TOUR OF INDIA

Viraj Madappa (68) and Aman Raj (72) ended in a tie for third place at seven-under 209. Rashid Khan (72) finished a further shot back in fifth place.

In the women's event, the Bengaluru duo of Pranavi Urs and amateur Avani Prashanth tied for the first place at 10-under 206 to seal their spots for the Asian Games in China. Pranavi and Avani will join Aditi Ashok in the Indian women's team.







# INDIA swings for GLORY



KHALIN JOSHI

SSP CHAWRASIA

PRANAVI URS



CONGRATULATIONS TO ASIAN GAMES QUALFEERS











TATA STEEL PGTI PROFESSIONAL GOLF TOUR OF INDIA

### KARAN PRATAP SINGH FINISHES A CAREER-BEST SECOND

oida's Gaurav Pratap Singh ended a 14-year-long wait for his second PGTI title with his playoff victory at the Rs. 1 crore Delhi-NCR Open 2023 played at the Noida Golf Course.

The 38-year-old Gaurav (35-68-70-71), playing at his home course, put up a solid final round performance of one-under 71 before prevailing in a playoff against Faridabad's Karan Pratap Singh (34-71-70-69).

Gaurav and Karan had earlier posted identical totals of eight-under 244 in regulation play to force a playoff.

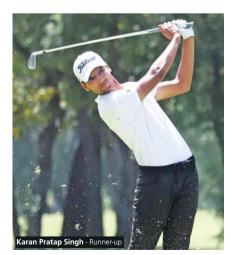
The 22-year-old Karan, who turned pro in 2019, secured a career-best runner-up finish.

Gaurav Pratap Singh, who was overnight second and one shot behind leader Shamim Khan, picked up birdies on the first and sixth courtesy some great wedge shots. Gaurav, who was struggling with his short-game in round three, turned around his chipping and putting form on day four making a number of crucial chip-putts for par after dropping a bogey on the 11th.

On the playoff hole, Gaurav made a two-putt



from 25 feet for par while his opponent Karan Pratap Singh missed a two-putt from 40 feet for par. Gaurav thus bagged his fourth professional title and second win on the PGTI. He also has two wins on the PGTI Feeder Tour. Gaurav's winning cheque of Rs. 15,00,000 propelled him from 22nd to fourth place in the TATA Steel PGTI Rankings.



Singh set the record for the longest gap between two wins by a player on the PGTI. His two PGTI wins - ONGC Masters 2009 & Delhi-NCR Open 2023 - had a gap of 4885 days.

Gaurav, who had also won his previous PGTI title at the Noida Golf Course in 2009, said, "It's been a long time since I won so it almost seems to me like my first win. I've been through a lot of ups and downs over the last few years but I'm pleased to have finally got the win. Playing at one's home course is always an advantage but I didn't think too much about that and played like I would've at any other course.

"I came close to winning a lot of times in the recent past but somehow could not close it. However, I never gave up and kept working hard. Consistency and trying to put myself in contention every time has finally paid off for me."

Karan Pratap Singh, who was in good ballstriking form through the week, made seven birdies and four bogeys in the last round. He made it to the playoff with birdies on the last two holes. Karan's runner-up cheque of Rs. 10,00,000 lifted him from 12th to sixth place in the TATA Steel PGTI Rankings.







### IN-FORM KARAN PRATAP SINGH PREVAILS IN TIGHT FINISH FOR MAIDEN VICTORY OM PRAKASH CHOUHAN AND ARJUN SHARMA ARE JOINT RUNNERS-UP



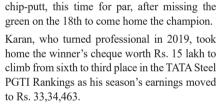
t turned out to be a memorable April for young Karan Pratap Singh. The 22-yearold from Faridabad prevailed in a tight finish to claim his maiden victory at the Rs. 1 crore TATA Steel PGTI Players Championship 2023 presented by Chandigarh Golf Club.

The in-form Karan Pratap's win followed his career-best runner-up finish in Noida the previous week where he had lost in a playoff.

Karan (70-70-68-70), lying two shots off the lead in second place at the start of the day, posted a resolute two-under 70 on day four to tally 10-under 278 for the week that kept his nearest rivals at bay and helped him triumph by one shot.

