

In this issue, Todd Anderson breaks down Tiger Woods' famous flop shot **p18**

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Brooks Koepka



# JUNE ISSUE!

The Game of golf hasn't had this 'Good' ever with the prize purse and events reaching epic proportions, we hope the trend continues and we continue to see the game grow.

The cover story features Brooks Koepka's win at the PGA Championship at the Oak Hill Country Club which featured a dramatic battle with Hovland Viktor But he managed to hold off a determined Viktor Hovland to win his fifth major and third PGA Championship.

Golf Writer Jim McCabe shares his views on the possibilities of a successful defense of US Open title by Matt Fitzpatrick in 'Fearless Fitzpatrick eyes successful U.S. Open defense-Englishman secures fine win in RBC Heritage to ahead of year's second major. Fitzpatrick maybe able to do just that in light of his performance defeating Jordan Spieth in April on the second hole of a playoff to win the 2023 RBC Heritage Classic



in front of his mother and father and tens of thousands of holiday visitors.

Our writer on the loose Ranjan Paul ended up in Spain enjoying the Golf offering of the Country with a large measure of Sangria and Paella thrown-in, in Costa del Sol which stretches along Spain's southern edge. This region boasts 70 of Spain's four hundred courses the highest concentration in all of Europe. The crème de la crème are the nine courses at Sotogrande, an elite residential and leisure destination in the municipality of San Roque. Sotogrande covers a 20 sq. Km coastal section along the Mediterranean Sea, stretching back into the foothills of the Sierra Almenara, with stunning views of the deep blue ocean, verdant rolling hills covered with cork forests and interspersed with pristine green fairways, a veritable golfer's paradise.

The travel section also covers the Exotic destination of KotaKina Balu in Sabah Malaysia , a part of the Borneo island- a must visit destination for Golfers and Non-Golfers alike to enjoy the rain forests, long beaches, vibrant night life & local cuisine and of course the Mt.Kinabalu!

Happy Golfing

Editor-in-Chief  
 editor@golfplusmonthly.com



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**Vol.-XVI, Issue - 6**

**Editor-in-Chief:** Anil Dewan

**Editorial Board:**  
 Amit Luthra  
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**Contributing Editors:**  
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**Deputy Editor:**  
 Charu Dewan  
 Ferry Monné

**Creative & Newsdesk Team:**  
 Deepak, Pushpendra & Akansha

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 Tel.: +91-120-4570554

**Marketing Department**  
 Shalini Tomar: +91-98114 57878  
 E-mail: marketing@golfplusmonthly.com

**News Desk:**  
 newsdesk@golfplusmonthly.com

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 subscription@golfplusmonthly.com

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June 2023

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Over the next few pages, leading players

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# INCLUSION - THE FUTURE OF GIVING

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**Sadhguru:** Giving and receiving is the basis of all transactions. No interaction can take place without these two. Nowadays, we are constantly trying to elevate one to a place of sanctity and the other to subordination. One is considered superior and the other inferior. But in actuality, these two happen in tandem; one cannot take place without the other.

Today we feel we must emphasise the importance of giving only because taking is happening in large volumes and giving has become scarce. But in reality, Existence is happening in a constant give-and-take. Since taking has become a very dominant aspect in social situations, we feel we must promote the importance of giving. Existentially, however, the two are always in equal proportion; one can never be more or less.

That reminds me of a story my great grandmother often related. There was once an old wealthy farmer. He owned a large piece of fertile land that he cultivated well. Before he died, he called his two sons and told them, "Whatever comes out of this land, both of you should share it equally. Let there never be any dispute about that." So the brothers stuck to this and always shared the produce equally between them.

As time passed, one of them got married and had five children. The other never married. But the agricultural produce was always divided fifty-fifty. After some time, a worm entered the elder brother's mind and the brother who had a big family, thought, "It is not fair that I get half the produce, because when I grow old, I will have five young sons to support me. My brother has nobody, no security, so he should get more than me". But his father had said the produce must be shared equally. So that night he went to his granary, picked up a sack full of corn, crept across to his brother's granary and secretly put it there. Whenever he felt like this, he took a sack full of grain and put it in his brother's granary.

After some time the same worm entered the younger brother's mind. He thought, "I am alone while my brother has such a large family to support. But he gets the same quantity that I do. This is not right." But he knew his brother would not accept his generosity. That night he picked up a sack of grain, and secretly put it in his brother's granary.

This kept going on. Both of them were getting old. One day both of them, with sacks of corn on their backs, walked towards each other's granaries in the middle of the night and came face to face with each other. Suddenly they realised what had been happening. Their clandestine generosity embarrassed them. They looked away, continued their journey, put the sacks where they had to put



them, and crept back to bed. After some time both the brothers died. When the people of that town started thinking of building a temple, they came to the decision that this spot where these two brothers discovered each other was the best place to build the temple.

In the story, the place of unconditional giving becomes a temple. When you give, not as a calculation, but just as a way of being, it means you are carrying your own temple within you. You are carrying God within you; you are allowing the Divine within you an expression. Giving is not just a quality that you nurture; it is the very nature of life. Above all, what you give becomes your quality. In nature, something is "red", for instance, because it holds back the other six colours and reflects the colour red. So, whatever you give away, that becomes your quality; people realise you are rich only if you give of your riches.

Today giving away money has become a

substitute for true sense of philanthropy – because people have always encouraged giving as a means to bury their guilt or whatever they are doing at the present. Many such types of giving have existed in the past. Even Robin Hood was considered a philanthropist of his time. Today, his kind of philanthropy is much romanticised and eulogised in the world. It essentially means you rob a lot of people and you give away a part of it, not the whole. It means you keep what you want and the crumbs you give away. Similarly, even the Mafia is philanthropic, because the Mafia cannot survive without philanthropy.

Gautama the Buddha went to the extent of saying that when you are hungry, if you give away your own food, you become stronger not weaker. He is a truly intelligent man, because in taking, you will receive material things, but in giving, you receive immense strength and power. To take is easy, to give is the most difficult thing for people who have established their individuality

through identification with the things that they gather. When exclusiveness is the basis of one's personality, giving is a painful process. This is the reason why all spiritual traditions in the world have talked about "surrender" or "letting go" or "love" or "devotion".

## GIVING IS A SPIRITUAL PROCESS BY ITSELF

In reality, however, there is no giving or taking. With a little deeper perception of life one can see that there is no such thing as giving and taking. It is just life rearranging itself constantly. Modern science agrees with this today. There is no giving and taking, no adding or subtracting, just a rearrangement of the same energy. If you see everything as yours, you just rearrange as necessary. In my experience, I have never felt I am giving or taking. I don't feel guilty about using anything, and I don't feel great about what I give.

When you realise that the essential process of life is a constant transaction, you will realise that for an iota of offering that you make, there are a trillion things to receive all the time. Think of the forces of Existence and the zillions of creatures working, knowingly or unknowingly, within your body and outside of it, to make life possible. Everything in the Existence is somehow collaborating to keep you alive and well. So, only a fool thinks of himself as a giver because just to be alive is to receive in great abundance. For a seeker, developing an attitude of devotion is actually a trick to receive. Because when you are devout, you become receptive. If your energies are truly receptive, the divine has to reach out. It has no choice. If your energies have really become an invitation to the divine, no one – not the guru, not God – can refuse you.

People only need to remember a simple fact: when you open your hands to give, your hands are also open to receive. Just the currency may be different. The receiving is guaranteed. To live is to give, there is really no choice. Will you give in time and will you give joyfully, is the question...

## INSTITUTIONAL GIVING

Giving at an individual level is good for the individual and the people around him, but we want to see big changes in the society then it has to be incorporated into the institutions of the society. In the past, it was always dependent on the benevolence of the king, because almost everybody else lived in poverty. Today, we need to look beyond the machinery of the state to make this happen effectively.

Idealists have always talked about breaking down or pruning the business and going back to welfare state. We have seen that welfare states have led to absolute chaos and no well-being to anybody. Moreover, if you force people to give, what you will end up with is Communism. Communism would be a fabulous idea if people were inclined to give voluntarily. If, as Marx predicted, the richest nations in the world had turned Communist, it would be a wonderful world. But the fact is that it's the poorest – who have nothing to give – who talk about giving. That is a kind of obscenity. And the rich are not talking about giving – that is another obscenity. Communism was about prosperity for all. But unfortunately, it has been misunderstood to mean poverty for all. That is why it is such a tragedy.

When the Communist revolution happened in Russia, Mark Twain was very inspired. He travelled to Russia to see this wonderful phenomenon. He was taking a walk in the countryside when he saw an old country gentleman trudging along with a hen under each arm. Mark Twain ran up to him and said, "Sir, are you a Communist?" He said, "Yes, comrade, I'm a party member." "Is it true that if you have two villas, you would give away one to somebody who doesn't have one?" "Yes, of course, comrade. I am a Communist." Then Twain asked, "If you had two carriages would you give away one carriage to someone he doesn't have one?" "Of course, comrade, I'm a Communist." "If you had two hens, would you give away one hen to somebody who doesn't have one?" The man said, "What the hell! That's all I have." So you see, people are always willing to give away what they don't have, not what they have.

When things are really bad you have to give handouts also, otherwise if you want to look long term it really has to be a business model. Without this, you will see, as time progresses instead of scaling up the effort to the extent it is necessary, you will have to scale it down.

In the past, it was only the very ambitious, ruthless people who have been leading the economy. It was always so that only the most ruthless and ambitious people reached the top, but now there are many truly sensitive and wonderful human beings, like never before. But even they are still thinking in terms of "goodness", or in other words they want to make a lot of money and do charity in the end. Charity is neither sustainable nor is it a solution.

I would say it is more important to build a gentler economy, a more sensitive economy than to do charity. In the coming decades, corporate

philanthropy will become of increasing importance as a means of bringing about change in the world, because the governments and public sector efforts cannot deliver enduring solutions in the scale of growing needs.


Philanthropy in the context of business is of much importance because businesses generate the most wealth and therefore have the potential to make the most impact upon the world. Businesses also understand the mechanism of generating wealth and in turn their philanthropic activity will be in terms of generating wealth than just giving away wealth which is a more effective way of dealing with the problem.

Though it is still a reality that 90% of the world's wealth is being consumed and enjoyed by less than 10% of the population, never before in the history of the whole humanity has the wealth been as spread out as it is today. This has been the contribution of private enterprise. It is just that we have to extend the scope of human ingenuity and enterprise to every aspect of life, and not just to do a particular kind of business. Philanthropy could become an enterprise rather than just giving away a chunk of money and saying that it is done. And philanthropy also needs the benefit of human ingenuity.

The nature of the economic engine is such that it can either bring well-being or steam-roll the weakest and the poorest in a given society. It can run only if people keep buying more and more. So today's businesses are not about profits but about expansion. Expansion can happen either by conquering or by inclusion. Conquering is a violent way of doing businesses but inclusion is a humane and sustainable way of doing business. So making business humane is not a charity or a luxury, but a necessity. It is a necessity dictated not just by the ecological situation of the planet but also by the growing consumer preferences in favour of gentler, greener business processes.

There was a time when businesses could enter a country or a market with their gun-power. There was a time when people set up large production facilities with complete disregard for the local culture and ecology. But today in India and the world over, people are making it increasingly clear that such things cannot be done anymore. Without winning the goodwill and support of local communities, businesses can no longer hope to operate in a sustained manner.

Similarly, gone are also the days when you could enter a market with just the power of your capital. Today's consumer is growing increasingly conscious of the social and ecological impacts of various products which in turn take clear expressions in the form of their preferences.

This calls for newer models of philanthropy or giving for business to be evolved that use their inherent strengths, specific core areas of expertise, using forward and backward linkages into their business processes. Such a giving is good for the business and good for the world too. 

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



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## KARNATAKA LADIES & JUNIOR GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP

**M**annat Brar swept all categories trophies convincingly at the IGU KARNATAKA LADIES AND JUNIOR GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP at Clover Greens Golf

Course Bangalore from 23-27 May 2023. Although in the reckoning throughout the three rounds, Mannat got back from behind with a solid round 4 under par with overall score of 204 over par 207.

Mannat has been consistent in the Indian Amateur Ladies & Junior Girls Golf, having topped the C & then B category girls IGU Merit in 2019 & 2021. She was ranked in top three amateur ladies in year 2022. **GP**

### IGU KARNATAKA LADIES AND JUNIOR GIRLS GOLF C'SHIP

CATEGORY		LADIES
NAME	SCORE	POSITION
MANNAT BRAR	204	1
VIDHATRI URS	206	T-2
ALYSHA DUTT	206	T-2
SAANVI SOMU	207	T-4
HEENA KANG	207	T-4

CATEGORY		A
NAME	SCORE	POSITION
MANNAT BRAR	204	1
VIDHATRI URS	206	T-2
ALYSHA DUTT	206	T-2
SAANVI SOMU	207	3
JANNEYA A DASANNIEE	208	4



CATEGORY		B
NAME	SCORE	POSITION
ALYSHA DUTT	206	1
SAANVI SOMU	207	2
KAYA DALUWATTE	210	3
ZARA ANAND	211	4
ARADHANA MANIKANDAN	214	T-5
ANURADHA CHAUDHURI	214	T-5

CATEGORY		C
NAME	SCORE	POSITION
GUNTAS KAUR SANDHU	212	1
SHAMBHAVI CHATURVEDI	217	2
ANUSHKA GUPTA	222	3
RIDDHIMA SINGH	225	4
JIA KARBHAIJNE	229	5



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## IGU ANDHRA PRADESH JUNIOR BOYS GOLF C'SHIP EAST POINT GC, VIZAG - 23-36 MAY 2023

### CATEGORY A

NAME	SCORE	POSITION
RAKSHIT DAHIYA	290	1
SUKHMAN SINGH	304	2
HARMAN SACHDEVA	305	T-3
SIDDHARTH PARUTHI	305	T-3
ANSHUL BHATI	307	T-5
GURNAVJEET SINGH BHATIA	307	T-5
ANGAD SINGH	307	T-5
MANJOT SINGH	307	T-5

### CATEGORY B

NAME	SCORE	POSITION
UDAI ADITYA MIDDHA	313	1
PRITISH SINGH KARAYAT	313	T-2
ANSHUL MISHRA	313	T-2
KANAV CHAUHAN	315	4
TEJAS MISHRA	318	5

### CATEGORY C

NAME	SCORE	POSITION
DANISH VERMA	235	1
ADITYA TEWARI	253	2
ARYAN PAL	254	3
ONKAR SINGH	255	4
ZAYAAN YUNUS	261	T-5
SAATVIC KUMAR SINGH	261	T-5

## IGU TAMIL NADU AMATEUR GOLF C'SHIP COIMBATORE GOLF CLUB - 23-26 MAY 2023

NAME	SCORE	POSITION
ROHIT	283	1
VINAMRA ANAND	287	T-2
ANSHUL KABTHIYAL	287	T-2
SUMIT KOTWAL	288	3
JAIVEER	289	4

## YUVRAJ EDGES PAST HARIMOHAN IN PLAY-OFF TO WIN ANDHRA PRADESH AMATEURS

**Y**uvraj Singh, one of India's top amateurs, won his first big event since last September as he took the IGU's Andhra Pradesh amateur title at the East Point Golf Club. He beat Harimohan Singh in a play-off that lasted four holes after both totalled 9-under 279 for 72 holes.

