

India's amateur star Avani Prashanth shoots 68 to lie second in Australia p14

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in India

FEATURE

TOM KIM FINDS
HIS BALANCE
AS HE EYES THE
BIG PRIZES

PLAY BETTER IN
2024

ON THE ROLL
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GET A GRIP

Golf equipment is an integral part of any golfers game for a perfect round. A perfect round does not mean a par round as is commonly felt. A perfect round, au contraire would mean for any golfer, professional or otherwise striking well and executing each shot as per ones capability.

In the next few issues we will discuss the role of the equipment in your golf game. We start with the Grip. While one end of the shaft drives the ball ,the other end is in your hand putting you in the driver's seat. Most of us have played cricket in school in our early years. You will remember the importance of the grip of our bats. Those of us who played serious cricket focused on the grip always tweaking and taking care of it. Subconsciously we know that it connects the hands to the rest of the bat. The grip on the golf club plays the same role but only difference being that most of us have forgotten the importance of the grip focusing only on the swing.

To get a good grip we need a good grip. Grips should be ideally replaced every 100 rounds or sooner, at the first sign noticeable wear, including smooth, hard surfaces, cracks, shiny patches, wear spots, especially where the thumbs make contact.

Replace stock "standard" size grips with a size that best matches the size of your hands, select

a material, texture, design and colour that's best suited to your personal style, playing level, and weather conditions

While choosing a grip size is the single most important factor Using an improperly fitted grip can cost a player 3-4 strokes every round. A grip that's too small, promotes extra hand action and commonly leads to pulling the ball. A grip that's too large limits wrist pronation, stifles shot distance, and can cause you to slice or push the shot.

The grip material also plays an equal part. Most grips are made of rubber or synthetic rubber materials. These grips are extremely durable and come in a variety of styles and colours.

For golfers who play in wet or humid conditions (or have wet hands), grips that include a CORD weave are very popular because they provide additional traction to prevent a player's hands from slipping.

Please use same Sizes and Styles for all club types, exceptions can be made for the putter.

Play, look and feel better with the right golf grips.

Happy reading!

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Contents

February 2024

This month don't miss...



Feature

20 TOM KIM FINDS HIS BALANCE AS HE EYES THE BIG PRIZES

When young Korean star Tom Kim qualified for his maiden Tour Championship appearance in August by being amongst the elite 30 golfers on the PGA Tour, he was asked how he'd grade his 2022-23 season. He gave himself a C-minus. It certainly felt Kim was being extremely hard on himself as his first full season on the globe's elite circuit included one victory and seven other top-10s, including at two of the major championships.

27 FLEETWOOD WINS DUBAI INVITATIONAL IN DRAMATIC FINISH

The Englishman entered the final day at Dubai Creek Resort with a one-shot lead, and with Ryder Cup team mate McIlroy his nearest challenger, a mouth watering head-to-head was in store. While those around him produced fireworks, Fleetwood was a picture of consistency.

30 NEW ZEALAND OPEN PRIZE PURSE HITS TWO MILLION MARK

The New Zealand Open has announced that the professional players who take part in the 103rd edition of the iconic event will compete for a total prize purse of NZ\$2 million (approximately US\$1,222,770) when the tournament tees off at Millbrook Resort in Queenstown between February 29 and March 3.

32 PLAYER BLOG : Chris Kirk

American Chris Kirk got his New Year off to a flying start with a stylish victory at The Sentry in Hawaii. It was his sixth PGA TOUR career victory, and the second in 11 months. The 38-year-old has been on a renaissance after overcoming alcohol abuse and depression in 2019 and returning to the winner's circle in 2023 after almost eight years - and was

recently recognized with the TOUR's 2023 Courage Award at the end of last year.

Ladies on the Link

40 AMATEUR NISHNA PATEL HOLDS NERVE TO BIRDIE FINAL HOLE AND WIN

Amateur Nishna Patel held her nerves in the closing stages of the first leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Poona Club Golf Course and won by one shot over Sneha Singh and Hitaashee Bakshi. Nishna closed a memorable win on the Hero Pro Tour with a fine birdie on the 18th for a round of 1-under 70 and totalled 6-under 207 as Sneha (67) and Hitaashee (69) were stranded one shot behind at 5-under 208 at the Par-71 course.

41 WOMEN'S GOLF AT THE 2024 OLYMPICS

As we get set for an exciting year of golf on the Ladies European Tour (LET) the countdown to the 2024 Paris Olympic Games is also well and truly on with the women's golf competition now just 200 days away. Sixty competitors from around the globe will take to the fairways at the prestigious Le Golf National in Paris, France for the 72 hole stroke play individual event between 7-10 August 2024.

Masterclass Instruction

Over the next few pages, leading coaches demonstrates the techniques and strategies to Play better in 2024.

34 THE NEW RULES OF THE RANGE: DEANA RUSHWORTH

For most of us, a trip to the range means the opportunity to work on our swings. But while technical work remains an integral part of any practice session, your range experience can be so much more than that. The latest research into performance training for golf suggests a blend, instead of hitting a basket of balls into nothing, try this three-stage approach next time you practise!

38 MAKE MORE OF YOUR TIME ON THE RANGE

What does your average visit to the driving range look like? If it's anything like ours, you'll head there with all the right intentions, but end up hitting your favourite club your favourite yardage 30 times... and a load of drives into a field. It's monotonous, boring and it doesn't help your game. Read and make the practice interesting.

PGTI

57 JYOTI RANDHAWA WINS LEGENDS TOUR QUALIFYING SCHOOL

Jyoti Randhawa shot a closing 70, including birdies at the final two holes, to finish four shots clear at the top of the leaderboard at 12-under 276. The Indian started the final 18 holes with a two-shot lead and remained in control of the tournament in blustery conditions at the Gloria Golf Club in Turkey. Jyoti shot scores of 71, 67, 68 and 70 at the tournament.

58 PGTI STATS – 2023

Here's a look at TATA STEEL PGTI'S Stats from the 2023 season which included Highest Earnings in a Season, Highest Earnings by a Rookie, First Time Winners, Holes-in-One, Highest Lowest Winning Totals & many more.

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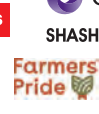
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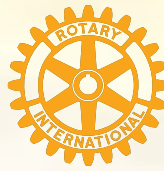
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IS SPIRITUALITY RELEVANT TO LEADERSHIP?

SADHGURU ISHA FOUNDATION

Sadhguru: The very mention of the word “spirituality” conjures a variety of images in today’s popular culture – a galore of misconceptions. Spirituality is not about love

or humanity or ecological consciousness. Those things can be done without any spirituality; you just need a little sense in your head. If I must define spirituality, I would

choose a very technical definition. When one’s ability to experience life transcends the limitations of the physical, we say you are spiritual.

SPIRITUALITY MEANS GAINING ACCESS TO THAT DIMENSION WITHIN YOU WHICH IS THE VERY SOURCE OF WHO YOU ARE RIGHT NOW. THIS IS NOT ABOUT LOOKING UP, LOOKING DOWN OR LOOKING AROUND - THIS IS ABOUT LOOKING INWARD.

The essential nature of the physical is a defined boundary. The very nature of the human being is such, there is one part of him - the instinct of self-preservation - which constantly tries to define and protect this boundary. But there is another dimension of the human being that is always longing to be something more than what he or she is right now. It doesn't matter what you have become in your life, you are still longing to become something more than who you are right now. If you manage to conquer the whole planet, I am sure you will look at the stars. There is something within you that does not like boundaries - which is constantly longing to become boundless. Boundlessness means non-physical. The physical is only the cover - the basis is a core non-being that is non-physical in nature, which is constantly trying to find expression in human life.

Leadership: Going Beyond Body & Mind

In what way is spirituality relevant to leadership? As I said, spirituality means your experience of life has transcended the physical. If you look at your body, it is just a heap of food. What you eat is becoming you. What you call "my mind" is essentially a heap of impressions that you gathered through the five senses.

If you function only on physical and intellectual terms, you will be a poor leader because your body and mind are chained to the past. People are always looking forward to a leader who does not repeat the past. They look forward to a leader because he can create something that other people could not think of. He sees something that everyone else could not see. Unless there is a spiritual element, unless a human being has started experiencing life beyond his body and intellect, he will not create a new possibility. Without a spiritual element, a leader - whether political, economic or otherwise - is

definitely handicapped.