Om Prakash Chouhan (72-70-69-68) of Mhow and Arjun Sharma (71-68-70-70) of Greater Noida were the joint runners-up at matching totals of nine-under 279.

Karan Pratap Singh had an action-packed frontnine where he made four birdies and three bogeys. The bespectacled Karan kept himself in contention on a busy leaderboard with a birdie and bogey till the 15th. He finally broke away from the pack by making a quality chip-putt for birdie on the 17th. Singh made another great



Karan said, "It was great to finally get the job done especially after coming so close and losing out in the playoff last week. It's an amazing feeling to win my first title. I've been playing



well since the start of the year and have had good results. This win is all the more important for me as I missed the second half of last season due to a knee injury.

"I switched to the claw grip on my putter last year. This change in my putting grip has really suited my game and has helped me putt better."

The seasoned Om Prakash Chouhan, a contender for most part of the final day, mixed six birdies and two bogeys to shoot the day's best score of 68. Chouhan, a winner last month, further extended his lead in the TATA Steel PGTI Rankings as a result of his joint runner-up finish. Arjun Sharma had a slow start with a solitary bogey on the front-nine before he raced into contention with three birdies on the back-nine to finally end the week in tied second.















# PROFESSIONAL GOLF TOUR OF INDIA

# JAMAL HOSSAIN CHIPS HIS WAY TO THE TITLE, ENDS FOUR-YEAR LONG VICTORY-DROUGHT

B angladesh's Jamal Hossain (33-36-69-70) chipped his way to a gritty final round performance of twounder 70 to end his four-year long victory-drought at the Ahmedabad Open 2023 presented by Glade One, a Rs. 1 crore event played at the Glade One Golf Resort & Club.

Jamal, lying overnight third, one shot off the lead, emerged triumphant in round four as he totaled eight-under 208 for the week thus securing his fourth PGTI title which was also his first win on the tour since 2019.

Jamal's success at Ahmedabad pushed him up 16 spots from 21st to fifth place in the TATA Steel PGTI Rankings.

Delhi's Rashid Khan (34-35-68-72) finished runner-up at seven-under 209 following his fourth round of 72.

The first two rounds of the tournament comprised nine holes each. The third and fourth rounds comprised 18 holes each. The tournament was played over a total of 54 holes. The par for the course in the third and fourth rounds was 72. The 9-hole course was played twice in rounds three and four with different pin positions.

The 38-year-old Jamal Hossain began the final day with a bogey on the first hole before roaring back with an eagle chip-in on the second and birdies on the fifth and 11th where his chip shots landed within a foot to produce tap-in birdies.

Hossain's bogeys on the 13th and 17th couldn't



stop his march to the title as he picked up another birdie on the 15th and made a crucial two-putt for par on the 18th to pocket the top prize of Rs. 15 lakh.

Jamal said, "I played my wedges and chip shots to perfection today. After a bad start, the eagle on the second gave me a lot of confidence. I

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then just focused on keeping it in play.

"I learnt from my mistakes in Chandigarh last week where I was in the lead in the early stages of the final round before blowing away my chances with some poor iron shots.

"I've waited a long time for this win. I would like to thank my home course Kurmitola Golf Club and the Bangladesh Golf Federation for all their support. I would also like to thank my sponsor for its support over the last 14 years. My family and friends have also been a great source of encouragement for me," added Jamal.

Two-time Asian Tour winner Rashid Khan, a major contender for most of the final round, mixed three birdies and three bogeys in round four. Rashid made par on the last hole thus missing the opportunity of taking the match into a playoff.

As the PGTI heads into its mid-season break, Om Prakash Chouhan of Mhow continues to lead the TATA Steel PGTI Rankings with season's earnings of Rs. 52,52,650.