Punjab lad Yuvraj, who has represented India at the Nomura Cup and the Australian amateurs besides other events, blazed through the final round in 7-under 65 as he overcame a five-shot deficit to force a playoff with Harimohan Singh (70). Yuvraj then hung in and beat Hari on the fourth play-off hole.

In 2022, Yuvraj had a stunning year with a win in Southern India and runner-up finishes in Northern and Western India and was fifth at Eastern India.

Yuvraj finished with rounds of 72-70-72 and then fired a 65, the best all week with 10 birdies and three bogeys. Yuvraj's effort included five birdies and a bogey on the back nine for a 4-under 32. On the front nine he had five birdies against two bogeys for a 3-under 33.

Harimohan after 69-70-70 added another that included two bogeys in the last three holes. Harimohan gave it and had two eagles on back nine on the Par-5 on the 12th and 14th, but his even par front nine pushed him down. He had three birdies and two eagles, but also gave away five bogeys in his 70.



Top 3 at IGU's Andhra Pradesh Amateurs - Winner Yuvraj Singh (Centre), runner-up Harimohan Singh (right) and Shaurya Bhattacharya (left) who was third

Shaurya Bhattacharya (68) was third at 5-under 283 alongside Milind Soni (68), while Sandeep Yadav (71) was fifth at 1-under 287 and Shat Mishra, who had a double bogey finish shot 72 and was sixth at even par 288. **GP**

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# WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR TEAM?

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

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

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

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

## Inspiring Track Record

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



## PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR CONTINUOUS PROGRESS



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

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



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



Level 2 Rules School at Hyderabad

Tournament Directors and Rules Instructors are trained and certified accordingly.



Junior Program at CIAL Cochin

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

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



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



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



Indian team at Eisenhower Cup



Indian team at Nouruz Cup



National Squad Camp

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



## FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

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

Initiatives that are to be focused are on:

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

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

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



THE IGU AND YOU CAN GROW THE GAME TOGETHER, BECOME A MEMBER NOW. LOG IN AND SIGN UP

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# BROOKS WINS PGA BLOCK WINS HEARTS





**B**rooks Koepka looked like he was going to take command of the PGA Championship after he made three consecutive birdies early in Sunday's final round. Instead, his hot start set the stage for a dramatic duel that lasted much of the final round at Oak Hill Country Club.

Koepka, who began Sunday with a one-shot lead, pulled three ahead with birdies on Nos. 2-4. The first two came on 4-footers after he knocked approach shots stiff, and the third was from just 9 feet.

It looked like the Koepka of old, the one who won four majors from 2017-19 and seemed invincible in the game's biggest events. But he had to hold off a determined Viktor Hovland to win his fifth major and third PGA Championship.

It wasn't until a three-shot swing on the 16th hole that Koepka's victory at Oak Hill seemed certain. That put him four shots ahead with two holes remaining. Koepka went on to win by two, shooting a final-round 67 to finish at 9-under 271. Hovland finished second, as did Scottie Scheffler.

"This is probably the sweetest one of them all because all the hard work that went into this one, this one is definitely special," said

Koepka, who battled injuries between this victory and the 2019 PGA Championship.

Hovland's double-bogey on 16 came after he drove into a fairway bunker, then failed to get his second shot out of the sand trap. Koepka made birdie on that hole.

Hovland hung tough throughout the day, however, even when Koepka made his early move.

Hovland also birdied the fourth hole, then picked up a shot on Koepka on each of the next two holes. The first came when Hovland made a 17-foot birdie putt on the par-3 fifth. Then he saved par from a bunker on the long, par-4 sixth while Koepka drove into the hazard and made bogey.

Hovland got up-and-down to save par on three of the front nine's final four holes, displaying a short game that belied the standard scouting report for the Norwegian.

Hovland and Koepka each shot 34 on the front nine, allowing Koepka to keep his one-shot advantage. He started the back nine with two birdies and a bogey to take a two-shot lead but Hovland's birdie at the par-5 13th put him back within one shot. Koepka had to make a 10-foot par putt on that hole just to maintain his lead.

After holing that 10-foot birdie putt at 13, Hovland made one from 8 feet to match Koepka's birdie at the drivable 14th. Hovland was still just one back when they arrived at the 16th hole. Oak Hill became Koepka's stage after that. He made amends for the Masters, where he lost a 54-hole lead to Jon Rahm.

"I just learned I knew what I did in Augusta. I spent the whole night thinking about it," he said. "I knew what I did and I knew I was never going to come out and think that way again. Didn't do that."

## OTHER NOTABLE PLAYERS

**Rory McIlroy (2-under, T7):** Another strong result for McIlroy in a major, but it was a frustrating week for the four-time major champion who was struggling with his swing. "I honestly didn't feel like I had a chance of winning this week," he said. Known for his driving prowess, McIlroy hit just seven fairways through two rounds but bounced back with 16 fairways hit on the weekend. "I'll look back on this week as proud of how I hung in there, and I guess my attitude and sticking to it, not having my best stuff," he said.

**Justin Rose : (1-under, T9):** Rose's



Sunday 71 clinched his first top-10 in a major since 2019. The Englishman got off to a strong start, 2-under through six holes, but made three bogeys over his next five holes to drop out of contention. A winner earlier this year at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, the finish is the latest in a series of strong results for the 42-year-old's resurgent season.

**Patrick Cantlay (1-under, T9):** Cantlay

shot a final-round 66 to jump inside the top 10 for the third time in his last four major starts. Cantlay was 4-under for his round through 10 holes before making a double-bogey on the par-3 11th. He rebounded with an eagle on the drivable par-4 14th.

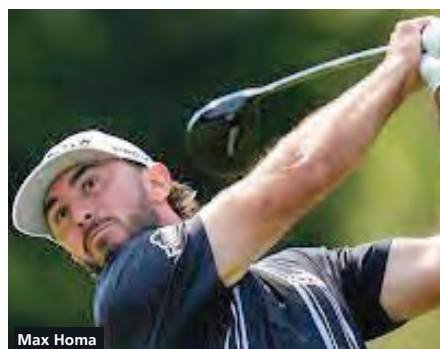
**Max Homa (9-over, T55):** Homa's journey to becoming a mainstay on the PGA TOUR took some time, but his ascension into a top-10

**“THIS IS PROBABLY THE SWEETEST ONE OF THEM ALL BECAUSE ALL THE HARD WORK THAT WENT INTO THIS ONE, THIS ONE IS DEFINITELY SPECIAL.”**

golfer in the world has come relatively rapidly. He's put together back-to-back seasons with two wins and leaped all the way to No. 6 in the world. But his performance in majors has yet to catch up. His best major finish came at last year's PGA Championship, a T13 finish. At the time it seemed like a harbinger of good finishes to come. A year later it has not borne out. Homa shot 71-72-74-72 at Oak Hill this week to finish T55. **GP**



Justin Rose



Max Homa

## Whats in the Bag

**Brooks Koepka earned his third PGA Championship and fifth major championship at the 2023 PGA Championship. See what clubs he used on his way to victory.**

**Driver:** Srixon ZX5 LS Mk II (10.5 degrees)

**Shaft:** Mitsubishi Diamana D Limited 70 TX (44.5 inches, tipped 1 inch)

**3-wood:** TaylorMade M2 Tour HL (16.5 degrees)

**Shaft:** Mitsubishi Diamana D+ 80 TX

**Irons:** Nike Vapor Pro (3), Srixon ZX7 Mk II (4-9)

**Shaft:** Fujikura Pro Tour Spec 95 X (3), True Temper Dynamic Gold Tour Issue X100

**Wedges:** Cleveland RTX ZipCore Tour Rack Raw (46-10 Mid), RTX6 ZipCore Tour Rack (52-10 Mid, 56-10 Mid, 60-6 Low)

**Shaft:** True Temper Dynamic Gold Tour Issue S400

**Putter:** Scotty Cameron Teryllium TNP2

**Grips:** Golf Pride Tour Velvet Cord

**Ball:** Srixon Z-Star Diamond



# HITTING A FLOP SHOT LIKE TIGER WOODS

In this tutorial, Anderson breaks down Tiger Woods' famous flop shot on the 16th hole at The Memorial Tournament presented by Workday where the 82-time PGA TOUR winner holed out for a stunning birdie en route to a two-stroke victory in 2012.

## RISK-REWARD

Tiger Woods hit one of his most iconic shots on the 16th hole at The Memorial Tournament in 2012. He missed the green and landed in thick rough and was out of position. The high risk option was to hit a high lob shot to get the ball close to the hole and as we all know, the lob shot, or flop shot, is a very difficult one to execute because it is unpredictable due to various reasons.

Any flop shot around the green is high risk especially with water lurking beyond the hole location. As he was in the rough, you can't quite control the spin of the ball. The only way you can stop the ball near the hole is to use elevation and height. To do this, you'll need your most lofted wedge.

## OPEN FACE

It is important to open the clubface first, then grip the club and play the ball forward in your stance and aim to the left. (Photo 1). Subsequently, you're going to take the club back and get the shaft up above your hands. That means you're going to hinge the club up to try and get the shaft more vertical on the back swing (Photo 2). You would have also noticed Tiger made a very upright back swing where he created a lot of angle between the club shaft and his left arm.





Photos by Ben Jared/PGA TOUR

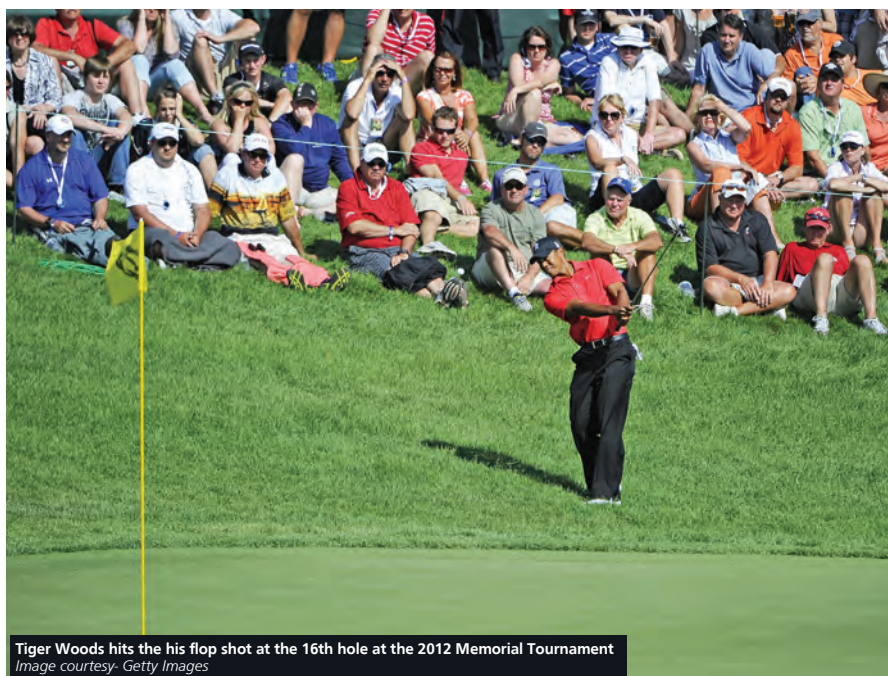
## SLIDING THE CLUB

While keeping the club face open, slide the club underneath the ball by straightening your right arm and releasing the angles set on the backswing, and letting this action pop the ball out of the rough. You should hold

the club face open and accelerate it through impact. This will prevent the rough from closing the club face, allowing the loft to get the ball up/out and on to the green. (Photo 3). Sometimes, it's a guessing game due to the lie but all you're trying to do is elevate the ball up in the air getting it to land on the

green. The goal will be to hit it high and soft enough where you can judge the distance the ball will roll after it lands.

Ultimately, the lob shot is a very difficult one to execute, but if you practice it regularly, maybe you can hole one out like how Tiger did at The Memorial Tournament. **GP**



Tiger Woods hits his flop shot at the 16th hole at the 2012 Memorial Tournament  
Image courtesy: Getty Images



Todd Headshot

Todd Anderson is the Director of Instruction at the PGA TOUR Performance Center at TPC Sawgrass, home of THE PLAYERS Championship. The 2010 National PGA Teacher of the Year has seen his students amass more than 50 victories across the PGA TOUR and Korn Ferry Tour, including two FedExCup titles. He is currently rated by Golf Digest as one of the top 20 golf instructors in the United States.



Matt Fitzpatrick of England celebrates with the trophy in the Heritage Plaid tartan jacket alongside father Russell Fitzpatrick, girlfriend Katherine Gaal, caddy Billy Foster and mother Susan Fitzpatrick

# FEARLESS FITZPATRICK EYES SUCCESSFUL U.S. OPEN DEFENCE

*Englishman secures fine win in RBC Heritage to ahead of year's second major*

by Jim McCabe

**A**mid-afternoon sun was pouring down and the warmth was especially gratifying to Russell and Susan Fitzpatrick. Validation, perhaps, for having chosen wisely some 23 years ago to spend their holiday getaways at Hilton Head Island in South Carolina.

“We enjoyed it the first time we visited, in 2000,” said Russell. His wife agreed and while their boys, Matt and Alex, were not of the proper voting age, Russell and Susan served as proxies and made it a unanimous decision. Hilton Head Island, specifically the Sea Pines Resort with its heralded Harbour Town Golf

Links, would be a destination about a dozen times in coming years for this proper English family from Sheffield.

So when Matt Fitzpatrick, now 28 and fully grown into the professional golfer he’s always wanted to be, had defeated Jordan Spieth in April on the second hole of a playoff to win the 2023 RBC Heritage Classic in front of his mother and father and tens of thousands of holiday visitors, he measured the emotions in ways that were personal.

Assuredly, the US\$3.6m prize factored in somewhere - no one would carelessly dismiss such a sum - but first things first. “I think I can

retire now,” laughed Fitzpatrick. “(Beyond the majors) there isn’t a higher one than this on my list to win. That’s the truth. This place is just a special place and it means the world to have won it.”

He had first seen the Sea Pines Resort as a 5-year-old and now he was the sixth-ranked golfer on the planet. Surreal, all of it, a point that Russell Fitzpatrick had made just one day earlier.

Bouncing back and forth between questions about Matt and Alex, now a first-year professional who is on the DP World Tour’s minor-league circuit, the Challenge

Tour, Russell at one juncture talked about anxiousness that he had.

“As a parent, you’re always worried for them. The game is so up-and-down,” he said.

So, he was nervous going into Round 4 of the RBC Heritage? Russell Fitzpatrick briskly shook his head. “No, not for Matt. Sue and I are going through the emotions for Alex, who is in Europe right now. The game is so hard. But no nerves for Matt. He is fine.”