A leader is someone who takes charge of the destiny of a large mass of people. Unless he is capable of organizing and directing situations towards the desired goals, he is not a leader. But that will only happen if you have some mastery over yourself. How much mastery you have of your own inner nature will decide how free you are from outside situations.

True Freedom

Most people's way of being is hugely enslaved to external situations. The nature of the situations in the world is such that it doesn't matter who you are or how powerful you are, no one has 100% control over the outside situations. No one in this world functions 100% the way you want them to, but at least you must function the way you want.

If your inner situation functioned the way you wanted, how would you keep it? Naturally you would keep it in utmost pleasantness. You wouldn't know any tension, anger or other nonsense. The reason people are going through these things is simply because the fundamental faculties within them - their own body, mind, emotions and energies - are happening in reaction to external situations.

Is there a possibility where whatever the outside situation, one can be free from that within themselves? Each one of us is uniquely capable when it comes to outside realities. But when it comes to inner realities, all of us are equally capable. Because you are looking in the wrong direction, it looks so far away and impossible. If you turn around, it is just a simple reality.

Today in the world, whatever kind of leader you are, it demands extensive travel, handling complex situations and above all handling people from diverse backgrounds and cultures. When a human being has to constantly handle complex situations, he will naturally get pulled down if he is not spiritually established. People talk about


burnouts these days. This is not happening because the work is difficult, but simply because we do not know how to manage our own systems. Managing these systems from outside will not help because they were created from within. But if you have access to that which is the source of this body, they can be managed from within.

Spirituality means gaining access to that dimension within you which is the very source of who you are right now. This is not about looking up, looking down or looking around - this is about looking inward.

A Tremendous Opportunity

Right now, we are trying to handle human wellbeing and the wellbeing of nations and societies in a very ad hoc way. Today, India as a nation is on the threshold of economic prosperity. We as a generation of people have the opportunity to move a large mass of people from one level of living to another. No other generation has ever had this opportunity. In the next 10 years, what kind of leadership we have will decide what we do with this. A leadership bereft of any spiritual content, bereft of perception beyond the limitations of logical intellect and physicality cannot manage a situation like this with absolute clarity. It can only manage by chance. By chance, anything can happen, but if we are doing things by chance, we are a potential tragedy because we can fall at any time.

Indian culture is steeped in these technologies for inner wellbeing. This is something we must make use of. No other land has seen as much work towards human consciousness as this culture has. The best acknowledgement for this came from Mark Twain, one of the greatest intellects of the previous century. He came to India and had a good guide who took him to the right places. When he was leaving, he said, "So far as I am able to judge, nothing has been left undone, either by man or nature, to make India the most extraordinary country that the sun visits on his rounds. Nothing seems to have been forgotten, nothing overlooked."

I invite all of you to make use of these technologies so that we and the future generations here can know the exuberance of human existence. 

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.



The Indian Golf Union

The governing body for Golf in India


TOP PROS CONDUCT REFRESHER COURSES

Four of India's top teaching professionals will conduct the National Golf Academy of India's refresher courses across all ages. The course, which is now one of Indian Golf Union's main projects and it targets development of skills and attempts to take the game to more people around India.

IGU's efforts to take courses to more parts of the country means having it online and available for all interested. The courses are being conducted in Categories A, B, C and D in January, 2024.

The A and B refresher courses is by Indrajit Bhalotia and Amandeep Johl, while the Category C and D refresher courses is by Deepinder Khullar and Monish Bindra. All four coaches have played at a significant professional level and have also played on the Asian Tour, besides the Professional Golf Tour of India.

The sessions include modules on Pre-Swing and In-swing, Putting, Ball flight laws, Technology and Training Aids, Equipment, mental aspect of the game, Biomechanics and prevention of injury among the topics. The IGU and the coaches have also arranged Guest Speakers each day.

This is the first of many such Refresher courses, said the IGU President, Brijinder Singh and the programme is being run by the National Golf Academy of India. 



(L-R) Amandeep Johl and Indrajit Bhalotia



(L-R) Deepinder Khullar and Monish Bindra



INDIA'S AMATEUR STAR AVANI PRASHANTH SHOOTS 68 TO LIE SECOND IN AUSTRALIA

Avani Prashanth returned a superb score of 5-under 68 and went up the leaderboard to the second place with one round to go in Australian Masters of Amateurs. Avani, playing in Melbourne, added 68 to her first 71 and is now 7-under at the Par-73 course in South Golf Club.

She is one shot behind Japan's Nika Ito (68-70) at the Par-73 South Golf Club.

Avani had two hat-tricks of birdies, one each on the two sides of the course. She had seven birdies and two bogeys. She is now 7-under for 36 holes and just one stroke behind the leader.


Avani had birdies on the third, fourth and fifth, 10th, 11th and 12th and 17th and dropped shots on the 13th and 18th.

India's other players were once again off-colour as Heena Kang (83-85) was 69th among women.

In the men's section Max Moring of Australia (67-67) was tied for the top spot with Zackary Swanwick (67-67) at 10-under each, while



Australia's Siddharth Nadimpalli (69-67) was third at 8-under total.

India's Rohit Narwal (76-70) improved his showing and rose to T-52 up from overnight T-79. Sandeep Yadav (84-74) was 95th. 



The Indian Golf Union
The governing body for Golf in India

AVANI SEVENTH AT AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR GOLF

Avani Prashanth picked two birdies against one lone bogey towards the end of her first nine to be 1-under 72 at Keysborough Golf Club and was tied seventh after the first round of the Australian Amateur Championships.

Avani, runner-up at the Australian Masters of Amateurs last week, is three shots behind leader Aina Fujimoto (69) at 4-under.

Sandeep Yadav, the 2023 Indian National champion, opened with a steady start of 1-under 71 at Keysborough Golf Club as the Indian Golf Union's team had mixed results on the first day.

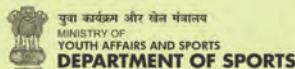
Among the other Indians playing in Australia this week, Heena Kang with 78 was T-60 in women's section, while in the men's section Varun Muthappa (74) was T-83 and Rohit Narwal (78) was T-165. **GP**



IGU EVENT CALENDER till Mar 2024

Qualifier 1	19-02-2024 – 23-02-2024	Venue : Golmuri Golf Club
Qualifier 2	26-02-2024 – 1-03-2024	Coimbatore Golf Club
NCR Cup	4-03-2024 – 8-03-2024	Noida Golf Course
IGU Samarvir Sahi Golf Championship	11-03-2024 – 15-03-2024	Chandigarh Golf Club
IGU Maharashtra Amateur Golf Championship	8-04-2024 – 12-04-2024	Poona Club Golf Course
IGU Western India Amateur Golf Championship	15-04-2024 – 19-04-2024	Kalhaar Blues & Greens

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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.



Tournament Directors and Rules Instructors are trained and certified accordingly.



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

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



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



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

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



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



WHAT CAN THE IGU DO FOR YOU?

Helps improve your golf



NGAI Campus, Chandigarh



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

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

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



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

Gets you golf equipment at concessional rates



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

Benefit from contributing to development of Golf in India



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



FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

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

Initiatives that are to be focused are on:

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

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

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




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

The Indian Golf Union 14, Anand Lok, 2nd Floor, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi - 110049 www.indiangolfunion.org / Email: info@indiangolfunion.org / Phone: +91 11 26525771



YUVAJ SINGH SANDHU

26 Years of age, From - India 

TURNED
PRO
2019

PROFESSIONAL
WINS
09

OWGR
OFFICIAL WORLD GOLF RANK
#308
BEST OWGR RANK

ACHIEVEMENTS
27 TOP 05 FINISHES
66% WIN PERCENTAGE
06 TOURNAMENT RECORDS
35 TOP 10 FINISHES

CHANDIGARH GREENS TO GLOBAL GLORY : YUVRAJ SANDHU'S AUDACIOUS SWING



Sunbeams paint Chandigarh gold, shimmering off the map plastered on Yuvraj Singh Sandhu's wall. At 26, ambition gleams in his eyes like polished clubs. Six countries, five tours, countless miles – it is a journey etched with grit, not gold. Earning hard-fought status on the Asian Tour and Challenge Tour, lifelong friendships forged in foreign bunkers – these are Yuvraj's precious trophies.