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#### TATA STEEL PGTI ORDER OF MERIT

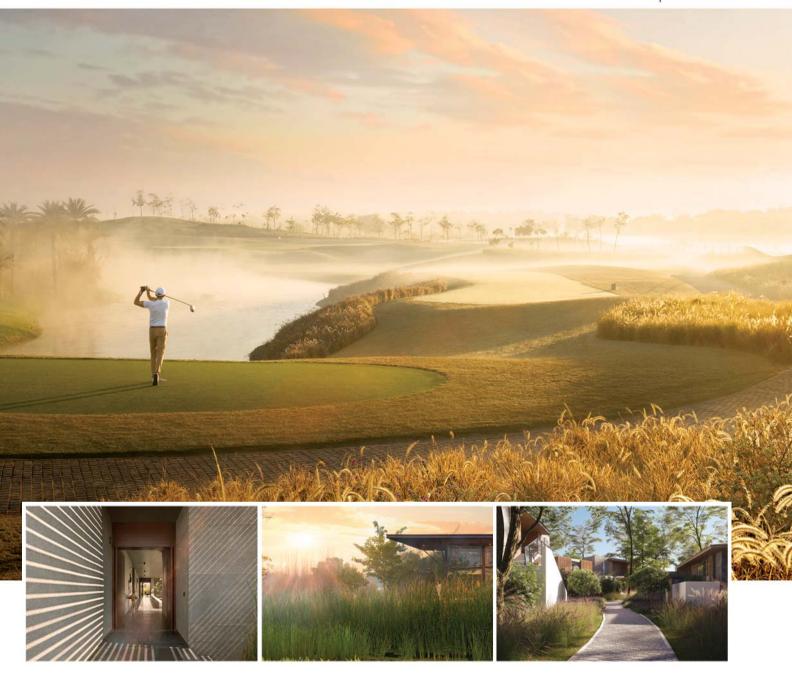
TATA STEEL PGTI ORDER OF MERIT as of AHMEDABAD OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 2023 presented by GLADE ONE (EVENT - 08)

POS	GOLFER	HOME TOWN	PLAYED	WINS	CUTS	TOP-10s	TOTAL PRIZE	
1	OM PRAKASH CHOUHAN	мноw	8	1	4	4	₹ 5252650	
2	AMAN RAJ	PATNA	6	1	6	4	₹ 3639450	
3	KARAN PRATAP SINGH	FARIDABAD	7	1	6	3	₹ 3334463	
4	SACHIN BAISOYA	DELHI	8	1	6	2	₹ 2683983	
5	JAMAL HOSSAIN	DHAKA	8	1	6	2	₹ 2418485	
6	GAURAV PRATAP SINGH	NOIDA	7	1	6	2	₹ 2166390	
7	KARTIK SHARMA	GURUGRAM	6	0	6	2	₹ 1938128	
8	VEER AHLAWAT	GURUGRAM	3	0	3	1	₹ 1904220	
9	HONEY BAISOYA	DELHI	4	0	4	2	₹ 1608104	
10	KAPIL KUMAR	DELHI	7	0	6	3	₹ 1584552	
11	ANGAD CHEEMA	MOHALI	8	0	5	0	₹ 1516534	
12	M DHARMA	BENGALURU	8	0	8	1	₹ 1429059	
13	ARYAN ROOPA ANAND	MYSORE	6	0	4	2	₹ 1416140	
14	ARJUN SHARMA	GREATER NOIDA	7	0	6	1	₹ 1373890	
15	VARUN CHOPRA	CHAMPAIGN	5	0	4	2	₹ 1345550	
16	YUVRAJ SINGH SANDHU	CHANDIGARH	6	0	5	0	₹ 1280290	
17	RASHID KHAN	NOIDA	4	0	2	1	₹ 1150575	
18	ABHINAV LOHAN	FARIDABAD	8	0	5	2	₹ 1084973	
19	UDAYAN MANE	PUNE	8	0	7	1	₹ 1066920	
20	KSHITIJ NAVEED KAUL	FARIDABAD	8	0	4	2	₹ 1062116	
21	YASHAS CHANDRA M S	MYSORE	8	0	6	2	₹ 1056466	
22	SUDHIR SHARMA	GREATER NOIDA	6	0	5	1	₹ 1032660	
23	HARENDRA GUPTA	CHANDIGARH	7	0	4	2	₹ 1030950	
24	MANU GANDAS	GURUGRAM	2	0	2	1	₹ 964100	
25	SUNHIT BISHNOI	GURUGRAM	7	0	7	2	₹ 950113	



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