Bloody hell, he is so right. Matt Fitzpatrick is quite fine, thank you very much. With the RBC Heritage being his ninth win - seven of them on the DP World Tour – the young man who still looks like the college student he was for one semester in 2014 is growing into a force. Do the math. It’s his ninth season, he’s got nine wins, and that’s a ratio that puts Fitzpatrick among the elite.

No surprise to his veteran caddie, either.

“His work ethic is like no other,” said Billy Foster, a classy Yorkshireman who has a resume that commands your respect. Having been on the bag for champions such as Seve Ballesteros, Gordon Brand Jr., Darren Clarke, Thomas Bjorn, Sergio Garcia, and Lee Westwood, Foster has the “creds,” as they say.

“When he goes to the practice ground, every shot means something. He’s not just hitting balls; he’s making notes,” said Foster.

To say that Matt Fitzpatrick has been a quick study with this golf business is an understatement as wide as the River Thames. Consider the steady upward mobility:

**\* In 2012 he won the Boys’ Amateur under the auspices of the R&A.**

**\* Next summer he won the U.S. Amateur, a USGA production at The Country Club in Brookline, Mass.**

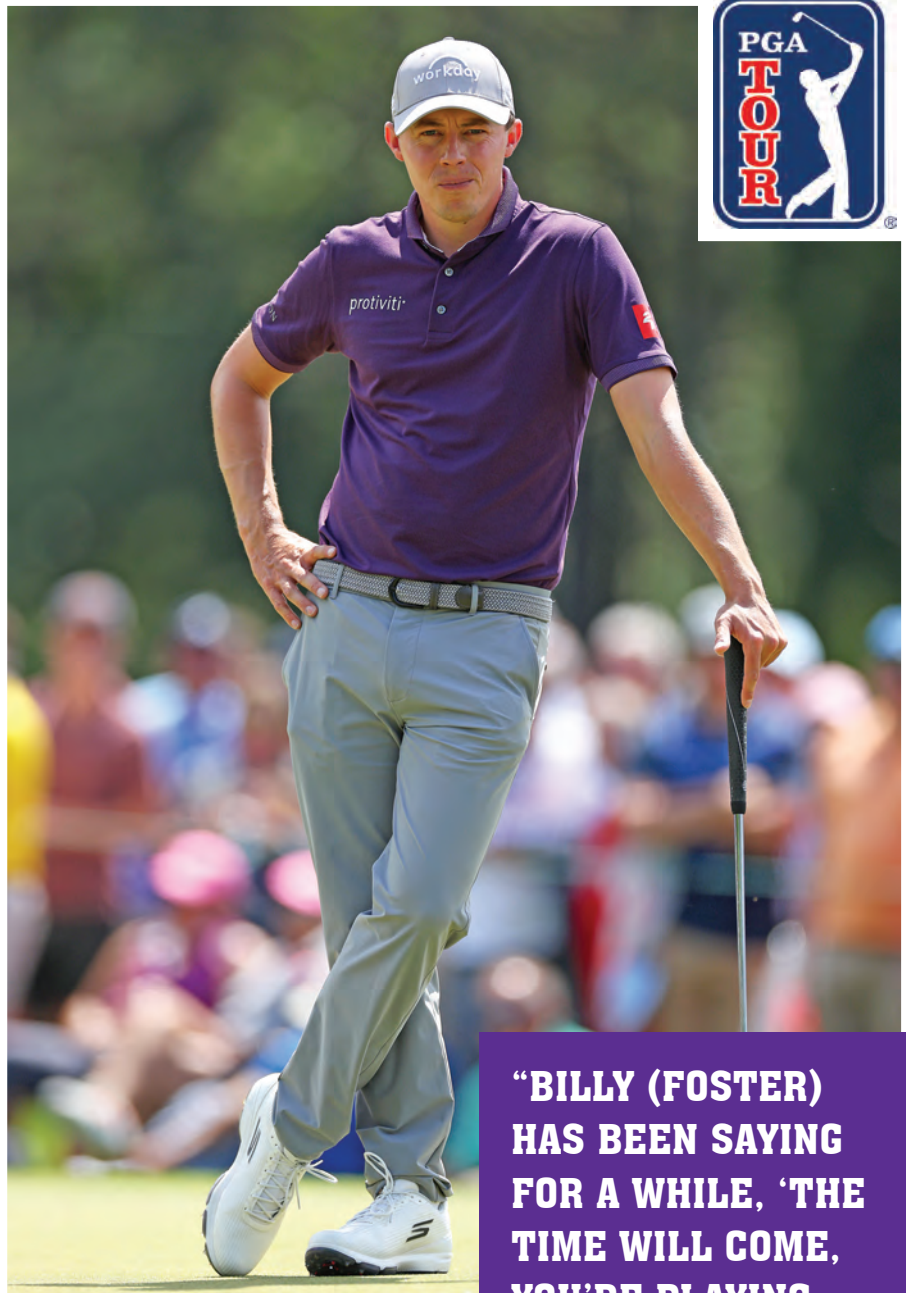
**\* There was a one-semester fling with Northwestern to test American college life in late ’13, but Fitzpatrick left school and by mid-summer of ’14 he was a professional.**

**\* A rookie on the DP World Tour in 2015, Fitzpatrick needed 10 months and 20 tournaments to break through, holding off Shane Lowry and two others to take the British Masters.**

**\* By the close of ’15, Fitzpatrick was ranked 43rd in the Official World Golf Rankings.**

The upward spiral has never stopped. Fitzpatrick won twice in ’16, twice more in ’17, once in ’18, another came in ’20, then he was ushered onto the world stage to stand alone.

“Billy (Foster) has been saying for a while, ‘the time will come, you’re playing so well,’” said



**“BILLY (FOSTER) HAS BEEN SAYING FOR A WHILE, ‘THE TIME WILL COME, YOU’RE PLAYING SO WELL.’”**

**Matt Fitzpatrick**

Fitzpatrick in the moments after his magical week at the U.S. Open in the summer of 2022.

Perhaps Fitzpatrick wasn’t fully aware of his historical achievement in winning that week (at 27 he had won a major in his 29th try, something fellow Englishmen Lee Westwood, Luke Donald, Paul Casey, and Ian Poulter had failed to do in a whopping 290 attempts combined; and he had become just the fourth Englishman to win the U.S. Open).

But clearly people had reminded him of the significance of his locale.

The Country Club is cemented in golf folklore. Fitzpatrick knew that in 2013 when told it was the 100th anniversary of Francis Ouimet’s rags-to-riches tale, an amateur who lived across the street from TCC, a former caddie,

no less, who miraculously beat English heavyweights Harry Vardon and Ted Ray in the U.S. Open.

When he returned to TCC nine years later, this time a polished professional – albeit one with a boyish face and a smile that flashed his braces - Matt Fitzpatrick stayed with the same host family and somehow produced a second unforgettable memory.

Will and Jennifer Fulton will tell you that Matt Fitzpatrick was the same brilliant houseguest, a polished gentleman in every aspect. Polite.



Diligent. Neat. Proper lad up and down the check list. But as he prepared to play at TCC in last year's U.S. Open, Fitzpatrick wore a sly grin when asked if he felt he was more comfortable than his foes.

"I certainly think it gives me an edge over the others, yeah," he said. "I genuinely do believe that."

Paul Tesori, a veteran caddie who had been on Webb Simpson's bag for a 2012 U.S. Open win, didn't know about Fitzpatrick's history at The Country Club. But he knew that he loved the way the kid had opened 68-70 to get to 2-under and within three of the lead at Brookline.

Fitzpatrick was in total control of his golf ball, said Tesori, whose man, Simpson, had been a playing competitor for two days. "When I shook (Foster's) hand on Friday, I said, 'Congratulations on your first major,'" said Tesori. "Then I said, 'I hope you don't believe in jinxes.'"

There was no jinx. There was only brilliance over the final 36 holes, Fitzpatrick shooting 68 to tie for the 54-hole lead, then another 68 to finish at 6-under, one clear of two rising superstars, Scottie Scheffler and Will Zalatoris. That is a huge piece of the Fitzpatrick



**THERE WAS NO JINX. THERE WAS ONLY BRILLIANCE OVER THE FINAL 36 HOLES, FITZPATRICK SHOOTING 68 TO TIE FOR THE 54-HOLE LEAD, THEN ANOTHER 68 TO FINISH AT 6-UNDER, ONE CLEAR OF TWO RISING SUPERSTARS, SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER AND WILL ZALATORIS.**


career, the way in which he continues to beat quality players. The young Englishman held off Lowry in his first win, then in a pair of DP World Tour triumphs (2016, 2020) he bested Tyrrell Hatton and Lee Westwood, respectively. Holding off Masters champion Scheffler in Brookline and denying three-time major winner Spieth at the RBC Heritage is the sort of fortitude Fitzpatrick is made of.

"He's got guts, a lot of guts," said Foster, who will be alongside for the chance to add even more history when Fitzpatrick tees it up at Los Angeles Country Club's North Course June 15 for the 123rd U.S. Open. Since World War I only five players – Bobby Jones, 1929-30; Ralph Guldahl, 1937-38; Ben Hogan, 1950-51; Curtis Strange, 1988-89; and Brooks Koepka, 2017-18 – have gone back-to-back, yet Fitzpatrick is undaunted.

He's been within impressive historical framework before and has met the challenge. He's also got a swing that delivers ferocious clubhead and ball speed that translated into a driving distance average of 298.1 in 2022, up from 287.9 just three years earlier.

But most of all, Matt Fitzpatrick has an on-course demeanor seemingly made for the big games. Whether he's calm because he's filled with confidence or he's confident because he's so calm, the young man has proven he can deliver in the clutch.

The 9-iron from about 185 yards that led to a kick-in birdie to win the playoff against Spieth? It looked eerily familiar to the 9-iron he hit out of a fairway bunker on the 72nd hole to set up a game-winning par in the U.S. Open.

As Russell Fitzpatrick said, "No nerves for Matt. He is fine." 

# THE PGA TOUR'S ULTIMATE PRIZE AWAITS



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## NCAA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP



Fred Biondi shot a 3-under 67 and rallied from a five-shot deficit in the final round to earn Florida's third individual men's NCAA golf championship.

Biondi shot 2-under 35 on the front nine at Grayhawk Golf Club and was three back after a bogey on No. 12. The senior from Brazil birdied the par-4 14th and closed with four straight pars, two-putting from 50 feet on No. 18 to finish at 7 under.

Biondi joins Bob Murphy (1996) and Nick Gilliam (2001) as national champions at Florida.

Illinois' Jackson Buchanan just missed a 20-foot birdie on No. 18 that would have tied him with Biondi. He shot 67 to tie Georgia Tech's Ross Steelman at 6 under.

Biondi remained steady while Steelman faltered. He two-putted for par on Nos. 16 and 17, then hit a massive drive on the 520-yard par-4 18th. He watched his approach shot bounce hard to the left side of the green and made a 4-foot par putt for the title. **GP**



## GRILLO'S WATERY WIN



Emiliano Grillo's 72nd hole at the Charles Schwab Challenge read straight out of a horror film.

His tee shot found a stream on the cart path, marked as a penalty area; all he could do was watch as the ball tricked back 50-plus yards. He ultimately dropped on the cart path on the line where the ball entered the penalty area, leading to a double bogey and a playoff with Adam Schenk at 8-under at Colonial CC. The film's ending, though, was fit for a rom-com. Grillo's tee shot on the second playoff hole, the par-3 16th, cleared a bunker by inches and kicked severely left, funneling down a slope and leaving a birdie try inside 5 feet.

The Argentine converted to earn his second TOUR title, first since his debut as a member at the 2015 Fortinet Championship. It has been a long road for the 30-year-old, who now resides in San Diego with his partner Alexia and 14-month-old son Andre. But the grind coalesced as he soaked in the scene Sunday afternoon in Fort Worth. "It's been tough, but it's worth every second," Grillo said. "People ask me if I would have done something different ... looking back, I wouldn't. This is just worth it." Grillo moves to No. 18 on the FedExCup standings. **GP**



# PAGUNSAN FENDS OFF JAPANESE CHALLENGE TO END TWO-YEAR TITLE DROUGHT IN JAPAN

➤ Juvic Pagunsan of the Philippines successfully held off Taihei Sato's charge to secure a two-shot victory at the Golf Partner Pro-Am Tournament, marking his second title in his JGTO career.

The 45-year-old, who had led the tournament since the second round, remained composed and delivered an impressive four-under-par 66. Finishing the week with a winning total of 23-under-par 257, Pagunsan claimed the ¥12,000,000 winner's cheque.

The highly anticipated final round was initially expected to be a head-to-head battle between Pagunsan and Taiga Semikawa, who began the day only one stroke behind.

However, as Semikawa struggled in the middle of the duel, it was Sato who emerged as the potential obstacle to Pagunsan's quest of becoming the season's first international winner in a full-field event.

The 29-year-old Sato, still in pursuit of his breakthrough on JGTO, quietly climbed up the leaderboard and at one point found himself trailing Pagunsan by only one stroke with four holes remaining.

Nevertheless, Sato's remarkable bogey-free 62 was only sufficient to secure a shared second place with Semikawa, who staged a late comeback with a closing 67, finishing at 21-under overall.

Despite the mounting pressure from Sato, Pagunsan displayed unwavering composure and extended his lead by securing birdies on the 16th and 17th holes.

He even had the luxury of bogeying the 18th, his third of the day, to seal the memorable victory in the presence of his family.

"I am extremely happy right now. Winning for the second time in Japan



has always been a dream of mine, and I am thrilled to have accomplished it," said Pagunsan, who previously secured his JGTO breakthrough by winning the Gateway to The Open Mizuno Open title in 2021.

"This victory is even more special because my family is here to witness my performance. They returned to Japan last week after the travel restrictions were lifted." **GP**

# HIRATA PULLS OFF A SENSATIONAL VICTORY

➤ Kensei Hirata staged a dramatic comeback to win the Gateway to The Open Mizuno Open and secure his maiden JGTO breakthrough after beating Keita Nakajima on the third playoff hole.

In doing so, the Mizuno-sponsored player has etched his name into JGTO history books as the 400th first-time winner since the Tour's inception in 1973.

The 22-year-old Hirata, who is competing in his second full season on Tour, with a tied-sixth at this year's Kansai Open being his best finish, also earned himself a well-deserved debut at the 151st Open in July, a major championship.

"It's really a dream come true for me. Getting my JGTO breakthrough and punching my ticket to the Open this week! I'm loss for words. When I got my Tour card last year, my goal was to get my first win this year and I did it.

"It's not going to be easy competing in The Open, but I'm really excited to be going there in July and getting the chance to play against the world's best players," said Hirata.

It took until the third extra hole for Hirata to upstage his more illustrious competitor Nakajima with a birdie at JFE Setonaikai Golf Club.

The pair had matching birdies in the first



playoff held on the par-five 18th before tying once again with pars on their second attempt.

Trailing by five at the start of the final round, Hirata fired a bogey-free six-under-par 66 to finish the week on 17-under-par 271, propelling him from joint-fifth to the top spot.

Hirata scored a hat-trick of birdies starting from the fourth hole and picked up more shots on the ninth, 11th, and 16th.