Yuvraj has savored victory's nectar and the roar of crowds nine times in four seasons of his professional golf career. In the process, the rigorous practice regime, extensive travel, and high degree of competition has not only evaluated his swing, but also his perseverance to face the odds. Each step in his golfing journey has made him stronger and fueled fire that urges him to sharpen his game for excelling on the global greens.

2024 for Yuvraj is a tapestry woven with playing 30 to 35 weeks of competitive golf

in fourteen countries under shifting skies. The tournament schedule is tight packed, and his self-expectations are huge. Still, beneath Yuvraj's calm, an ember rages – an insatiable hunger to dominate.

As the world sets its sights on 2024's goals, Yuvraj stands tall at his own adventure's doorstep ready to spread his wings. He has the map, the clubs, the fire and the family



THE REPORT CARD

Yuvraj has set his goals high and has got a road map in place to achieve them. His levelheaded personality & all-round golfing skills strike for a consistent performance. Young age, mental resilience & physical strength providing an edge to dominate the field for years to come and even elevate him for a podium contention on PGA and international events like the Olympics, Commonwealth and Asian Games.

Armed with accolades since early days like player of the year at PSPB, Order of Merit at IGU, PGTI feeder tour & Runners Up PGTI Yuvraj is on a familiar territory when it comes to success. He has been on the roll since turning professional with 5 professional wins in 2022 and 1 international win with top 10 finishes in 2023.



support – all that he needs to rewrite the map of international golf. He beams with confidence that soon his name will grace not just leaderboards, but the hearts of millions across the globe.

Yuvraj's story is of rising above the game of golf. It is a testament to his boundless audacity, relentless pursuit of dreams and the unyielding self-belief to become the best in the World.

Ready for Success

Yuvraj has a perfect recipe for success, his Fearless attitude with exciting playing style attracts fans & media attention. While he has a road map for achieving his goals he also has firm plans to give back to the game and society. He has been supporting a number of Amateur & Junior Golf initiatives. An avid animal lover Yuvraj supports the cause of animal welfare and pitches in on a regular basis. [GP](#)

AS THE WORLD SETS ITS SIGHTS ON 2024'S GOALS, YUVRAJ STANDS TALL AT HIS OWN ADVENTURE'S DOORSTEP READY TO SPREAD HIS WINGS.



PROFESSIONAL WINS

- 2023 BNI Ciputra Golfpreneur Tournament
- 2022 Indian Oil Servo Masters Golf Championship
- 2022 Players Championship presented by American Express hosted by Govt of Haryana and Panchkula Golf Club
- 2022 J&K Open presented by J&K Tourism
- 2022 Tata Steel PGTI Players Championship presented by Chandigarh Golf Club
- 2022 Tata Steel PGTI Players Championship presented by Tollygunge Club
- 2021 Indian Oil Servo Masters Golf Championship
- 2019 Tata Steel PGTI Feeder Tour by Madhuban Meadows
- 2019 Tata Steel PGTI Feeder Tour presented by Jaypee Greens Wish Town



TOM KIM FINDS HIS BALANCE AS HE EYES THE BIG PRIZES

by Chuah Choo Chiang

When young Korean star Tom Kim qualified for his maiden Tour Championship appearance in August by being amongst the elite 30 golfers on the PGA Tour, he was asked how he'd grade his 2022-23 season.

He gave himself a C-minus.

It certainly felt Kim was being extremely hard on himself as his first full season on the globe's elite circuit included one victory and seven other top-10s, including at two of the major championships. "It's just the truth," said Kim without batting an eyelid.

"I won a title this season, but it wasn't this year, and it was about 10 months ago. However, I also had some good results in the majors, so I think it's a positive I gained confidence and comfort in the majors. Golf is a sport that is

"I WON A TITLE THIS SEASON, BUT IT WASN'T THIS YEAR, AND IT WAS ABOUT 10 MONTHS AGO."



Tom Kim



Images Credit: Getty Images

“TECHNICALLY, MY BALL SPEED HAS GONE UP A LOT FROM LAST YEAR, SO MY TIMING IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT. I NEEDED TO FIND NEW BALANCE WITH MY BODY AND MY SWING.”

judged by results, so I'm disappointed I didn't win this year.”

When quizzed what he'd needed to have given himself a better grade, he simply replied – “start winning” - which he duly delivered a sensational third PGA TOUR victory just two months later when he repeated as champion at the Shriners Children's Open in Vegas in October.

Kim's self-deprecating attitude, coupled with a winning mentality and an abundance of talent, are very much ingredients that should propel him towards his goals of winning golf's biggest tournaments and becoming World No. 1. He will end 2023 as the highest ranked Asian golfer at World No. 11, eclipsing the likes of countrymen Sungjae Im, Si Woo Kim and Japanese star Hideki Matsuyama.

The year 2023 was no doubt a tale of two halves for Kim, who struggled to hit consistent results after ramping up his ball speed. He enjoyed a couple of top-10s early in the year before hitting a flat line.

“Technically, my ball speed has gone up a lot from last year, so my timing is a little different. I needed to find new balance with my body and my swing. As these things improved in the second half, my results improved and I think I made the most progress in my short game and mentality,” he said.

He recalled flushing a pure 4 iron approach shot to perfection on the final hole of the U.S. Open at Los Angeles Country Club in June which produced a closing birdie and a career first top-10 in a major. It proved to be the catalyst for a strong summer as he went on to finish T6 at the Genesis Scottish Open and runner-up at The Open Championship, despite playing with a sprained ankle.

“I was inside the top-10 going into 17 (at the U.S. Open) and doubled 17. I then hit a four iron to within five feet at the last and made birdie that got me a top-10 in my first major. It was cool,” said Kim.


He feels the biggest change for him since bursting through in 2022 with two PGA TOUR titles and delivering a memorable outing at the Presidents Cup is his mindset and mentality. “I feel like I am a completely different person

now,” Kim said.

“I have a really good team around me. Whenever I am hard on myself, they always give me perspective. I've seen the results of after a tough round the attitude that I go into the next day ... if I have a great attitude, I always play better. I've had days where I played bad and the next day had a bad attitude and played horrible. I've definitely had to learn.

“Also, when I play with best players in the world, I learn a lot. I feel like I'm improving. I feel like I'm learning a lot not only about golf, but also about life.”

With a base firmly established in Dallas, Kim is ready to take his career to new heights in 2024, which will include the Paris Olympic Games. “I think for the first time in my life right now, I'm realizing that I'm feeling the balance of like you know where I'm playing every year and I know what my schedule is going to look like next year,” he said.

“I don't need to bounce around houses or hotels, don't need to worry about booking an Airbnb. I can just go back to my house and that balance in general for me it's just the biggest thing,” said Kim. 

Chuah Choo Chiang is senior Director, marketing and communications, APAC for the PGA TOUR and is based in Kuala Lumpur.



ICONIC VENUES ENJOY SPOTLIGHT IN SIGNATURE SWING

Pebble Beach and Riviera poised to grow legacy as PGA TOUR stars hunt for glory

by Jim McCabe



Adam Scott hits his tee shot on the iconic 10th hole at Riviera during the 2023 Genesis Invitational

Always, the arrival of another PGA TOUR season invites the usual curiosities of what's new and 2024 is no different.

Tops on the list, perhaps, is this 24-year-old Swede Ludvig Åberg. He's already won twice, once on the PGA TOUR and once on the DP World Tour, but inquiring minds want to know just how great he can be.

Then there's the wonderment about the dynamic duo – Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas. For the

first time in the nine years they've both been on TOUR together, the wunderkinds combined for zero victories in 2023.

That's right, nada and zilch a season ago, and combined they've got just two victories in their last 86 tournaments. What gives? And can they get back on track?

Storylines with a newness to them, for sure.

But should you want a different slice of rich flavor with the early part of the PGA TOUR

schedule, shift your focus to a 1-2 punch of "Signature Events" out on the West Coast. What makes the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (Feb. 1-4) up in Central California and Genesis Invitational (Feb. 15-18) down in Los Angeles tournaments you circle on the calendar are what would be old stories.

Pebble Beach Golf Links and Riviera Country Club.

They offer definitive proof that golf is clearly different than professional team sports such



Tiger Woods on the 18th green at Riviera during the 2023 Genesis Invitational

BUT FOR WOODS, RECENTLY TURNED 48, HE IS NOT ONLY THE “HOST” OF THE GENESIS INVITATIONAL, LIKELY HE’LL BE A COMPETITOR (WITH A SPONSOR EXEMPTION) SHOULD HIS SURGICALLY REPAIRED ANKLE FEEL UP TO IT.



The iconic Seventh hole at Pebble Beach Golf Links

as baseball or basketball or football. In those endeavours, the playing fields don't generate much interest, given that each one pretty much mirrors the other.

A 100-yard football field in San Francisco looks like a 100-yard football field in Philadelphia. The basket in New York is 10 feet high, same as the one in Miami. Fans in these respective sports barely notice the venue.

Ah, but in golf, the playing field is the story.

Golf fans know that Pebble Beach Golf Links is a veritable mecca on par with the Old Course

in St. Andrews. You simply don't go to Pebble; you make a pilgrimage.

Fans also know that Riviera is not only a playground for Hollywood A-listers; it is a brilliant design that is so favored by the game's greatest professionals that teeing it up at "the Riv" is circled on the calendar months in advance.

Well, that part of the equation has changed in 2024 because having been assigned with the "Signature" label, there is an even deeper sense of aura being directed toward the AT&T Pebble

Beach Pro-Am and the Genesis Invitational.

Entry into these tournaments is limited to various categories - top 30 in the world, top 50 on last year's FedExCup standings etc. - so fans are assured of top-to-bottom elite attractions.

Fans know they'll get world-class action from the likes of Viktor Hovland, Scottie Scheffler, Rory McIlroy, Collin Morikawa and so on. But for all that firepower and all those major championship and marquee tournament winners, what sets this 1-2 West Coast punch apart are the views of Pebble Beach and the



The ninth hole at Pebble Beach Golf Links



Justin Rose with the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am trophy

Images Credit : Getty Images

pure aura of Riviera.

First played on the Monterey Peninsula about two hours south of San Francisco in 1947, the famed Pro-Am at Pebble Beach has only missed one time - in '66 when there was so much rain it had to be canceled.

It has been considered a “must play” from the time the late Bing Crosby made Pebble Beach the showcase of his pro-am rota. (Cypress Point, Monterey Peninsula, Spyglass, and Poppy Hills) have also been worked into play through the years. In 2024, players and their amateurs will compete one round at Pebble and one round at Spyglass, then professionals only will take on Pebble for two more trips.

Slightly different from past years when players and their amateurs played three different courses, then only the top 24 amateurs made it into Round 4 at Pebble on Sunday. But here’s one thing that hasn’t changed - greatness is likely to be crowned.

Last year the winner was Justin Rose, but the rollcall of winners at this Pebble Beach pro-am reads like the roster of World Golf Hall of Fame members – Sam Snead, Byron Nelson, Jack Nicklaus, Billy Casper, Tom Watson, and Johnny Miller from generations ago, Payne Stewart, Tiger Woods, and Jordan Spieth from more recent times.

Whereas the gaze out over Stillwater Cove and

LAST YEAR THE WINNER WAS JUSTIN ROSE, BUT THE ROLLCALL OF WINNERS AT THIS PEBBLE BEACH PRO-AM READS LIKE THE ROSTER OF WORLD GOLF HALL OF FAME MEMBERS.

the majestic Pacific Ocean captivates you as you play the stretch of holes from Nos. 5 to 10 and Nos. 17 and 18 at Pebble Beach, Riviera comes at you with a different look.

There is the beguiling Kikuyu grass that even the best short-game gurus have not mastered. Then there’s a sequence of holes that are saturated in character – the par-3 sixth and it’s circular green that sports a bunker in the middle; the par-4 10th that players can try and drive, only misfires leave them with impossible wedge shots; and the dastardly, hard dogleg right 18th where misses right and left are penalized equally.

Like Pebble, Riviera’s greatness is defined by its wall of champions - Snead, Nelson, Watson, Miller, Ben Hogan, Lanny Wadkins, Fred Couples, Nick Faldo, Ernie Els, Adams Scott among them - although to be honest, it always is noted how Nicklaus and Woods

have never won at Riviera.

That is a closed chapter on Jack Nicklaus, soon to be 84 and no longer adding to his playing record. But for Woods, recently turned 48, he is not only the “host” of the Genesis Invitational, likely he’ll be a competitor (with a sponsor exemption) should his surgically repaired ankle feel up to it.

It’s hard to believe that Riviera playing host to a limited field of elite players competing for a whopping \$20m purse could generate an even greater buzz, but such would be the case were Woods to step to the first tee on Thursday with club in hand.

Woods would own the spotlight - at least for the early going. But here’s a guess that Riviera, as it always does, will shine brilliantly and that the “Signature Swing” to Pebble and “the Riv” will pack the punch that the PGA TOUR has envisioned. **GP**

CHAMPIONS RISE ABOVE THE BEST



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CHINESE TAIPEI'S KEVIN YU FLIRTS WITH MAIDEN PGA TOUR WIN BEFORE FINISHING T3



Chinese Taipei's Kevin Yu flirted with a maiden PGA TOUR victory with a scintillating final round of 9-under 63 before settling a career-equaling best finish of tied third at The American Express on Sunday.

The 25-year-old Yu, a former world amateur No. 1, was near flawless at PGA West Stadium Course with 10 birdies against a closing bogey which ultimately dashed his hopes of a career breakthrough.

The US\$8.4 million tournament was sensationally won by 20-year-old Nick Dunlap, who became the first amateur since 1991 to win a PGA TOUR tournament as he ground out a 70 to edge South Africa's Christiaan Bezuidenhout by a single stroke with his 29-under winning total.

Japanese rookie Ryo Hisatsune, who earned his playing rights on the PGA TOUR through the DP World Tour Top 10 last season, continued his strong start to 2024 by finishing T11 on 23-under, while Korean trio Sungjae Im, K.H. Lee and 2021 American Express winner Si Woo Kim shared 25th place on 19-under.

After missing four months of action early last year with a knee surgery, the talented Yu displayed his immense potential once more by soaring into contention with an outward 30. He made four more birdies through 16 to jostle for the lead but a costly bogey on 18 after he found the fairway bunker eventually saw him finish two back.

"I was so glad to shoot a nine-under round, it was beyond my expectation," said a delighted Yu, who shared third place with Xander Schauffele (65) and Justin Thomas (68). "I had great feelings with my swing and my putting worked really well. I hope I can keep the good momentum and become a winner soon."

A majority of Yu's 10 birdies, which is a career best haul during a round, were from inside of 10 feet and the longest putt came on the 14th hole when he rolled in a 19-footer to earn a share of the lead for the first time in the final round.

He was disappointed to drop his only bogey after finding the fairway trap on 18 with a three wood. "The club was a bit open, and it found the bunker on the right. That bunker was quite deep, so I could only hit it back out onto the fairway and I then misjudged the distance for my third due to the wind, so it came short and I made a bogey which was a pity," said Yu, who also finished T3 at the 2022 Butterfield Bermuda Championship.

He is now looking forward to the Farmers Insurance Open which begins on Wednesday at Torrey Pines. The PGA TOUR University graduate said he added a new team member to sharpen his course management skills after



Grayson Murray



Kevin Yu. Pic Credit : Getty Images

missing the cut at the Sony Open in Hawaii last week.

"Last week I added one consultant to my team who gave me advice on course strategy. That was helpful and gave me great confidence. I hope I can do well in the coming week," he said.

Dunlap, the reigning U.S. Amateur champion who was competing on a sponsor's exemption, produced a gutsy up-and-down par save on the last for an historic victory over a stellar field which featured 21 players in the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking, including World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler. He also became the youngest winner at the age of 20 years and 29 days on TOUR since 1910.

"It's everything that I dreamed of and just to

have a chance on the last hole to win a PGA TOUR event is really special. I was so nervous (on the last hole). It's a really cool spot to be in as an amateur, and just to be here and be given the opportunity to play, and I don't ever want to forget today," said Dunlap, who is in his sophomore year in University of Alabama.