Keita Nakajima, who was third after the penultimate stage, joined Hirata at the top after converting a clutch birdie putt on the final hole for a closing 68.

Nakajima traded five birdies against a lone bogey to claim his second Open appearance after he qualified for last year's event as the 2021 Mark H. McCormack Medal winner 2021. **GP**

# FORSSTRÖM FIRES BACK TO CLAIM THE TITLE

**Venue:** Rinkven International Golf Club, Antwerp, Belgium

**Prize Fund:** US\$2,000,000



Simon Forsström's dream of winning a maiden DP World Tour title became a reality as he triumphed at the Soudal Open.

The 34-year-old carded a two under par final round of 69 to finish one stroke ahead of fellow Swede Jens Dantorp at Rinkven International Golf Club in Antwerp.

Prior to this year, Forsström spent seven consecutive seasons attempting to graduate from the European Challenge Tour but finally earned playing privileges on the DP World Tour for 2023 after winning Qualifying School Final Stage in November. He also previously secured his lone Challenge Tour victory in Belgium in 2016, when he won the KPMG Trophy.

Forsström started the day one shot ahead and then held a three-stroke lead at the turn, but shared the lead with Dantorp with six holes to play after a double bogey on the tenth and another dropped shot on the 12th hole. But he fired back in style as he birdied the 14th, 16th and 17th to move one ahead with one to play.

Dantorp held the clubhouse lead on 16 under



par after signing for a four under round of 67, but Forsström hit his approach on the 18th to

within five feet and he two-putted for a 17 under par total and his first DP World Tour title. **GP**

# BRENDAN LAWLOR MAKES HISTORY WITH VICTORY



Brendan Lawlor edged out Kipp Popert in a close contest for an historic win at the inaugural G4D Open at Woburn.

The two leading players in the World Ranking for Golfers with Disability (WR4GD) could hardly be separated in an engrossing final round, before world number two Lawlor claimed victory by two shots over the renowned Duchess Course. The Irishman, 26, finished on a three-over-par winning gross total of 219 after a closing final round of three-over 75, with Popert two strokes further back after his last-day 76.

The championship, held in partnership between The R&A and the DP World Tour and supported by EDGA (formerly the European Disabled Golf Association), was one of the most inclusive ever staged, featuring nine sport classes across multiple impairment groups, with players represented from 17 countries.

Lawlor, who has played in a number of DP World Tour events, has a rare condition called Ellis-van Creveld syndrome, characterised by a shorter stature and shorter limbs. With a one-shot lead ahead of Popert overnight, his final day began in disappointing fashion



after bogeying the first three holes in the cold conditions. Popert also dropped a shot at the 1st, but his birdie at the par-5 6th gave him a two-shot advantage.

Popert's bogey at the 8th and Lawlor's birdie at the 10th saw the pair go level, before two

further bogeys from Popert at the 13th and 15th gave Lawlor a two-stroke cushion in a match play-style contest. Lawlor – managed by Niall Horan's Modest! Golf stable – bogeyed the 16th to give Popert hope but the Englishman found a bush at the last to end his bid. **GP**

## THE DP WORLD TOUR'S STATEMENT ON PLAYER SANCTIONS



The DP World Tour today confirmed that it has issued sanctions for players who breached the Tour's Conflicting Tournament Regulation by competing in LIV Golf and Asian Tour events without releases to do so. These events occurred in the period from June 22, 2022 to April 2, 2023 – the day before the independent panel appointed by Sport Resolutions released its decision in relation to players competing without releases in the first two LIV Golf events in 2022; at the Centurion Club in England and at Pumpkin Ridge in Oregon.

That decision determined that the DP World

Tour had acted 'entirely reasonably in refusing releases' for those events and that the Conflicting Tournament Regulation was 'reasonable and proportionate to the Tour's continued operation as a professional golf tour'.

The panel also held that the DP World Tour had 'a legitimate and justifiable interest' in enforcing its regulations with the imposition of sanctions such as fines and suspensions.

In total, 26 players were informed individually of the sanctions applicable to them based on the specific conflicting tournaments they each played in, as a DP World Tour member, without being granted a



release. These sanctions include fines and, where appropriate, tournament suspensions. **GP**

## MERONK WINS IN ROME AFTER THRILLING FINALE

**Venue:** Marco Simone GC, Rome, Italy

**Prize Fund:** USD \$3,250,000



Adrian Meronk held his nerve in a breathless back-nine battle to win the 2023 DS Automobiles Italian Open.

The Pole kept his composure to hold off French duo Romain Langasque and Julien Guerrier at Marco Simone Golf & Country club to win by one shot and moves to fourth in the Race to Dubai Rankings in Partnership with Rolex.

Meronk, who holed the winning putt at the Hero Cup in January, lifted his third DP World Tour title and boosted the 29-year-old's hopes of qualifying for the Ryder Cup, which will take place at this course later this year in September.

Meronk and Langasque duelled on the back nine, while overnight leader Guerrier kept in touch with them in a thrilling finale. The Pole edged ahead on the 16th hole with his fifth birdie of the day and holed a par putt from the edge of the green on the 17th.

Langasque's challenge had appeared to have faltered with a bogey on the 16th, but he stunningly chipped in for a birdie on the penultimate hole to keep the pressure on.

But the Pole would not falter as he birdied the 18th to sign for a 69 and finish one shot clear of Langasque, with Guerrier a further two back. **GP**

**MERONK, WHO HOLED THE WINNING PUTT AT THE HERO CUP IN JANUARY, LIFTED HIS THIRD DP WORLD TOUR TITLE AND BOOSTED THE 29-YEAR-OLD'S HOPES OF QUALIFYING FOR THE RYDER CUP.**



## SENSATIONAL SVENSSON CLAIMS MAIDEN VICTORY



Jesper Svensson held his nerve to claim a maiden Challenge Tour win on an enthralling final day of the B-NL Challenge Trophy at Twentsche Golfclub in the Netherlands.

The Swede, playing in his first event of the 2023 season, fired a five under par final round 66 to reach 14 under par for the week to win by one shot ahead of South African Brandon Stone.

Stone led going to the 18th, but after an errant tee shot he could only bogey the last, leaving the door open for Svensson who made no mistake. Svensson, who had posted five birdies on the front nine, took the outright lead with a birdie on the 17th before paring the last to ensure a first win on the Challenge Tour.

The 27-year-old carded rounds of 69-68-67-66 to set up a memorable win that will ensure his playing privileges on the Road to Mallorca for the remainder of the season.

“It’s amazing,” he said. “I can’t believe it. It was my first event of the season on the Challenge Tour for me, but my game has been there all year when I’ve played in the Nordic league events so it’s nice to get a shot out here.

“It’s huge for my career. I missed out on my



full card last year so this makes it a lot easier to plan my schedule going forward.”

## HORIZON IRISH OPEN’S MAIN STAGE THIS SEPTEMBER



A festival of golf, music and entertainment is in store this September at The K Club as Scouting for Girls and The Stunning will headline the main stage at the Horizon Irish Open.

Scouting for Girls, known for hits such as She’s So Lovely, Elvis Ain’t Dead and This Ain’t a Love Song, will take to the main stage in the Championship Village. The English pop rock band are on Tour with Olly Murs in the UK this Summer before taking to the stage in Co. Kildare.

After a hugely successful hosting in 2016, the island of Ireland’s national open will return to The K Club when the 68th edition is played from September 6-10. The celebrity Pro-Am will take place on Wednesday September 7.

Taking to the course this September is four-time Major winner Rory McIlroy, 2009 Irish Open winner Shane Lowry, two-time winner on the PGA TOUR, Séamus Power and six-time DP World Tour winner Tyrrell Hatton. Further star names will also be announced between now and September.



Horizon Irish Open Championship Director, Paul Gillmon, said: “It promises to be a spectacular week at The K Club as we now have a full five days of golf, music and entertainment for all ages. I’m delighted we’ve secured The

Stunning as well as Scouting for Girls, who went down a treat when they played at the tournament a few years ago. The celebrity Pro-Am is always a great addition to the tournament and is a fun day to kick off the week.”

## MANASSERO MAKES WINNING RETURN IN COPENHAGEN



Matteo Manassero returned to the winner's circle on the weekend of the ten-year anniversary of his BMW PGA Championship victory, with his maiden European Challenge Tour title at the Copenhagen Challenge presented by Ejner Hessel.

The Italian, a four-time DP World Tour winner and the youngest player to win three times on the Tour, shot a bogey-free final round 66 to claim a one-shot victory at 12 under par for his first win on the Challenge Tour and his first title since winning the 2020 Toscana Open on the Alps Tour.

The 30-year-old started the day six shots behind overnight leader Matias Honkala but carded a flawless final round six under par, including a three-foot birdie putt on the 72nd hole to claim his first European Tour group sanctioned victory since his heroics at Wentworth in 2013.

"There are a lot of emotions," he said. "It has been ten years now since I won on Tour so I guess May is a good time of the year for me."

Manassero made a strong start to his day with back-to-back birdies from the second hole before another gain ahead of the turn at the eighth. With Honkala dropping back and South African teenager Casey Jarvis also picking up shots, Manassero was in a



three-way share of the lead.

However, he rose to the top with birdies at the 14th and 15th before holing a three-foot birdie putt at 18 to be crowned champion at Royal

Golf Club by one stroke ahead of Jarvis.

Manassero climbs to fifth on the Road to Mallorca Rankings up from 40th position, while Jarvis moves up to second from 15th place. **GP**

## LARRAZÁBAL CLAIMS KLM OPEN TITLE



Pablo Larrazábal produced a grandstand finish as he birdied the final two holes to win the KLM Open and earn his second victory in his last three starts.

The Spaniard was the man to catch ahead of the final round but after a double bogey on the second hole, the tournament was blown wide open with no fewer than seven players holding a share of the lead at any given point.

However, a stunning approach to the par three 17th left a simple birdie chance which saw Larrazábal snatch the outright lead at Bernardus Golf.

The 40-year-old then converted a 21-foot birdie putt at the last for a three under par 69 and a two-stroke victory on 13 under.

Larrazábal won the Korea Championship Presented by Genesis - his last non-Major start - in April and now has four victories in the space of 15 months following his victory at the 103rd edition of the Netherlands' national open. **GP**



## VARNER WINS WITH FINAL BIRDIE- TORQUE CLAIMS TEAM TITLE

➤ In his 11-year professional career, Harold Varner III has won individual trophies in Australia and Saudi Arabia. With his RangeGoats GC, he celebrated a LIV Golf League team trophy earlier this year in Singapore.

But the 32-year-old resident of North Carolina had never won on American soil until Sunday, when he captured the LIV Golf DC trophy with a final-round 4-under 68 for a one stroke victory over hard-charging Branden Grace.

In winning on the outskirts of the nation's capital on Memorial Day weekend in front of the largest crowd to attend a LIV Golf tournament in the U.S., Varner becomes the second different RangeGoats player to win this season, joining good friend Talor Gooch, who won back-to-back titles in Adelaide and Singapore.

"Very special," Varner said. "I've never won in America. It's my favorite country."

Varner did not get to enjoy a champagne celebration with his team, though.

The Spanish-speaking Torque GC won for the second time this season, shooting a final-round counting score of 9 under to finish at 27 under, beating the South African Stinger GC by three shots, with the RangeGoats taking third.

"It's good, but at the end of the day, I really wanted to celebrate with the RangeGoats," Varner said. "That's my team." **GP**



## VICTORY FOR NARAAJIE AFTER STORM HALTS PLAY IN PHUKET

➤ Indonesia's Naraajie Ramadhanputra was crowned champion at the Singha Laguna Phuket Open today, the overnight leader being confirmed as the winner after the event was cut to 54 holes due to inclement weather.

Naraajie, winner of two ADT events in 2022, started the day well and was already extending his lead when the tournament organizers suspended play at 11.32am local time due to rain and a lightning storm.

"Unfortunately we have had to cancel play for today due to the threat of lightning," said Tournament Director Phutthisarn Sricharuviphat. "We stopped play at 11.32 and although we waited to see if the weather would improve, by the time we reached 3.15pm the committee judged there would not be enough time remaining for players to prepare and resume play so the tournament was cut to 54 holes."

Second place was secured by Thailand's Chapchai Nirat, who was three shots back at -12, followed by his compatriot Poom



Saksansin in third on -11. Wocheng Ye of China, Australia's Jack Murdoch and Thailand's Runchanapong Youprayong,

Itthipat Buranatanyarat and Nopparat Panichphol finished in a group in fourth place on -10. **GP**

## DJ TRIUMPHS AT LIV GOLF TULSA AFTER EPIC PLAY-OFF

➤ On a day filled with record-tying scores, a nearly two-hour weather delay, a drama-filled afternoon, a triple bogey by the eventual winner and a three-man individual playoff in front of the best-attended LIV Golf event held in the United States, two familiar names returned to the top of the podium at LIV Golf Tulsa. Report courtesy of LIV Golf.

4Aces GC Captain Dustin Johnson won the individual trophy for the second time in his LIV Golf career with a birdie on the first playoff hole to defeat Branden Grace and Cameron Smith. Grace's Stinger GC also won for the second time, by one stroke over the 4Aces in a victory sealed by Grace's par putt on the final hole of regulation.

In becoming last year's season-long Individual Champion, Johnson won a three-man playoff in Boston, making eagle on the first playoff hole. With his win Sunday at Cedar Ridge Country Club, he becomes the third two-time winner in LIV Golf, joining Brooks Koepka and Talor Gooch, and he moves to sixth in the individual points



standings after a slow start to his season. "Next time I'd like to win without going into

a playoff," Johnson said. "Would be a lot less stressful." **GP**

## KOREAN HULK' PRODUCES SUPERHERO PERFORMANCE

➤ Korean Chanmin Jung completed a shock wire-to-wire victory in the GS Caltex Maekyung Open today, establishing him as one of his country's stars of the future.

He shot a final round five-under-par 66 for a tournament total of 16 under par and a commanding six-shot victory at Namseoul Country Club, in Seoul. Korea's Minhyuk Song, an amateur, and Junghwan Lee tied for second following rounds of 64 and 70 respectively, in an event reduced to 54 holes after third round was cancelled because of poor weather and a waterlogged course.

Their compatriots Jackyeong Lee (66) and Eunshin Park (67) tied for fourth, one shot back, while defending champion Bio Kim, also from Korea, finished in a tie for sixth, an additional stroke behind, following a 70.

Jung was best known as one of the biggest hitters in Korea – he topped the driving distance stats on the Korean PGA Tour last year. That all changed this week with an inspired and unexpected victory, that has helped him live up to his nickname the 'Korean Hulk'.

He led after the opening day with a 63 and had a two-shot advantage after his second round 68, which he started today's round with after yesterday was washed out.

A brilliant front nine of five-under-par 31, with



an eagle – the result of holing his bunker shot on the par-five fourth – and three birdies, put him six ahead at the turn, before he stylishly closed out the event with nine straight pars on

the second half.