With a two-year exemption on offer to all PGA TOUR winners plus guaranteed starts in all the Signature events and THE PLAYERS Championship, Dunlap will take his time to determine if he is to join the play-for-pay ranks soon. "That's something it doesn't just affect me, it affects a lot of people, coach back there and my teammates, and it's a conversation I need to have with a lot of people before I make that decision," he said. **GP**

ADRIAN MERONK WINS THE 2023 SEVE BALLESTEROS AWARD



Adrian Meronk has won the 2023 Seve Ballesteros Award after being voted Player of the Year by his peers on the DP World Tour.

The accolade is one of a number of the 31-year-old's history-making achievements as he becomes the first player from Poland to receive the honour after a season in which he won three times and finished a career-high fourth on the Race to Dubai Rankings in Partnership with Rolex.

Meronk earned 38% of the votes cast by his fellow DP World Tour members, with Race to Dubai Champion Rory McIlroy taking second place. Ryder Cup debutant Nicolai Højgaard and Viktor Hovland, who clinched the PGA TOUR's FedEx Cup, were in joint third place.

The Pole started the 2023 season in stunning fashion, earning his second DP World Tour title at the ISPS HANDA Australian Open, holding off a final day challenge from home favourite – and one of his golfing heroes - Major champion Adam Scott.

His victory in Australia earned him a place inside the Top 50 of the Official World Golf Ranking at the end of the 2022 calendar year, enough to secure a maiden appearance at the Masters Tournament and thus become the first player from Poland to compete in all four Major Championships.

Another national open title followed shortly



after as he triumphed at the DS Automobiles Italian Open, birdieing the 72nd hole at Marco Simone Golf & Country Club to win the title by one stroke. He then moved to a career-high 45th on the OWGR shortly after his win in Italy. His next victory of the campaign, and fourth DP World Tour title, came at the Estrella Damm N.A. Andalucía Masters at Sotogrande, as he secured his position inside the top ten

on the season-long rankings, ultimately going on to finish in fourth position and earn dual membership on the PGA TOUR for 2024.

The Player of the Year Award, named after the legendary Seve Ballesteros, incorporates the former Golfer of the Year Award after the two accolades were combined in 2021 to become one single honour voted for by the DP World Tour's members. **GP**

FLEETWOOD WINS DUBAI INVITATIONAL IN DRAMATIC FINISH



Tommy Fleetwood produced a stunning birdie-birdie finish to hold off the challenge of Rory McIlroy and Thriston Lawrence and win the inaugural Dubai Invitational by one shot.

The Englishman entered the final day at Dubai Creek Resort with a one-shot lead, and with Ryder Cup team mate McIlroy his nearest challenger, a mouth watering head-to-head was in store.

While those around him produced fireworks, Fleetwood was a picture of consistency, but he dropped out of the lead for the first time with a bogey on the 16th. He was still one back on the 18th tee after he and McIlroy both birdied the penultimate hole but as the Northern Irishman found the water and made a bogey, Fleetwood holed from 16 feet for a 67, a 19 under total and a seventh DP World Tour title.

South African Lawrence finished alongside McIlroy at 18 under, two clear of England's Jordan Smith and three ahead of 2018 Open Champion Francesco Molinari. American



Sean Crocker and in-form South African Zander Lombard was at 14 under, with Dane

Thorbjørn Olesen and German Yannik Paul two shots further back. **GP**

HISTORY-MAKER MCILROY WINS FOURTH HERO DUBAI DESERT CLASSIC



Rory McIlroy won a record-breaking fourth Hero Dubai Desert Classic as he successfully defended his title on a dramatic afternoon at Emirates Golf Club.

The Northern Irishman claimed a maiden Rolex Series crown at this event 12 months ago but came into the weekend ten shots back before a stunning third-round 63 put him into the final group.

He then turned a two-shot deficit into a four-shot lead with six holes to play before a bogey on the 13th gave the chasing Adrian Meronk and Cameron Young a glimmer of hope.

Pole Meronk cut the lead to one as he signed for a 71 but McIlroy held his nerve down the stretch and carded a 70 for a 14 under par total and a one-shot win. American Young finished with a 74 to sit at 12 under, two shots clear of Canadian Aaron Cockerill, Spaniard Pablo Larrazábal and Chilean Joaquin Niemann. The win takes McIlroy past Ernie Els' hat-trick of Desert Classic victories and hands him his third Rolex Series triumph, having won three of the last five blue riband events.

He also becomes just the second player to successfully defend this title after Stephen



Gallacher lifted the Dallah Trophy in 2013 and 2014 and makes it six wins in Dubai with his two victories at the DP World Tour Championship.

The 34-year-old has started the defence of his

Race to Dubai Rankings in Partnership with Rolex crown with a runner-up finish and a win as he looks to become Europe's Number One for a sixth time, moving to the top of the Rankings for the 2024 title and the International Swing. **GP**

SINGH CLAIMS MAIDEN G4D TOUR TITLE IN RAS AL KHAIMAH



Robin Rambo Singh won his first G4D Tour title as he triumphed in the Tour's inaugural net event at the Ras Al Khaimah Championship. The South African, playing with a handicap of 10.2, started the second day at Al Hamra Golf Club on five over, one stroke behind overnight leader Angelo Colussi of Italy. He immediately moved into a share of first with a birdie on the opening hole on the Arabian Gulf, and then claimed the outright lead after another gain on the par five third.

Singh trailed fellow debutant Michelle Lau (handicap 14.7) at the turn after the Englishwoman carded five birdies in a row from the fourth, but she was unable to carry that momentum on to the back nine as she signed for a ten over par total. Canadian Kevin Delaney (7.2) then moved into a share of the lead after a level par back nine, setting the clubhouse target at eight over. Singh birdied the 16th to reach seven over but dropped a shot on the 17th. He held his nerve on the 18th as he parred for a five, net four, and a one-stroke victory in the Tour's first net competition.

"It feels great, awesome," said Singh. "When the first round started, I was playing the front nine terribly and was about to throw the towel in. Scott Bennett (EDGA) said to me "don't



give up". Seriously, I was really about to give up. He told me to go for it and he knew I could do it. The back nine I played very well and went one over. I was plus five, one behind the leader. "This morning I started with a birdie, went on, unfortunately I didn't have a good first nine. The second nine wasn't bad at all. It was just an awesome day. I've got to thank the G4D Tour, DP World Tour, EDGA and Al

Hamra Golf Club. The condition was beautiful. It was a good layout, a challenging layout, but all players who played this week must have enjoyed it. We're looking forward to more of these."

In 1991, Singh was playing off a handicap of four when a car accident caused damage to both his legs, and he had to have his right leg amputated above the knee the following year. **GP**

HAT-TRICK OF EAGLES SEES BROBERG KING OF THE CARDS

Sweden's Kristoffer Broberg led 35 jubilant and relieved players through at the Final Stage of the Asian Tour's Qualifying School today with their Tour cards safely secured.

Broberg, three off top spot at the start of the day, eagled the par-five 18th at Springfield Royal Country Club, in Hua Hin, Thailand, to fire a six-under-par 66, and beat Japan's Shogenji Tatsunori by two shots.

The Swede, who also eagled the second and the 12th, finished the five-round boiling cauldron of competition on 18-under.

Tatsunori closed with a 67, two ahead of Justin Warren (68) from Australia, Spain's Carlos Pigem (72) and Justin Quiban (73) from the Philippines.

Quiban started the day with a one-stroke lead.

Broberg is a two-time winner on the DP World Tour, the most recent coming at the 2021 Dutch Open, and his experience and quality were on display from the start, when he birdied the first, eagled the second and made another birdie on the next. He only made two bogeys.

"It feels pretty good. I played great today, I made three eagles today and putted really well," said 37-year-old Broberg – a professional since 2010.

"I just tried to finish it off today, you know what I mean? It's just hard to tell, I tried to be like more like relaxed, like a practice round, and just hit some good shots and then make some putts.

Catlin, a four-time winner in Asia and three-time champion in Europe, said: "I am



absolutely thrilled to have my playing status back in Asia. I wasn't able to fulfil my quota of events last year so had to come back to school here. This Tour is where it all started for me. My game is actually in good shape, and I am excited about the year ahead."

The American, who bases himself in Hua Hin for much of the year, closed with a 72, to end on 10 under in a tie for 15th.

Four players ended in a sudden-death play-off for the 35th card: Japan's Tomoyo Ikemura prevailed on the fourth extra hole over Chilean Matias Dominguez, with Nick Voke from New Zealand and Japan's Taihei Sato eliminated earlier.

Some well-known names who did not make it through today were Indonesian Naraajie Ramadhanputra, Thais Kosuke Hamamoto and Panuphol Pittayarat, and Korean Yu Bin Jang.

The Asian Tour's first event of the new season, the US\$1million IRS Prima Malaysian Open, tees-off in just over three weeks at The Mines Resort and Golf Club, from February 15-18.

It's one of 20 events that the Tour recently unveiled, with a significant number of important tournaments to be added.

Once finalised it is expected that the schedule will surpass last season - which saw 23 events staged with total prize money of US\$35 million. **GP**

OMAN WELCOMES WORLD-CLASS GOLFING TALENT

The International Series 2024 tees off at Muscat's iconic Al Mouj Golf with some of the biggest names in the game after it was confirmed that the International Series Oman will return to the Asian Tour schedule on 22-25 February 2024.

A number of Major winners, LIV Golf stars and the cream of the Asian Tour will tee it up in the US \$2million Oman tournament, the season opener on the 2024 schedule of The International Series, ready to test themselves on the Greg Norman-designed course which was joint winner for the Asian Tour Players Choice Course of the Year award in 2023.

South African Major winners Louis Oosthuizen and Charl Schwartzel will line up alongside their Stinger GC teammates Dean Burmester and Branden Grace, while Chilean superstar Joaquin Niemann has also brought his Torque GC team of Mito Pereira, Sebastian Munoz and Carlos Ortiz to the challenging Al Mouj Golf.

Indian sensation Anirban Lahiri of Crushers GC and highly rated Hong Kong youngster Taichi Kho are also in the field alongside a host of Asian Tour stars including last year's Order of Merit high fliers Miguel Tabuena, Gaganjeet Bhullar, Travis Smyth and Phachara Khongwatmai.

Cho Minn Thant, Commissioner & CEO of the Asian Tour said: "The Asian Tour has a strong bond with golf in the Middle East and our efforts



in the region are evident through the growing interest in golf across the region, with emerging talent coming from many different countries to play International Series events." **GP**

NEW ZEALAND OPEN PRIZE PURSE HITS TWO MILLION MARK

➤ The New Zealand Open has announced that the professional players who take part in the 103rd edition of the iconic event will compete for a total prize purse of NZ\$2 million (approximately US\$1,222,770) when the tournament tees off at Millbrook Resort in Queenstown between February 29 and March 3.

Since taking over the running of the New Zealand Open in 2014, Millbrook Tournaments Ltd, the tournament promoter, has regularly increased the overall purse, and this latest raise will see the prize fund grow thanks to a core prize purse of NZ\$1.86 million, an allowance for NZ\$1,000 per player who misses the second round cut and fails to earn money in the Pro-Am section, totalling NZ\$90,000, and a Pro-Am prize purse of NZ\$50,000.

New Zealand Open Chairman, John Hart is thankful to the new and current sponsors of the tournament whose support have allowed the tournament to reach this significant milestone.

“We are delighted to be able to announce another increase in the purse for the New Zealand Open. This only happens through the ongoing support of our fantastic sponsorship family. Without their support the tournament would not be in the position we are today. We have always aimed to ensure the balance between the New Zealand



“We are delighted to be able to announce another increase in the purse for the New Zealand Open.”

Australia's Brendan Jones claimed the title last year

Open being a financially attractive tournament across our three tour partners, the PGA Tour of Australasia, the Asian Tour and the Japan Golf Tour, whilst also maintaining and securing the long-term future for the event” said Hart.

As part of this the New Zealand Open is also

adopting a relatively new concept in the world of professional golf, ensuring that every professional that competes in the tournament, and doesn't make the cut, will take away at least NZD\$1,000 to help support their travel and other related costs in attending. **GP**

ADT WELCOMES TWO VIETNAMESE EVENTS

➤ The Asian Development Tour (ADT) will welcome two events from the VGA (Vietnam Golf Association) Tour onto its schedule this year – the Lexus Challenge and the Nam A Bank Vietnam Masters – signifying the expanding relationship with the Asian Tour and the Southeast Asian nation.

The Lexus Challenge, which is now in its fourth year, will be held at The Bluffs Grand Ho Tram from March 13-15 while the Nam A Bank Vietnam Masters will be staged from May 29–June 1. A venue for the latter event will be announced in due course.

Both events will be jointly sanctioned by the ADT and the Vietnam Golf Association and be part of what is expected to be one of the strongest schedules in the history of the ADT.

Said Ken Kudo, Associate Director, Partnerships, Asian Tour, said: “This is tremendous expansion for the Asian Development Tour, one that allows us to perfectly synchronise the Tour's mission to aid the development of up-and-coming golfers while also visiting and promoting new, emerging golf markets. We thank Lexus, Nam A Bank, the Vietnam Golf Association and The Bluffs Grand Ho Tram for making this possible and we are now full-steam ahead with preparing for these two events – which will each feature fields of 138 players, with 70 from the ADT.”



Chen Guxin of China won on the ADT in Vietnam in 2022

The total prizemoney for both events will be US\$85,000.

At the most recent ADT events in Vietnam, China's Chen Guxin triumphed at the 2022 BRG Open Golf Championship, while Australian Aaron Wilkin won the event last year.

The 2023 ADT season came to a memorable

conclusion last December when Thailand's Denwit Booribonsub won the Aramco Invitational.

That allowed him to top the ADT Order of Merit and secure his Asian Tour card for 2024, something that the top-10 players on Merit list are all rewarded with. **GP**

EILA GALITSKY TARGETS WOMEN'S AMATEUR ASIA-PACIFIC HISTORY

Thailand's Eila Galitsky is banking on a change in fortune on the Siam Country Club greens as she bids to create two slices of Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific (WAAP) championship.

Having triumphed at Singapore Island Country Club last year, the 17-year-old is not only setting her sights on becoming the first player to defend her WAAP title, but also the first two-time winner of the region's premier amateur championship for women.

If she's to succeed, Galitsky knows she'll have to putt better than she did when the WAAP was last staged at Siam Country Club's Waterside Course in late 2022. On that occasion, the Chiang Mai teenager cut a frustrated figure after finishing in a share of 35th place.

"I struck the ball beautifully, but I couldn't make the putts. Over the week I had 27 putts from inside ten feet and only made four of them. If I'd have putted well, I'd have won. This week, I have a good caddie and I feel I'm putting better so I'm looking forward to trying to defend my title," said Galitsky, who has just committed to attending the University of South Carolina.

Currently 40th in the World Amateur Golf Ranking® (WAGR®), Galitsky's final warm-up for her Siam Country Club challenge came in a men's event on the All Thailand Golf Tour last week.

Although she narrowly missed the cut following rounds of 72 and 74 over a layout that stretched to 7,200 yards, she performed best among the eight women in the starting line-up. "It was a good experience and overall I was pleased with how I played," she said.

Like Galitsky, Korean Minsol Kim, Japan's Mamika Shinchi and Indian Avani Prashanth are all in a positive mood and have their eyes on winning the sixth edition of the WAAP, which rewards the champion



with exemptions into three major championships in 2024 - the AIG Women's Open at St Andrews, the Amundi Evian Championship in France and the Chevron Championship in the United States of America.

The winner will also receive invitations to a handful of other elite championships such as the Hana Financial Group Championship, ISPS Handa Women's Australian Open, The 121st Women's Amateur Championship and the Augusta National Women's Amateur. **GP**

DYNAMIC YOUNG WAAP DUO AIM TO SHAPE FUTURE OF WOMEN'S GOLF IN ASIA-PACIFIC

Conclusively proving that age is no barrier in golf is the aim of Jie-En Lin and Sabrina Wong at this week's sixth Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific (WAAP) championship.

Making their WAAP debuts at Siam Country Club's Waterside Course from 1-4 February, Chinese Taipei's Lin and Hong Kong, China's Wong are the two youngest players in the elite, 90-strong field.

While Lin turned 13 last September, Scotland-based Wong won't reach her teens until October this year.

However, displaying a maturity belying their tender years – both on and off the course – neither could be accused of lacking confidence or being overawed at the esteemed company they're keeping in the region's premier amateur event for women.