"I won a big tournament wire to wire, so I feel good," said the 23 year old, who won US\$222,222. **GP**

# TIPS FROM THE TOUR



## **JON RAHM** **'Master one simple splash shot'**

Depending on the lie and the type of sand I'm hitting from, the distance of the shot and the pin position, I have three go-to bunker shots - a standard shot that runs out a little on landing, a spinnny shot that flies high and stops quickly and an intentional chunk-and-run that flies a little lower off the face and rolls out a lot on landing. That's too much for most amateurs to think about so my advice is to focus on the regular splash and get good at that. The good news is that it's easier than it looks.



**1**

**Get wide and get low at address**

For a standard or spinning shot, I play the ball forward in my stance and set as much weight as possible on my front foot. I set my hands back a little so they're almost behind the ball.

That creates more angle in my left wrist, which adds loft to the clubface, which means more height and a softer landing.



**2**

**Maintain the width in your takeaway**

The key takeaway here is the width I've created at the start of the swing. I haven't hinged my wrists excessively early. I do like wrist action on the backswing, but I want a wide, shallow arc first. Get too steep too early here and you've nowhere to go other than to stick the clubhead down into the sand, which is not good.



**3**

**Set the clubshaft as vertical as you can**

Once you're settled at address, keep your weight on your front foot as you make your swing. My preference is to play this shot with the face of my sand wedge wide open, but it's not essential. I like the feeling of being able to get the shaft of the club almost vertical on my backswing with the grooves pointing down at the sand.



**4**

**Let right wrist work underneath at impact**

For me, the secret to playing great bunker shots is maintaining the loft on the clubface all the way through impact. To do this, I focus on holding the angle I created at the back of my left wrist as I slide the club underneath the ball. As you can see here, that means the right wrist works underneath the left through impact. **GP**





# GARY PLAYER

## 'You need to play to your strengths to capitalise on risk/reward par 5s'

The 13th hole at Augusta is one of the world's great par 5s. What makes it so great is that it constantly questions your technique and your decision-making. And despite what you may have read, it's a hole that

doesn't especially favour the longer hitters. When he won the Masters in 2007, Zach Johnson never went for any of the par 5s at Augusta in two yet he played them better than anybody in the field with 11 birdies and no

bogeys over the four days. Zach knew that his wedge game and putting were his major strengths and so he backed himself to get up-and-down in two from within 100 yards more often than not with a pitch and a putt. The

simple fact is that you rarely see a player lay up on the 13th and make bogey or worse, whereas you frequently see players running up big scores when trying to hit the green in two and missing. **GP**

### Manage your 'miss'

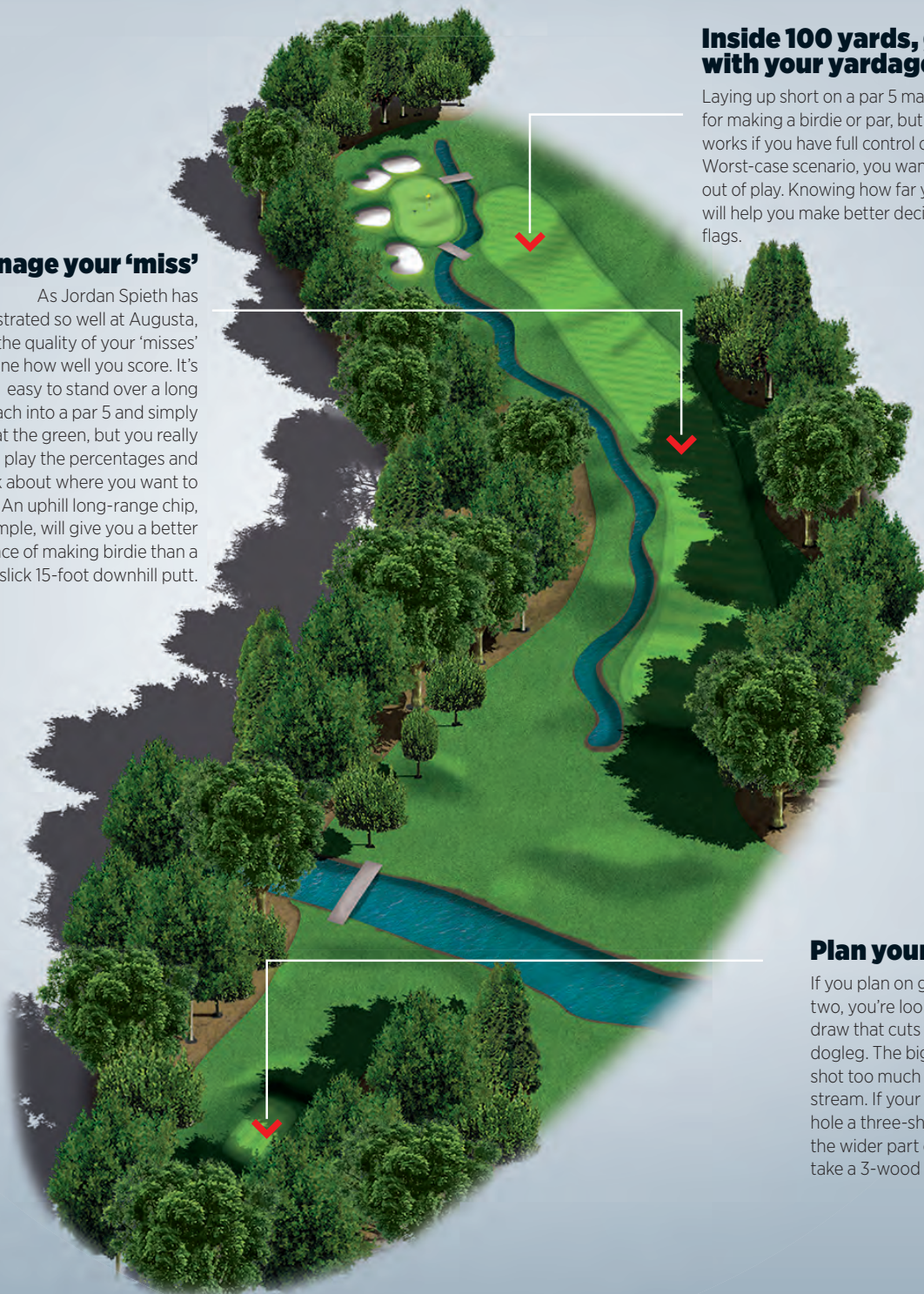
As Jordan Spieth has demonstrated so well at Augusta, the quality of your 'misses' determine how well you score. It's easy to stand over a long approach into a par 5 and simply aim at the green, but you really need to play the percentages and think about where you want to miss. An uphill long-range chip, for example, will give you a better chance of making birdie than a slick 15-foot downhill putt.

### Inside 100 yards, get specific with your yardage

Laying up short on a par 5 may be your best option for making a birdie or par, but the strategy only works if you have full control over your wedge game. Worst-case scenario, you want to take a three-putt out of play. Knowing how far you carry your wedges will help you make better decisions and attack more flags.

### Plan your tee shot

If you plan on going for the green in two, you're looking for a sweeping draw that cuts off the corner of the dogleg. The big risk is pulling the shot too much and finding the stream. If your plan is to make the hole a three-shotter, you can aim at the wider part of the fairway or even take a 3-wood off the tee.



## LESSONS FROM LEGENDS

# Five quick pro tips on the mental game

**1 Go to the movies**  
Visualising every shot you are about to play – or attempting to play – should be a vital part of any player's pre-shot routine. En route to winning 18 majors and 73 PGA Tour wins, Jack Nicklaus used to talk of 'going to the movies' before each shot, of playing out a positive shot of where he wanted to put the ball in his mind's eye. Nicklaus evidently understood the need for a positive mindset on every shot.

**2 Make a decision**  
Whatever shot you play, make sure you play it decisively. That's the belief of Bernhard Langer, whose formula has carried him to victories in four decades. "A wrong decision is generally less disastrous than indecision," he believes. That belief is echoed by seven-time major winner Sam Snead, who famously warned: "Of all the hazards, fear is the worst."

**3 Find your own 'zone'**  
Three-time major winner Nick Price believed and still does that it's vital to identify whatever zone works for you. "The zone is the ability to give 110 per cent of your attention and your focus to the shot you're about to play," he says. "When I'm on the tee, I'll see a divot in the fairway and try to run my ball over that divot – and succeed. That's the zone."

**4 Give it a week**  
Every player on the planet will play a bad shot at some point. How the player reacts to that setback often dictates what happens next. One of Nick Faldo's trusted tricks for controlling the anger was to imagine that a week had elapsed since he made the mistake, reducing the risk that his emotions would affect his next shot.

**5 Stay patient**  
A key lesson Adam Scott has learned, and one which applies to all levels of golfer, is the need to shake off disappointment, stay patient and focus on the longer game. "Opportunities will always present themselves," says the former Masters champion. "If you dwell too much on what might have been, it can destroy your chances over the long term." **GP**

**"Whichever shot you choose, make sure you play it decisively. A wrong decision is usually less disastrous than indecision."**  
– Bernhard Langer



## Scoring zone

# PARALLEL LINES

One of the hardest things about making any part-swing golf shot is matching your arm swing to your body rotation. When these two get out of sync, your timing and striking instantly suffer and control of the ball is lost. But here is a simple visual aid to help you, plus a quick decoder for the two most common problems. Work on this and your ability to pitch the ball close will instantly improve.

### PHOTO FINISH

On short and mid-length pitches we are looking simply to rotate around the spine angle we set at address. At the finish your chest and face should have turned through to face the target. At this point, make yourself aware of the line running between your chin and your belt buckle. Representing your spine angle, this line becomes a key reference for your pitching action.

### SHAFT AND SPINE MATCH

Take a look at this finish position on a standard, 60-yard pitch. Note how the back of my gloved hand, my spine and the club shaft are all in alignment. This is a sign of a coordinated through swing, arms and body both making an even and unified contribution. It's a great image for you to burn into your mind's eye, and repeat during practice and play.

### BETTER TOGETHER

On full-power, full-swing shots, we need the body to follow an established sequence – broadly unwinding from the ground up – to create and deliver speed. But part-shots, where the priority is control, follow different rules. Here we need a more unified action, arms and body working back and through as one. The better you can coordinate that, the better your results will be.





## FAULT DECODER

On your next visit to the range, hit five pitch shots and monitor your finish position; it can tell you a lot about how you deliver the club through impact, and what you need to work on.



### POSITION 1: SHAFT HELD 'OUTSIDE' YOUR SPINE ANGLE

As you hold your finish, return to your image of that line running between your belt buckle and chin. Check the club shaft against it; if the shaft is flatter than your spine angle, usually with glove badge and clubface looking at the sky, it indicates a tendency to 'hold off' the clubface and to add loft creating high, often short shots.



### HANDLE TOO FAR AHEAD

If the hands are too far ahead of the clubhead through impact you'll create excess shaft lean, compromise loft and struggle to time bottoming-out of the arc. Players who have little rotation tend to remain rather flat-footed. Work on better rotation of the upper torso through the shot and a gentle weight shift into the lead side.



### POSITION 2: SHAFT FLIPPED PAST THE SPINE ANGLE

Arguably a more common problem position, this second finish is the opposite of the first. Here the shaft has worked well across and inside the spine angle, turning over so the glove badge and clubface look at the ground. As before though, it reveals you have not got the balance right between arm swing and body turn.



### CLUBHEAD TOO FAR AHEAD

If your chest stops rotating, you'll tend simply to throw your hands and arms through the ball, generally creating too much club-speed. That means a very quickly-rotating clubface through impact, hindering strike and ball control. Work on increasing body rotation. **GP**



# Picture this... ATTACK ANGLE

As the golf club gets shorter, your ideal attack angle becomes steeper. The straight-faced driver needs to be swept away, while the lofted face of a wedge needs a more downward, squeezing attack to compress the ball correctly. But how do you regulate this changing attack angle through the set? Here's a great visual to help.

## STAND ON THE FACE

Pick any iron you like out of the bag. Lay it on the ground, the clubface looking at the sky. Now step down onto the clubface, flattening it to horizontal. As you do so the handle rises up off the turf, creating an angle in the shaft. The more lofted the face, the more the handle rises and the steeper that shaft angle becomes. Match the angle with a cane or old shaft.




## DRY RUN

Place a ball at the end of the cane. Pick up the iron and address the ball normally. Spend a couple of minutes running the club down the cane to help you grasp the ideal angle of attack.



## HIT DOWN THE LINE

When you feel you have the attack angle locked in, move the ball inside the cane and hit it. Leave the cane or shaft in place to give you a visual reference for the attack angle. This rounds off a process that is a great way of promoting an attack angle appropriate for the club you're using. 



## FIE OLSEN CLINCHES FIRST LETAS WIN

**7** Denmark's Fie Olsen came from behind on a highly anticipated final day at the Flumserberg Ladies Open to win by three points over fellow Dane Sofie Kibsgaard Nielsen.

Kibsgaard Nielsen scored one and a half points in the final round to finish as the runner-up for the second time this season after she lost out on the win in a five-way play off at the Santander Golf Tour-Girona. Behind Kibsgaard Nielsen, 2019 champion and leader after the first two days of stroke play, Elena Moosmann ended third with one point.

"I feel super excited," a tearful Olsen said, "I honestly can't wait to text my family and call my brother. I'm super excited to go out tonight, have some drinks and have some fun to celebrate."

Starting the last day in third position after two days of stroke play, the first time LET Access Series (LETAS) winner overcame the heavy rain to clinch the win.

Olsen paved her way to the final on the last day

after beating England's Thalia Martin 2 UP in the first nine-hole round of match play and Norway's Tina Mazarino 2 UP in the second round of match play.

"The final was wet. My caddy was so clever and said to me that they should go get an umbrella, but I was like, no, it will rain for two minutes. I was wrong," Olsen said. "I'm soaking wet, my caddy had no rain pants, but it was all worth it."

The 24-year-old has had three top 10 finishes on LETAS with her best finish previously being at the Flumserberg Ladies Open last year where she finished in tied sixth position.

"I was not expecting the win today, I came in as an underdog. I don't even know where to begin but match play is something I really love. I like that even if you have a bad hole, you can keep moving and you don't have to play every stroke like stroke play. I guessed if I ever won a tournament, it would be a match play tournament."

The Flumserberg Ladies Open celebrated its 10th anniversary with a unique format called



the Mätzler Mix named after its co-founders Melanie and Guido Mätzler.

The tournament saw 36-holes of stroke play during the first two days and three nine-hole rounds of match play. **GF**

## LINN GRANT CLINCHES FIFTH LET TITLE AT JABRA LADIES OPEN

**7** Sweden's Linn Grant came from behind on a dramatic final day at the Jabra Ladies Open to pip Anne van Dam by two shots on nine-under-par and clinch her fifth title on the Ladies European Tour (LET).

Starting the day tied with the Dutch star on seven-under-par in France, Grant got off to a nervy start at Evian Resort Golf Club when she bogeyed her first hole on the opening par-4.