Lin, in particular, has multiple reasons for believing she can contend over the course at which her compatriot Ting-Hsuan Huang triumphed in the fourth edition of the WAAP in late 2022.

Although Huang is unable to return to Siam

Country Club this week due to college commitments in the United States of America, her presence and influence will be felt by her young compatriot.

"I look up to her and am motivated by her winning the WAAP," said Lin, who this week hopes to benefit from being in possession of the very same yardage book which Huang used en route to her victory here 16 months ago, including the hole-by-hole notes she penned in Chinese characters.

"We've been referring to it a lot," said Zheng-Yao Lin, Jie-En's father and caddie.

The 'handover' took place last month in Chinese Taipei when Huang returned to play in a professional event. Knowing she would be unable to make the trip to Thailand for the WAAP, she wanted the yardage book to be put to good use and duly forwarded it to Lin.

That's not the only reason why Lin is so bullish, having struck a rich vein of form that has seen her win her last three World Amateur Golf Ranking® (WAGR®) events – the 2023 Future Challenge in the final week of last year followed by the Beethoven Invitation and



Jie-En Lin will compete in the 2023 Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific championship at Siam Country Club.

National Future Star Junior Cup, both this month.

On the back of that hat-trick of victories, she's soared almost 300 places in the WAGR in the space of a month, currently at a career-high 467th. **GP**

PLAYER BLOG



By **Chris Kirk**

AMERICAN CHRIS KIRK GOT HIS NEW YEAR OFF TO A FLYING START WITH A STYLISH VICTORY AT THE SENTRY IN HAWAII. IT WAS HIS SIXTH PGA TOUR CAREER VICTORY, AND THE SECOND IN 11 MONTHS. THE 38-YEAR-OLD HAS BEEN ON A RENAISSANCE AFTER OVERCOMING ALCOHOL ABUSE AND DEPRESSION IN 2019 AND RETURNING TO THE WINNER'S CIRCLE IN 2023 AFTER ALMOST EIGHT YEARS - AND WAS RECENTLY RECOGNIZED WITH THE TOUR'S 2023 COURAGE AWARD AT THE END OF LAST YEAR.



Chris Kirk with The Sentry trophy



Chris Kirk with his family and the PGA TOUR Courage Award

Images Credit : Getty Images

Winning The Sentry in my first start of the 2024 PGA TOUR Season is unreal. It's just so unexpected. I had a really great off-season and I got a lot of good work done and felt good about the year, but you never really expect to shoot 29-under and win a tournament. It's unbelievable and I'm still soaking it all in.

I've worked hard on my game and spent a lot of time in the gym, and also working on my mental game. I didn't actually play a whole lot of golf and I didn't practice that much. To come over to Hawaii and to play as well as I did, I'm very thankful and a little bit surprised.

Once the FedExCup Playoffs were done last August, I played in two tournaments in the fall and spent more time in the gym from September through December than I've ever had in the past. I've always worked out some but last year was definitely the hardest I've gone in the gym. That was a big thing to my preparation for 2024.

I think for me, the harder I work at my fitness and the stronger and fitter I feel, then that sort

of carries over to a lot of things. Also, Zach Sorensen, who is the Atlanta Braves' mental coach, started working with me from early last year and we were able to dig in and look into a lot of different things and work out how my brain ticks, and what we can do to improve. He's been a huge help.

Another fun thing I always do every December is that some of my friends and I would play every day for a week left-handed, and we were all terrible. It was just a lot of bantering and having fun goofing off. For me to feel really great about a shot that I hit right-handed, it's got to be something phenomenal, something like on 17 during the final round at The Sentry where I hit it really close with my 5 iron for a birdie.

Playing left-handed, if I hit the fairway or if I hit a 7-iron on the green, like, yeah, that's an awesome feeling. If you make two pars in a row while playing left-handed, that's unbelievable. I find it helps bring back a little bit of the childlike nature of the game, and my expectations are so low it is way easier to be happy about what I'm doing than it is right-handed, to be honest.

The final day at The Sentry was an unbelievable day. I'm thankful I was able to play as well as I did to shoot a closing 65 and I was nervous. Somehow, I was able to stay calm and played really solid golf all day. I kept reminding myself of no matter how I felt, no matter how nervous I was, there was nothing really stopping me from hitting great shots, hitting great putts, and I was able to remind myself of that before every shot, including that 5 iron into the 17th.

At this stage of my career, I just enjoy competing, I'm enjoying the work that I love which I didn't

have that for a while and to be back to loving what I do, I love the process of working to be the best player that I can be, and then working on being as good of a father and husband as I can when I'm off the golf course. It's a constant process and I'm loving every minute of it.

When I look back now, the best thing that I've ever done in my life was to get sober and to go public about this. It certainly has been helpful and beneficial for me to be open and be public about it. I live a decent amount of my life sort of in the public view, somewhat anyways, and the biggest thing for me was waking up every morning and looking at myself in the mirror and knowing I've got nothing to hide, and I can be proud of who I am. I didn't feel like that was really going to be quite as possible if I was not open about it and worked through my personal challenges.

I don't feel by going public about my story it's taking away from anything that I'm accomplishing on the golf course. It's a hundred percent the reason why I'm able to do what I do. My PGA TOUR career would have been over a while ago had I not gotten sober. So yeah, I'm fine with that staying with me until the day I die. I guess it was just more of the freedom of not lying to myself and lying to other people and there is some sense of accountability. I felt free for the first time in a long time.

I'll try to decompress a little bit before teeing up at the Sony Open in Hawaii this week. Waialae is a golf course that I've played so many times and I've had some good success over the years. When I tee off on Thursday, what I did at The Sentry doesn't matter anymore, it's all square, and we try to do it all over again. **GP**

"AT THIS STAGE OF MY CAREER, I JUST ENJOY COMPETING, I'M ENJOYING THE WORK THAT I LOVE WHICH I DIDN'T HAVE THAT FOR A WHILE AND TO BE BACK TO LOVING WHAT I DO."



MAKE MORE OF YOUR TIME

Don't waste time bashing balls into a field.

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PLAY BETTER IN 2024

AND HAVE MORE FUN!

Behold! Our blueprint for making 2024 the year of your golfing life

THE NEW RULES OF THE RANGE

Forget blasting away aimlessly - our three-stage approach will revolutionise your practice time!

p34

CURVATURE p34

Improve your face-to-path relationship and bring that curvature under control.

LAUNCH p35

Finding the optimal launch angle will help you strike the ball closer to your distance.

BALL SPEED p36

How ball speed is strongly influenced by club speed.

TOTAL DISTANCE p37

Getting closer to your potential involves optimising elements such as launch & spin.

THE NEW RULES OF THE RANGE

Instead of hitting a basket of balls into nothing, try this three-stage approach next time you practise

PICTURES ANGUS MURRAY



For most of us, a trip to the range means the opportunity to work on our swings. But while technical work remains an integral part

of any practice session, your range experience can be so much more than that. The latest research into performance training for golf suggests a blend of...

- **Technical work:**
Your swing or set-up.
- **Random shots:**
Mimicking the real game.
- **Accountability:**
Hitting shots that matter.

Not only is this a more effective use of your range time in terms of performance, it also adds interest, fun and variety to your practice sessions – and all the more so if you find yourself at a range equipped with Toptracer, a ball-tracking system designed to enhance all three elements of the perfect range session.

Let's take a look at each one in turn, learn why it's important, and see how to work it into your practice.

YOUR COACH



DEANA RUSHWORTH
Former England International
and Advanced PGA
Professional, Witney Lakes
Resort, Oxfordshire.
deanagolfpro.co.uk

MAKE IT... TECHNICAL

If you're making a swing change – or are in the three weeks following a lesson – technical work should represent around 60 percent of your range time, if not, bring it down to around 20 percent. Every golfer has their own technical gremlins to work out, but let's look at four elements, tracked and measured by Toptracer, which will boost the performance of any golfer...

#1 CURVATURE

Shot curvature is the result of the relationship between the clubface and swing path at impact. A range mat gives you a unique opportunity to work on this, because you can physically mark it. Obviously don't use anything that cannot be removed – I recommend chalk – but with just three lines, you can start to monitor and improve your face-to-path relationship and bring that curvature under control.