With Italy's Alessandra Fanali and France's Celine Herbin also in the mix, the Swede then dropped another shot on the par-4 6th before van Dam birdied the following hole to stretch their gap to three shots. Approaching the turn, Grant regained her composure to post back-to-back birdies on the 9th and 10th with fellow LET winner van Dam unable to respond. A tense back nine then saw a string of pars from the duo with fellow Swede Johanna Gustavsson closing in after four birdies in 12 holes moved her to six-under-par.

The 15th then proved to be the turning point. Leading the charge, Gustavsson found trouble down the right to eventually post a double-bogey and see her title charge drift away.

A group later, Herbin made a clutch birdie to move to seven-under-par before Grant also birdied the par-5 after reaching the green in two. Van Dam was then unable to match the pair after hitting the bunker, leaving a grandstand finish with the Dutch star and Grant tied on eight-under-par. One hole later, van Dam failed to get up and down again as Grant saved



par to take the lead.

Chasing Grant for the first time since Thursday, van Dam dropped another shot on the 17th to give the 23-year-old a two-shot advantage over her with Herbin the clubhouse leader on seven-under-par. After reaching the green in two on the par-5 18th for a third consecutive day, Grant would two-putt for birdie for a 69 (-2) to win by two shots and claim her fifth LET title, and first

with coach Steven Jeppesen on the bag.

"I'm feeling really happy," the Swede said. "This course is tricky and I feel like today with some patience and good golf I really managed to hold on. I'm really happy. I said to my coach that if I win I want to get pancakes, so we'll see!"

A birdie finish for van Dam saw her end the week T2 alongside Herbin on seven-under-par. **GF**

## TEAM ROUSSIN SECURE TWO-SHOT VICTORY IN FLORIDA

**7** Team Roussin triumphed in the team competition with a winning score of 25-under-par at the Aramco Team Series presented by PIF – Florida.

The quartet of Pauline Roussin, Nuria Iturrioz, Trish Johnson and amateur Michael Bickford led overnight after play was suspended due to bad light and returned this morning.

Having accumulated a five-shot lead, Team Roussin just had to see through their final four holes, which they did, to seal a second round of nine-under and win by two shots with a total of 25-under-par.

Captain Roussin, who won the Individual title in Singapore in March, said: “It’s a pretty cool outcome after these two long days, but we made it happen. It was a lot of fun.

“We really got along and were just having fun despite how much of a challenge the golf course is and here we are with the trophy! I’m proud of this team and I would not have played it with anyone else.”

LET legend Johnson explained: “I’m extremely grateful. I have to say it was brilliant watching Pauline and Nuria, and Michael played great. He really did contribute a lot.

Team Alexander, led by captain Casandra Alexander, finished in second place on 23-under-par after a second round of 10-under.

Captain Alexander said: “It was just a bit slow today. In the first round, we played really nicely where we made a birdie and then a couple of even pars but today, we just struggled to get going.

“As a team generally, we struggled to get it going, but then we got it together in the last five holes when our amateur made a birdie putt where he stroked so he was two-under – bargain!

“Gabs also made a long putt and that helped us out, but I think it was a little too late in the round. The front nine really played tough today with the wind. All in all, it was up there, and we tried our best.”

Team Ko ended the competition in third place one shot further back on 22-under-par with Team Simmermacher and Team Peláez Trivino both on 20-under-par. **GP**



## CIGANDA WINS INDIVIDUAL TITLE AT ARAMCO TEAM SERIES – FLORIDA

**7** It was seventh heaven for Carlota Ciganda as she won the individual title at the Aramco Team Series presented by PIF – Florida.

The Spaniard began the final round one off the lead but started with two bogeys in her opening three holes at Trump International Golf Club West Palm Beach.

However, the Solheim Cup winner soon rolled in three birdies on six, seven and nine to be in control at the midway mark of her day.

Another dropped shot on 10 was soon eradicated by a birdie on 13, but then Ciganda found the water on 16 and made a double bogey.

But the 32-year-old held her nerve and made two pars on her last two holes to finish on two-under-par, which was enough for her to clinch her seventh LET title.

“To win, I think it’s always special. It’s not easy to win nowadays,” said Ciganda. “I think there are a lot of good players and a lot of the youngsters are coming very strong. To come here and win also with some big names like Lexi, Lydia Ko and Alison Lee – they are all great players – and the top Europeans. I love playing in Europe. It’s a great atmosphere. It is always very friendly and like a family.”

Czechia’s Klara Davidson Spilkova produced a round of 74 (+2) to finish in second place in Florida on one-under-par.

It was a bogey-bogey start for the two-time LET winner but she soon



rolled in a birdie on three before a double bogey on five and another dropped shot on nine. **GP**

## SCHMIDT CLINCHES MAIDEN LET TITLE AT BELGIAN LADIES OPEN

**7** Patricia Isabel Schmidt fired an excellent final round of 66 (-6) to win the 2023 Belgian Ladies Open by two shots at Naxhelet Golf Club.

Heading into the final day, the German sat three shots behind overnight leader Maria Hernandez on five-under-par after rounds of 71 (-1) and 68 (-4) on the first two days.

Schmidt didn't get off to the best of starts with bogeys on the third and fifth holes, however, she soon turned around her fortune in Belgium.

Four consecutive birdies on holes six through nine put her a couple of shots off the lead and she was soon co-leader after back-to-back birdies on 12 and 13.

But it was her superb eagle on 14 which put the 27-year-old in pole position on 11-under-par, which was enough to seal her first title on the LET.

"I don't really have any words to say right now! I was just so nervous on the last tee," said the rookie, who earned her LET card through the LET Access Series last year. "I really felt like I was shaking when I had to line my putt.

"I wasn't aware of my position at all. I saw the leaderboard out there once, but I didn't see it clearly enough. I just saw the colours of a flag and thought it looked like a Spanish flag. The eagle on 14 was nice. I hit a really good drive and then only had an eight-iron in.

"My dad was caddying today. He was joining me for the first time ever since I started playing golf, because I was flying to Brussels and my dad had a week off, so he picked me up and took my bag with me. I guess it all kind of worked out!



"This win will give me a lot of trust and confidence. I came from LETAS last year and played quite well. Then I struggled at the beginning of this year and put myself under a lot of pressure, so I knew okay, I need to show that I belong here instead of just playing. This will help a lot to give me that confidence."

Two players ended the day in a tie for second place with Germany's Chiara Noja and Spain's Maria Hernandez on nine-under-par. **GP**

## ELEIKO ANNOUNCED AS OFFICIAL FITNESS EQUIPMENT SUPPLIER

**7** The Ladies European Tour (LET) is delighted to announce a partnership with Eleiko as they become the LET's official fitness equipment supplier for the 2023 and 2024 seasons.

Eleiko, founded in Sweden in 1927, is a leading provider of high-quality weightlifting equipment with a main purpose of working to make people stronger for better performance in sports and life.

The family-owned company have a long-standing reputation for producing some of the world's best weightlifting equipment, having been the equipment provider for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games and the 2012 Olympic Games in London, as well as several World Powerlifting, Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting Championships.

Eleiko will be delivering a fitness equipment kit to the LET physiotherapy team at selected events throughout the 2023 and 2024 season, while they will also be giving a travel kit to the players who regularly tee it up on the LET.

It is vital that LET players can perform at their best level week in week out on Tour and the travel kit together with the right treatments from the physio services, as well as additional equipment from Eleiko, will



ensure the players can continue to stay strong and fit and benefit them in having a longer career.

Fiona Harold, Commercial Director at the LET, said: "We're delighted to announce this partnership with Eleiko for the next two years. We are committed to providing our players

with the best possible service and resources. Through this partnership, we're giving them greater opportunities to perform to the best of their abilities whilst also focusing on the benefits to their long-term health. We are excited to embark on this journey with Eleiko and raise our game together." **GP**

# PLAYER BLOG

*Australian Jason Day returned to the winner's circle on the PGA TOUR after more than five years at the AT&T Byron Nelson recently. A former world No. 1, the 35-year-old went through a difficult past few years with a debilitating back injury and the loss of his mother, Adenil, who battled with cancer until her passing last year. It was an emotional victory as Day won on Mother's Day in the U.S. and also in front of his wife and children.*

**W**inning my 13th PGA TOUR title with my family around was very, very special. I mean it's been over five years since

I last won and our family has expanded, and we've grown to four kids and we've got another one on the way. It's just that much more special winning in front of my wife Ellie and the kids. And to win on Mother's Day and have my late mum's name on the back of my caddie's bib, I couldn't have asked for more.

I was in tears for a little bit after realising I'd won the AT&T Byron Nelson. To think about what my mum, Adenil had gone through from 2017 to her passing last year due to cancer, it was very emotional. On top of it all, I had back injuries that was going on in my life.

To be honest, I was very close to calling it quits a few years ago. There were times where I thought I'm like done playing the game because of the stress it was putting on me and what it was doing to my health. Mentally, I was not there and I wasn't confident. I honestly felt like I didn't have the game and maybe I was one of those guys who like had a really good career and then injuries hurt me.

I didn't tell Ellie any of this and I was okay with it because it was a very stressful part of my life. Ellie never gave up on me trying to get back to the winner's circle. She was always pushing me to try and get better. I also have to thank a lot of my team too because people like my trainers, my caddie and my coach Chris Como, they took a lot of heat and negative comments from me. They were the support group I needed to push me through the difficult times and it was very important because if you don't have the correct people in place, it's very difficult to have any success in golf. I know it's an individual sport but you need to have the right team.

It feels strange to have a trophy again and I don't quite know how else to explain it. To go through what I went through and then to be able to win again is very pleasing, and I know there's been a lot of hard work behind





By Jason Day



the scenes that a lot of people haven't seen. That's just the competition part of the journey and trying to strive to get better.

I'm glad I got to work with Chris some years back. It actually began when Tiger (Woods) was going through the chipping yips, and he'd asked me out to his place to kind of go over chipping techniques. Chris was working with Tiger and he'd seen a ton of 3D bio testing of my chipping and they wanted to pick my brain about what I thought about that stuff.

Coming out of that meeting, I could tell Chris knew a lot about the game and knew on a deeper level in regard to how the body works and how he thought about what the club should be doing. He's very switched on. Sometimes, I would be up at 2am in the morning thinking about my golf swing, and I'd be calling Chris and saying, 'hey, man, I've got this thought, what do you think', and then I'd go out and practice the next day. The first year and a half, we just worked on body motion to actually try and swing it in a way where I could feel decent. Now I feel like the swing is moving in the right direction to the point where I can just go at it as hard as I want.

The highs and lows of golf is interesting. You

**I DIDN'T TELL ELLIE ANY OF THIS AND I WAS OKAY WITH IT BECAUSE IT WAS A VERY STRESSFUL PART OF MY LIFE. ELLIE NEVER GAVE UP ON ME TRYING TO GET BACK TO THE WINNER'S CIRCLE. SHE WAS ALWAYS PUSHING ME TO TRY AND GET BETTER. I ALSO HAVE TO THANK A LOT OF MY TEAM TOO BECAUSE PEOPLE LIKE MY TRAINERS, MY CADDIE AND MY COACH CHRIS COMO.**

definitely learn a lot about yourself through the lows more so than the highs. I learned I can still handle the pressure and focus, and I've still got the game to win. A lot of my success at the Byron Nelson was based off a lot of groundwork, six months ago, a year ago, or two years ago, that built the game to where it is today, where I can succeed on a level like this. I know that delayed gratification is probably the best feeling of all time. Instant gratification is great, but delayed gratification is the best.

I think to go from being a good golfer

to a great golfer and winning major championships, you definitely need to win more than just one major. I definitely think my game is good enough to win now on any given week and to be dominant like a Jon Rahm, Scottie Scheffler or Rory McIlroy. I just need to build on the consistency.

The competitor that I have inside of me, I'm just trying to push through. At the point where I was talking to a therapist because I've gone through a lot of stuff, I kept on visualizing myself in the winner's circle, and it is nice to be able to be a winner again. [GP](#)

## RAKSHIT DAHIYA WINS MAIDAN WAGR EVENT

The first mixed Matchplay event on the Young Master calendar took place at Tarudan Golf Resort from 17-20 April.

There was a 36 hole qualifier to select the top 8 qualifiers, who were: Jai Bahl, Rakshit Dahiya, Harman Sachdeva, Pritish S. Karayat, Tejas Misra, Chaitanya Pandey, Tanay Keshwar & Vivaan Chibber. Chaitanya being the youngest competitor played exceptional golf to qualify for the Matchplay rounds.

The Matchplay Quarter-finals saw a couple of major upsets as No 1 Jai Bahl and No 3 Harman Sachdeva lost to Vivaan Chibber & Chaitanya Pandey. Tejas beat No 5, Pritish on the 19th hole.

The semi-finals saw another upset when Chaitanya again pulled off a great victory against an older opponent.

Rakshit won 1up against Tejas. The last day which saw the semi-final and final played on the same day was a bit too much



for the young Chaitanya and he could not perform well and eventually lost to

Rakshit 6 & 5.

Vivaan came 3rd by defeating Tejas 1 up. GP

## SURAJ JOSHI EVENTUALLY BROKE THE RUNNER-UP JINX AND DIA CRIS CAME FROM 5 SHOTS BACK TO WIN



The Young Master Zion Hills Tour Championship was held from 3-5 May.

The event had a good turn out and the Male division saw Suraj Joshi win his first WAGR event. After 36 holes Suraj was 9 shots ahead of his nearest rival but the fight for 2nd & 3rd place was between 4

players. Suraj shot a 71 on the last day to comfortably win by 15 strokes. Tanish R. Gowda managed to keep his nerve and edge out Rahul Batra by a couple of shots.

In the female division after 36 holes Keerthana Rajeev had a 5-shot lead over Dia Cris and 7 shot lead over Kaya Daluwatte. The 3rd-day saw some nerves

creeping into Keerthan's and Kaya's game as Dia Cris kept her focus and played a 1-over round to win from Keerthana and Kaya.

There was also a junior event of 54 holes, the age group of this mixed event was 10-11years with 3 juniors participating Adit Veeramchaneni, Kiara Yadav & S. Nandan. GP

# HIRANSH COMES FROM BEHIND AND PALAKSHI WINS IN A PLAYOFF FOR THEIR MAIDEN WAGR VICTORIES

The Gem Young Master Amateur's Golf Tour held its 2nd event at Golden Greens Golf club from 17-19 May.

The Boys section had low scores with a close match between the 3 players until Hiransh got into first gear and left both his competitors behind.

### Scores:

Hiransh Singh	72-74-72 = 218
Harman Sachdeva	72-71-80 = 223
Tejas Misra	73-78-76 = 227
Chaitanya Pandey	79-80-76 = 235
Rudhra P.Bhati	94-78-80 = 252

In the girl's division saw a battle between the experienced Yashita and the youngster Palakshi. Yashita was 1 shot ahead going into the final day. The third player Tanisha tried to catch up but settled for keeping her 3rd place. After 54 holes Yashita and Palakshi went into a playoff on the Par 3 fourth hole. The hole



was played twice and Palakshi managed to win the second playoff hole with a par. **GP**

### Scores :

Palakshi Siingh	72-71-76=219
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Yashit Raghav	68-74-77= 219
Tanisha Kalyan	76-76-75=227
Jiah Kang	74-77-76=227
Sakshi Mehta	73-77-77= 227
Renne Rane	77-79-73= 229

# US KIDS GOLF INDIA TO CONDUCT EVENTS ACROSS INDIA AND ASIA

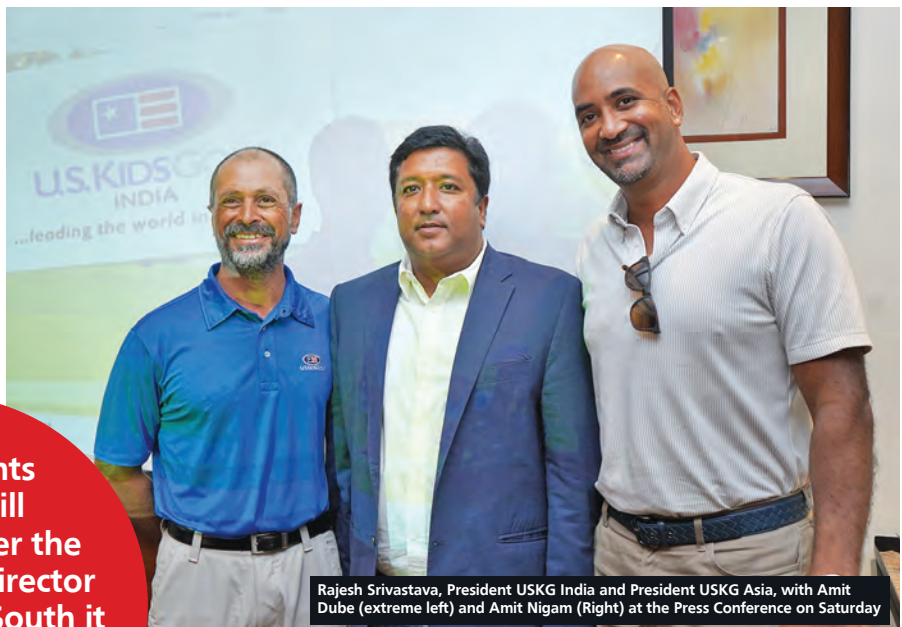
The US Kids Golf Tour India is also set to expand to different part of India and will also have it first overseas series next month in Singapore.

While the series of six events in Singapore begins next month on June 13, the Indian expansion will see six events on the local Tour in North Zone and then six each in West and South Zones.

“We want to give our young and talented golfers a chance to play at the best courses. Not just in India, but also outside.

For instance, the US Kids Golf European Championships are held at courses like the Renaissance which is the host venue for the Genesis Scottish Championships, which is co-sanctioned by the PGA TOUR and the DP World Tour. Imagine the experience kids will have when they play at courses which have seen the likes of Jon Rahm, Scottie Scheffler, Justin Thomas, Collin Morikawa and others,” added Rajesh Srivastava, President of US Kids Golf India.

The tournaments in India will continue under the Tournament Director Amit Dube, in South it will be Rahul Ganapathy and in West, it will be Amit Nigam.



Rajesh Srivastava, President USKG India and President USKG Asia, with Amit Dube (extreme left) and Amit Nigam (Right) at the Press Conference on Saturday

The tournaments in India will continue under the Tournament Director Amit Dube, in South it will be Rahul Ganapathy and in West, it will be Amit Nigam.

Following their results from the 2022 season, 14 Indian youngsters from different parts of India have qualified for the US Kids European Championships. The list

includes Nihaal Cheema (Boys U-7); Adit Veeramachaneni (Boys 9); Vidit Aggarwal and Aarnav Patel (Boys 10); Paranjay Mahtani (Boys 11); Devvrat Singh Rajawat and Rayan Sao (Boys 12); Vihaan Jain, Jivraj Khurana, Harjai Milkha Singh and Arshvnt Srivastava (All Boys 13) and in Girls Category Naina Kapoor (Girls 11); Ananyaa Sood (Girls 12); Mahreen Bhatia (Girls 14). **GP**

# KNIGHTS WERE UP FOR A CHARITABLE CAUSE AS KKR'S KNIGHT GOLF RETURNS AFTER A PERIOD OF 3 YEARS!



The funds raised through the charity event will be utilised for a Sports Development Program towards underprivileged children in Kolkata.

**K**night Golf, Meer Foundation and KKR's annual charity golf event returned to the Royal Calcutta Golf Club for its 6th edition on the 30th of April, 2023. The proceeds from the event go towards the development of sports amongst underprivileged children in Kolkata with a particular focus on the empowerment of girls.

Speaking at the sidelines of the event, Venky Mysore, CEO of Knight Riders Group, said that he is thankful to the donors, support staff and the players for coming out and making this year's edition a grand success. He reiterated that Meer Foundation and KKR remain committed to promoting sport among

children in Kolkata and giving them the opportunity to showcase their potential.

Kiwis Tim Southee and Lockie Ferguson joined the staff for the event and looked right at home at the golf course. Speaking to the Knights media team, Tim Southee said that it was always great to have days off from cricket where you just get to enjoy a day out, relax and meet new people. Lockie Ferguson added that not only is it great to get away from the gruelling cricket schedule for a day but it is always nice to be able to give back to the local community and he is thankful to the KKR family for providing him with an opportunity to do the same.

KKR and Meer foundation will liaise with local NGOs in Kolkata working for rescued





vulnerable and neglected children aged 6-18 years in need of care and protection and living in shelter homes. The KKR family believes that sport is a great way to help rehabilitate trauma stricken children, help build their social skills and confidence, improve their communication and help them pick up other values such as teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship.

Knight Golf has now become an annual tradition for the Knights featuring figures from the team management, players and supporters bonding over a day of golf. This year the Knights family would like to thank our Principal Donor - Sugam Homes, Apparel Partner - Aristocrat Rainwear and Automobile Partner - Volvo for extending their support to the event. 



# SABAH! THE EXOTIC GEM OF MALAYSIA!



**Lying below the Typhoon range, also referred to as the land below the wind, the state of Sabah Located in the East of Malaysia in Borneo is a dream destination for Golfers. Boasting of Long Mountain Ranges, Deep Tropical Rain Forests replete with animal and plant species, Pristine Beaches, an Array of Designer Golf courses the state is a 'Must Visit destination'.**

**T**he second largest river of Malaysia Kinabatangan runs through it and the highest Point in Malaysia, Mt. Kinabalu is located here.No Wonder it is the epicentre of Eco-Tourism in Malaysia attracting international as well as Domestic travellers.

The earliest human settlement in Sabah can be traced back to 20,000–30,000 years ago along the Darvel Bay area at the Madai-Baturong caves. The state has had a trading relationship with China starting from the 14th century AD!

Kota Kinabalu or KK as it is popularly known is the Capital of Sabah in the northern part of the island of Borneo. KK is a Coastal city surrounded by rainforest, known for its bustling markets, modern boardwalk, beaches and waterfront. It is also a gateway to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kinabalu National Park,

the home of 4095M high Mount Kinabalu.

KK is also a perfect city to gain insight on Sabah's heritage in the form of Cultural villages like Mari Mari KDCA and Walai Tobilung.

**KOTA KINABALU CITY CENTRE** One can walk from one end of the city centre to the other end to gain an insight into the local lifestyles. There are inexpensive alfresco food centres, coffee shops to famous seafood restaurants that are found along the 1.6 km stretch of the city centre. Shopping is a whole different experience, with bargains found from street stalls to air conditioned shopping malls like Imago and Suria Sabah, offering local produce, souvenirs and goods from international brands.

The must visit attractions include the Filipino Handicraft market, jam-packed with small stalls offering dried local produce and handicrafts from Sabah, Philippines and Indonesia. Witness



the fishermen (a.k.s. sea gypsies) coming ashore with their catch of the day as they auction off the fresh seafood to restaurant suppliers and local



**THE TRIP WAS COURTESY :**

- > Tourism Malaysia
- > Sabah Tourism
- > Batik Air
- > Sutera Harbour Resort Group
- > Shangri-La Rasa Ria



housewives, where haggling for best deals are always part of the scene.

Just before the sun sets, make your way to the famous Waterfront to capture the breath-taking sunset over the South China Sea. The Waterfront, a one-stop dining and entertainment centre where all the pubs, clubs, bars and restaurants are located, is one of Sabah's most popular nightspot, and is also the heart of the nightlife in Kota Kinabalu.



**GETTING THERE**

The most frequent entry point to Kota Kinabalu is by air travel. Kota Kinabalu at present doesn't have a direct flight from India but is well connected with Kuala Lumpur.

Batik Air would be the Airline of choice as it offers seamless connectivity.

**GOLF**

Kota Kinabalu is a perfect Golfing destination and especially suitable for golfing couples where one partner does not play golf as there are plenty of other things to do which means that you do not have to plan everything around the golf course. There are some wonderful beaches in Kota Kinabalu and some extraordinary wildlife and the Orangutan Sanctuary is a place you must visit. If you are into snorkelling and diving as well as golf then head for Sapi Island which



offers the clearest waters in the area. The Must play courses are:


- 🚩 *Sutera Harbour Golf & Country Club*
- 🚩 *Dalit Bay Rasa Ria Golf Course*
- 🚩 *Nexus Karambunai Golf & Country Club*
- 🚩 *Borneo Golf & Country Club*
- 🚩 *Sabah Golf & Country Club*

**STAY**

While there are a number of Hotels in KK the most convenient properties with best offering in terms of Golf are the Pacific Sutera Harbor & Shangri-La Rasa Ria. Both resorts boast of Excellent on property Golf Courses, own beaches and a horde of activities.

Malaysian Tourism in partnership with Sabah Tourism hosted a group of Media and Travel Professionals to show case the amazing offerings of the state of Sabah.

The trip included visits to the various places of interest and Rounds of Golf at the Sutera Harbour & Dalit Bay Golf Courses.

The group was treated to delicious local and Indian Cuisine including a choice of seafood. The officials of both the tourism boards including the Deputy Minister of Malaysia Tourism and the Chairman of the Sabah Tourism graced the networking lunch & dinner. 

# FEATHER IN THE CAP!

**F**arzan Heerjee was bestowed with Honoris Causa Doctorate Award (Ph.D.) in Sports Management with reference to Golf by The Thames International University, Paris, France.

The first to receive the Honorary Doctorate Award and graciously expressed his gratitude to Tata Steel for supporting & encouraging him in his journey of over 40 years, to the President's & Council Members of the Indian Golf Union, Captains of Jamshedpur Golf, Golfing fraternity and support staff and Last but not the least, his family.

He said " This recognition propels me to work harder towards development and promotion of golf in our country especially focused on the younger generation and the children- where there is a great potential for growth." **GP**



Farzan Heerjee, Vice President, Indian Golf Union



## 4/11 GULMOHAR GOLFER OF THE YEAR 2023

**T**he event took place on 20th & 21st May as part of the MP Financial Services-Go

Golf 2023 calendar with 50 golfers participating in the event. **GP**



### 4/11 G G O Y - MAY 2023 - SUMMARY

#	CATEGORY	PRIZES	NAME	GROSS	POINTS
1	Category - 1	Winner	S P SINGH	81	35
2	H'cap 0-14	Runner up	AVTAR SINGH	81	33
3	Category - 2	Winner	SANJEEV KUMAR	91	34
4	H'cap 15-23	Runner up	BRIG. A K SINGH	86	33
5	Category - 3	Winner	KAMLESH TIWARI	93	35
6	H'cap 24-36	Runner up	NAMIT SHARMA	95	33
5	Category - 4	Winner	TVISHA PATEL	87	34
6	JUNIOR	Runner up	JUHI MAVANI	101	32

### SKILL COMPETITIONS

#	Event	NAME	SCORE	OVER ALL
7	Longest Drive - Hole # 1	MANIL AGARWAL	272 YRDS	
8	Closest to Pin - Hole # 3	DEV RAT SINGH RAJAWAT	14'8" FT	
9	2nd Shot Closest to Pin - Hole # 9	RUTVIK THAKKAR	2 FT	



Sanjeev Kumar



Tvisha Patel



S P Singh

# NEW RANGE ON THE BLOCK !

A fun filled afternoon saw the inauguration of a mini golf course and a state of the art Day Night Driving range at the WAVE city on NH 24.

The newly made golf range with a mini golf course boasts of all the latest amenities including club house simulators and latest gadgets. The inaugural was with families and golfers participating in a mini competition. The winners were Ashish Kapoor and Rajiv Gupta Managing Director, wave group. Prizes given by General Bibhuti Bhushan , Director General, Indian Golf Union. The Wave city has plans to make a 18 hole golf course which already has 300 acres have been earmarked for the golf course and other facilities. **GP**



**THE NEWLY MADE GOLF RANGE WITH A MINI GOLF COURSE BOASTS OF ALL THE LATEST AMENITIES WITH A CLUB HOUSE SIMULATORS AND LATEST GADGETS.**



Gen. Bibhuti Bhushan, DG, Indian Golf Union & Rajiv Gupta MD, Wave Group in a Celebratory mood!

# GOLF RISING IN CHENNAI

Bharath Arvind



Kids undergoing coaching at Golfer's Edge Chennai

As the peak of summer sets in, several kids in Chennai are having their first tryst with golf. After a considerable gap, the Madras Gymkhana Club has re-started its summer camp and is being very well received. Pradyumna Prakash, Head Coach at Madras Gymkhana Club added, "We were expecting 25-30 kids to join but we received 50 registrations in 2 days. Junior golf is looking good and positive in Chennai with facilities like Golfers Edge - a brand new indoor golf Centre in Alwarpet and Madras Gymkhana

Club. Golf clubs and committees of golf clubs are very supportive at the moment to encourage youngsters from all backgrounds which will grow the game." Coaches like Sandeep Syal, Jayanan Satagopal and Pradyumna Prakash have boosted the quality of coaching in the city along with other certified coaches owing to the NGAI's (National Golf Academy of India) certification program. Golfer's Edge Chennai (GEC), an air-conditioned indoor facility, which opened its doors in March 2023, features a golf simulator and a putting green to enable people

to learn the game in an accessible, affordable and comfortable way. GEC is also conducting a Summer Golf Camp in two batches in May and in just over a month since opening has already begun coaching over 15 kids in the city. Such seems to be the interest in the game amongst the next generation.

Chennai has only two 18 hole golf courses with the TNGF Cosmopolitan Club course as the other track in the city. A 9-hole executive course at Hiranandani Parks in Oragadam, a considerable distance from the city also offers an opportunity for residents who live in the vicinity. Chariot Beach Resort in Mahabalipuram also features an executive 9-hole track giving the Chennai area yet another option. **GP**



**COACHES LIKE SANDEEP SYAL, JAYANAN SATAGOPAL AND PRADYUMNA PRAKASH HAVE BOOSTED THE QUALITY OF COACHING IN THE CITY ALONG WITH OTHER CERTIFIED COACHES OWING TO THE NGAI'S (NATIONAL GOLF ACADEMY OF INDIA) CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.**

# RAMBAGH GOLF CLUB RENOVATIONS BY GOLF DESIGN INDIA



**G**olf Design India continues to be “The Most Trusted Choice” for Golf Course Remodeling/ Renovations in India. This time- The Historic Rambagh Golf Club has selected Golf Design India to carry out complete redesign & redevelopment of the Golf Course.

GDI is India’s leading Golf Architectural Firm and over the past 15 years, have been at the forefront of Golf Development in the Country. The firm has successfully completed over 50 Golf Projects of varied scales & nature including 18-hole championship courses, 9-Hole courses, Executive Courses and Renovation/ Remodeling of existing courses including Delhi Golf Club, The Beldih Club, Panchkula Golf Club, Tollygunge Club, Chandigarh Golf Club, Royal Calcutta Golf Club amongst others and have won multiple Awards & Accolades along the way. Rambagh Club is another prestigious name added to the long list of Elite Golf venues that GDI have worked on in the past.

The project includes Design & Reconstruction of Green complexes, Tee Boxes & Bunkers etc.

*“All elements and features that will be added to the course will be designed to make the course more interesting to play for the everyday golfer as well as the professionals. The team is already positioned on site and is looking at completing the renovations before end of this year” , Said Vijit Nandrajog, Principal Architect, Golf Design India.* 



# LIVING LA VIDA LOCA IN THE COSTA DEL GOLF

by Ranjan Pal

Recently I was invited to play on some of Spain's finest golf courses on the Costa del Sol which stretches along Spain's southern edge. This region boasts 70 of Spain's four hundred courses the highest concentration in all of Europe, hence its popular moniker Costa Del Golf and the crème de la crème are the nine courses at Sotogrande, an elite residential and leisure destination in the municipality of San Roque. Sotogrande covers a 20 sq. Km coastal section along the Mediterranean Sea, stretching back into the foothills of the Sierra Almenara, with stunning views of the deep blue ocean, verdant rolling hills covered with cork forests and interspersed with pristine green fairways, a veritable golfer's paradise.

For a very average hacker like me, this experience was akin to a Go-Kart driver being thrust into the rarefied atmosphere of the Spanish Grand Prix! Over three days I got to experience some real gems from this Aladdin's cave of riches including playing on La Hacienda Alcaidesa Links, the San Roque Club Old Course and the La Reserva Club course.

## LA HACIENDA ALCAIDESA LINKS COURSE

I started my Spanish tour with a round at the La Hacienda links course, the only one of its kind in Southern Spain. Perhaps not the smartest move when just coming off an intercontinental flight and playing with rented clubs but then I had no choice and as all golfers know, it comes in handy to have something to blame for their poor game! The course itself is absolutely spectacular running along the cliff top before dropping away towards the sea with stunning views of the sparkling Mediterranean and the distant surf pounding on deserted beaches. And on the horizon, the magnificent Rock of Gibraltar standing alone by itself and providing a very useful marker when lining up your tee shot on some holes like #4 and #5.

When playing a tricky course like this local knowledge comes in invaluable and I was fortunate to be partnered with two English old-timers Peter and Keith who kindly took me under their wing and gave me the benefit of their expert advice and guidance. To make matters more complicated there was a brisk easterly wind blowing in from the ocean which the Spaniards call the Levante (since it comes from the direction of the sunrise) which required considerable adjustment in how and where you played the ball. In the end I got around the course not losing too many balls and gratefully offered the friendly Brits



La Hacienda Alcaidesa Links course

a beer at the end of the round. It was a day to celebrate as Peter had just been blessed with a granddaughter much to the delight of Keith who took advantage of his partner's distraction to play a better round. With golfers you always know what comes first!

## THE SAN ROQUE CLUB OLD COURSE

Next on my list was a club with a distinguished history as part of the original Holy Trinity of golf on the Costa del Sol along with Valderrama and the Real Club de Golf Sotogrande. Formerly the residence of the Domecq sherry family, the club opened its doors in 1991 and quickly rose to national prominence hosting the Spanish Open in 2005 on the Old Course and 2006 on the New Course. The Old Course was completely renovated in a sustainable way in 2021 by replacing the old rough areas with mulch which gives it a very different personality and design. It is a beautiful course that winds in a pleasant and smooth way

surrounded by lush hills, majestic cork oaks and charming villas.

For me it was a welcome respite after the rigours of playing on the links course the previous day to return to a more forgiving course where one could actually enjoy oneself! I was also delighted that they had found a young man who worked in the pro shop to accompany me around. His name was Jesus Sanchez Calvente so how could I go wrong with the Son of God as my golf shepherd – and one, as I was to find out later, who had been very highly ranked as an amateur.

The day was slightly overcast and breezy and I began to find my rhythm again. I was delighted to find that the slopes of the fairways were like polished marble – one time I found my ball which had been sliced to the left on the #4 dogleg had actually rolled down right onto the green for an unexpected par! Of course it cuts both ways and I found myself on the edge of a diabolical green on #8 with a slight plateau in the middle where the hole was. Hit it too



### Playing costs of courses in Spain including buggy (in Euros)

		9 holes	18 holes
<b>La Hacienda links</b>	Low season	80	140
	High season	135	230
<b>San Roque Old Course</b>	Low season	NA	205
	High season	NA	235
<b>La Reserva</b>	Low season	108	195
	High season	140	240

gently and the ball would roll right back to where you stood. Hit it too hard and the ball would roll over and away down the other side. Several missed putts later I received the sign from God - picked up the ball and walked !

### LA RESERVA CLUB COURSE

Mention La Reserva to Indian oenophiles and what comes to mind is a brilliant red wine which is rich and full with a velvety texture and lingering after-taste. The exact same description could be applied to the Sotogrande golf course of the same name – lush wide fairways that lead to large smooth greens with gentle undulations that leave you with exquisite memories of a wonderful game. I found this to be the easiest of the three courses that I played



La Reserva Club course

– you could see the pin from the tee on most of the holes which was a very good thing as I played the round unaccompanied.

La Reserva which opened in 2003 is regularly ranked in the Top Ten in Spain and has hosted many leading tournaments. It provides a great experience for golfers of all handicaps with water featuring on seven holes and enough bunkers to keep you on your toes but still prove enjoyable. There are significant changes in elevation as you move around the course but the sweeping fairways allow even the average golfer not to go too badly wrong.

I enjoyed this last game on my own but it wasn't quite intended that way. Initially I had been paired up with a German Valkyrie called Theresa who was a golf coach. She was clearly a bigger and better player and when informed of my mediocre handicap, sniffed and strode on ahead. On Hole #17 which was a beautiful long downhill par 3 I caught up with her as there was a bit of a pile-up of players and asked if I could hit alongside as only two holes were left. She pretended not to hear me and charged off downhill in her buggy. Her ball had landed right on the green but as I watched from the tee-box, she proceed to three-putt and only that unique German word *schadenfreude* can describe exactly my feelings of the moment !!

**Golf as a way of life:** All the courses I

## RESTAURANTS

### In Sotogrande

#### Restaurante Gastrobar Summum

Steakhouse and tapas bars specialising in nouvelle cuisine tapas in the coastal village of Torreguadiaro.

#### Restaurante Sal Verde

This restaurant is located at La Hacienda Links Golf Club and features Mediterranean cuisine presented with a very creative touch.

#### Restaurante Don Diego Sotogrande

This restaurant situated in Sotogrande Marina specialises in the combinations of the best flavours of Japanese and Peruvian cuisine.

#### Restaurante MarSana (Hotel Milla de Plata)

This restaurant located in a unique spot overlooking the sea in the coastal village of Torreguadiaro specialises in fish and seafood.

#### Bar de Tapas Don Benito

This traditional tapas bar is located in the historic centre of San Roque in an old 18th-century ancestral home with a delightful Andalusian courtyard.

played had top-class facilities including a pro shop, driving range, changing rooms, fine dining restaurants, luxury resort or villa accommodation, swimming pool, kid's play area and so on. Golf is clearly a way of life in this part of the world and entire families descend on the Costa del Sol from all parts of Europe for a few days of fun in the sun. Special mention must be made of the state-of-the-art GPS equipped buggies. These could be programmed for any given course to tell you the distance from the hole from wherever you landed and also had an automatic brake which slowed the buggy down anytime you approached too near the green. In the extreme case, the buggy engine would shut off completely and once I had to manually wrestle the thing into pointing back at the fairway - not something I would recommend!

I also visited but did not play on two other top courses in Sotogrande: the famous Real Club de Golf Sotogrande which is one corner of the Holy Trinity I referred to earlier and the Almenara Golf Club which has three very different 9-hole loop courses called Lagos, Pinos and Alcornocques. The little town of San Roque is also a hub for fine Spanish gastronomy and I visited some delightful little restaurants along the sea which I would highly recommend (see information box ). **GP**



# TATA STEEL PGTI STATS - 2023

Here's a look at TATA Steel PGTI's stats from the first half of the 2023 season:



Om Prakash Chouhan is the PGTI Order of Merit Leader, tournament winner and has the Most Top-10s

## Tournament Winners: 8

Sachin Baisoya, Marcel Siem (Germany), Aman Raj, Om Prakash Chouhan, Ugo Coussaud (France), Gaurav Pratap Singh, Karan Pratap Singh and Jamal Hossain (Bangladesh), have all won a tournament each.



Aman Raj is a tournament winner and has the Most Top-10s

## PGTI Order of Merit Champion:

Om Prakash Chouhan leads with earnings of INR 52,52,650

Content Editor : Nikhil Kalaan, Media Manager, PGTI





## Birdie Leaders

Rank	Player	Birdies
1.	Karan Pratap Singh	114
2.	Udayan Mane	111
3.	M Dharma	110
4.	Sunhit Bishnoi	104
5.	Sachin Baisoya	102

## Eagle Leaders

Rank	Player	Eagles
1.	Sudhir Sharma	7
2.	C Muniyappa	5



Sudhir Sharma is the Eagle Leader

## First Time Winners

1. **Sachin Baisoya** - TATA Steel PGTI Players Championship 2023 presented by Tollygunge Club
2. **Karan Pratap Singh** - TATA Steel PGTI Players Championship 2023 presented by Chandigarh Golf Club.



Sachin Baisoya is a First Time Winner



Karan Pratap Singh is a First Time Winner and the Birdie Leader





### Lowest Rounds :

- Nine-under 63 by **Manuel Elvira (Spain)** in Round 1 of Duncan Taylor Black Bull Challenge 2023
- Nine-under 63 by **Victor Pastor (Spain)** in Round 4 of The Challenge 2023 presented by KGA

### Biggest Winning Margin: 2 SHOTS

By **Sachin Baisoya** at TATA Steel PGTI Players Championship 2023 presented by Tollygunge Club

By **Om Prakash Chouhan** at Duncan Taylor Black Bull Challenge 2023

**Avg. Winning Score : 14**

**Avg. Cut Score : +1**

**Lowest Cut Score : -3**  
at Duncan Taylor Black Bull Challenge 2023

**Most Top-10s: 4**  
**Om Prakash Chouhan** and **Aman Raj**

### PGTI Emerging Player

**Aryan Roopa Anand** leads with earnings of INR 14,16,140

#### PGTI Emerging Player List

Rank	Player	Country	Earnings (INR)
1.	<b>Aryan Roopa Anand</b>	India	1416140
2.	<b>Varun Chopra</b>	USA	1345550
3.	<b>Saptak Talwar</b>	India	618017
4.	<b>Shaurya Binu</b>	India	416567
5.	<b>Kevin Esteve Rigail</b>	Andorra	369600
6.	<b>Makoto Iwasaki</b>	Japan	207067



Rookie Aryan Roopa Anand leads the PGTI Emerging Player of the Year race

### Hole-in-Ones : 8

**Sunhit Bishnoi, Gaurav Pratap Singh, Mohammad Sanju, C Muniyappa, Divyanshu Bajaj, Sachin Baisoya, Pranav Mardikar and Aman Raj**, have all made a hole-in-one each

### Playoffs :

Delhi-NCR Open 2023 – **Gaurav Pratap Singh** bt Karan Pratap Singh on the 1st hole





## Course Record:

### Karnataka Golf Association (KGA):

Nine-under 63 by the Spanish duo of **Manuel Elvira** (Duncan Taylor Black Bull Challenge 2023) and **Victor Pastor** (The Challenge 2023 presented by KGA) set the course record in a professional event at the KGA

### Lowest Winning Total (at a venue):

**DLF Golf & Country Club:**  
14-under 274 by **Marcel Siem** (Germany) at Hero Indian Open 2023

### Karnataka Golf Association (KGA):

20-under 268 by **Om Prakash Chouhan** at Duncan Taylor Black Bull Challenge 2023 (equaled the Lowest Winning Total)

## Most Cuts Made: 8 M Dharma



M Dharma has made the Most Cuts

## PGTI Record

**Gaurav Pratap Singh's** win at the Delhi-NCR Open 2023 came **4885 days** after his only previous win on the tour thus setting a PGTI record for the longest gap between two wins by a player on the tour. 🏆



Gaurav Pratap Singh set the record for the longest gap between two wins on the PGTI





# GAURAV PRATAP SINGH SETS PGTI RECORD FOR LONGEST GAP BETWEEN TWO WINS

Gaurav Pratap Singh's win at the Delhi-NCR Open 2023 came 4885 days after his only previous win on the tour thus setting a PGTI record for the longest gap between two wins by a player on the tour.

Here's a look at five wins on the PGTI that came after the longest gap for each of these players:

## 1 Gaurav Pratap Singh

ONGC Masters 2009 (21/11/09) to Delhi-NCR Open 2023 (07/04/23) – Win came after **4885 days**

## 2 Gaganjeet Bhullar

PGTI Players Championship, Chandigarh 2011 (05/03/11) to TATA Steel Tour Championship 2020 (20/12/20) – Win came after **3578 days**

## 3 Jamal Hossain

American Express Bangladesh Open 2012 (20/01/12) to Bengal Open 2019 presented by Dept. of Tourism, Govt. of West Bengal powered by Tollygunge Club (15/03/19) – Win came after **2611 days**

## 4 Md Siddikur Rahman

American Express Bangladesh Open 2010 (28/01/10) to BTI Open 2016 (02/04/16) – Win came after **2256 days**

## 5 Abhijit Singh Chadha

BILT Open 2015 (09/10/15) to Pune Open 2021 (04/12/21) – Win came after **2248 days**.



Gaurav Pratap Singh



Gaganjeet Bhullar



Jamal Hossain



Md Siddikur Rahman



Abhijit Singh Chadha





# PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## MUKESH KUMAR

- Winner on the Asian Tour
- Winner of over 100 titles on the Indian professional circuit
- A record 20 wins on the PGTI
- Six-time Order of Merit champion on the Indian professional circuit including once on the PGTI (2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2007-08)
- His 11-under 59 at the DDA Open 2005 is the record for the lowest score in a single round in India
- Holds the record for being the oldest winner on the PGTI at age 53, a feat he achieved at the TATA Steel PGTI Players Championship 2019 Presented by Panchkula Golf Club



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