Three lines

Draw a centre line (along your ball-to-target path) flanked by slight leftward and rightward paths. Chalk is perfect because not only does it draw a clear, removable line; it also offers great feedback through the puff of dust you create when you hit the line.



Shape at will

Given a clean, centred strike, a face open to the path will fade the ball; when it's closed to the path the ball will draw. Experiment with this...

- Swing the club down the leftward line while leaving the face aiming between the leftward and centre lines. This is the ideal relationship for a fade (right-handers).
- Now swing down the rightward line with the clubface facing between the rightward and centre lines. This is the perfect combination for a draw.

#2 LAUNCH

Launch is, of course, the angle the ball rises from horizontal off the club. Finding this optimal range will help you to strike the ball closer to your distance potential. For the typical club golfer, the

ideal launch angle ranges are...
Driver 12–16° (typical club loft 9°)
6-iron 15–19° (typical club loft 31°)
PW 24–28° (typical club loft 45°)
As you can see, these ideals are above the

average driver loft but well below the typical iron lofts. This means developing separate techniques, sweeping the ball up for driver, but squeezing it out lower with irons.



Irons Towel tip

Lie your towel across the mat, a few inches behind the ball.



Feel the squeeze

The mere presence of the towel will encourage you to deliver the downward, compressing attack angle that leads to optimal iron strike and launch.

- Get too shallow or scoopy and the towel catches the clubhead, delivering instant feedback.
- Mats can be forgiving on heavy contact, leaving you unsure if you actually hit behind the ball or not. The towel removes that forgiveness, giving you a more accurate result for the strike.



Driver Below the bar

Place your range basket beside the mat, 12 inches or so behind the ball. Lie an alignment stick on top of the range basket, so its end protrudes past the ball but not as far as the shaft.



Clean sweep

You need to avoid the stick as you swing down and through. To do this you must deliver the club on a shallow attack angle, the club bottoming out under the end of the stick and behind the ball. This encourages the level-to-up impact strike angle that delivers an ideal launch angle – around 14°. Remember to shift your weight into your lead side as you work on this.



RIGHT HEIGHT

One further thing on driver launch. If you are practising drivers, only do so when you have access to a tee that sits at least half of the ball above the crown on the club. Anything lower will encourage you to squeeze down on the ball and promote a lower-than-optimal launch.

#3 BALL SPEED

Ball speed is, of course, the initial speed of the ball as it leaves the clubface. Ball speed is therefore strongly influenced by club speed, but it is also affected

by swing path, attack angle and the quality of strike; a squarer path and sweeter strike from a more level attack will yield a much higher ball speed than a steep, glancing blow off the

heel, even with similar clubhead speeds. For Toptracer reference, a decent average driver ball speed is 140–145mph, a 6-iron 110–115mph and a wedge 85–90mph.

CENTRED STRIKE DRILL

ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT

This drill will help you maintain your body angles, a key element of an on-plane swing that promotes a neutral path and centred strike.



Take a chair

Most ranges have a chair you can bring into your bay, but if not you can use your golf bag. Set the chair or bag behind you and set up so your backside is just making contact with it. Make sure your ankles are under your hip bones.

Close contact

Your goal is to maintain that chair contact throughout the swing. Doing so helps you maintain your body angles, a key element of an on-plane swing that promotes a neutral path and centred strike. This is relatively easy on the way back but far more challenging through impact. Practise rolling your backside along the chair as you rotate through, slowly at first before building up to full speed.



#4 TOTAL DISTANCE

Naturally we are all looking to hit the ball as far as our speed potential allows; a ball speed of 140mph can deliver a total distance of around 255 yards, though the amateur average is more like 225. Getting closer to your potential involves optimising elements

such as launch and spin, and here a clubfitting is essential. But in terms of pure technique, your power and distance will increase when you sequence your swing correctly – and that means making sure your downswing works from the ground up.

SEQUENCE DRILL

BASKET DROP

This exercise delivers instant feedback on whether your lower half is active enough as you start the downswing.



BACKSWING Basket in place

Place the basket between your knees and apply some gentle inward pressure to hold it in position. Take your regular address position before swinging to the top. As the lead knee moves across, the basket remains in place.



YES Basket falls

An aggressive, lower body-led downswing sees the lead knee drive forwards. While the trail knee follows, the gap between the knees increases and the basket drops. This is your goal for the drill.



NO Basket remains held

A weak change of direction is characterised either by the lower body being too passive or the upper half being too active. Either way, that knee gap never increases and the basket never falls.

IF YOU ARE WORKING WITH TOPTRACER...

If you are practising technique and have Toptracer, the best mode to use is My Practice. Here, every shot you hit is tracked to give a range of data including distance (carry and total), ball speed, launch and curvature, including how far offline your shot was. The data gives you that vital instant feedback between the swing you made and how well it worked. It also assists long-term, allowing you to monitor progress and create an historical record for future sessions. You can also try Closest to the Pin, which offers you a fun chance to hone launch, flight and carry while striking to a consistent target. **GP**

MAKE MORE OF YOUR TIME ON THE RANGE

Don't waste time bashing balls into a field...
a Toptracer Range will transform your practice

HOW IT WORKS

Toptracer is revolutionising the world's driving ranges. Cameras above the hitting bays track every shot and feed data back to a screen and app. You can play games on it, play a virtual course with friends or just practise with it.



What does your average visit to the driving range look like? If it's anything like ours, you'll head there with all the right intentions, but end up hitting your favourite club your favourite yardage 30 times... and a load of drives into a field.

It's monotonous, boring and it doesn't help your game.

But imagine how much fun – and useful – a range session would be if you could play a virtual course like St Andrews. Or access numbers like spin rates and carry distance. Or even benchmark your stats with each club in the bag, to really understand your game and track improvements.

If you find a Toptracer Range, you can access all those features – and more. Over the page, TG coach Deana Rushworth shows you exactly how you can get more from a range visit next year, plus where to find the nearest Toptracer Range to you. **GP**

AS SEEN ON TV

Toptracer's ball tracking tech started life as 'Protracer', invented by Swede Daniel Forsgren in 2006 to improve televised golf coverage. Topgolf bought the camera-based system in 2016 and started rolling out its range-friendly version in 2017.

TOPTRACER'S NINE PLAY MODES

Warm-up

Analyse multiple data points, including ball speed, launch angle, distance and more.

Driving Challenge

A nine-hole game scoring both distance and accuracy. If you don't hit the fairway or a pin is obstructed for the next shot, there is a penalty.

Approach Challenge

Take aim at the flag as consistently close approach shots are the name of this game.



SHOT TRACKING

The software tracks multiple balls at once and assigns them to the right bay. It breaks the range down into triangles (like a grid) so your ball can be traced back to your bay by calculating the angle at which it enters and exits each triangle.

Your numbers – including distance, speed, launch angle, shape and more – are recorded and displayed on a 21-inch touchscreen monitor and the app.



FULLY CONNECTED

Download the Toptracer Range app, register, scan the screen when you arrive and choose from six play modes. Then create a profile to become part of a community. The app stores data from practice sessions, so players can monitor changes and fine-tune their swing over time. For users at Toptracer Range Mobile-enabled facilities, the app is also where they can access skill-based games.



My Practice

Tells you all the key stats – total distance, carry, ball speed, height, hang time... It's all relayed to an app on your phone for future reference.

Closest to the Pin

Just want to work on your iron play or wedge game? Choose a real target, tell the screen which one it is and fire away. It'll tell you how close you got.

Virtual Golf

Play on real world courses, using the targets on the range, including Pebble Beach and the Old Course. A great option for groups.

Long Drive

Who can hit the furthest? This game lets you settle the argument by turning the range into a proper long drive grid for up to eight players.

Points Game

This mode turns range targets into points; plus you can win bonus points for hitting a certain trajectory through an 'In Air' ring.

Go Fish

Child-friendly range game that can be played individually or as a team where players bid to capture 24 sea creatures in a virtual aquarium.

AMATEUR NISHNA PATEL HOLDS NERVE TO BIRDIE FINAL HOLE AND WIN

Amateur Nishna Patel held her nerves in the closing stages of the first leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Poona Club Golf Course and won by one shot over Sneha Singh and Hitaashee Bakshi.

Nishna closed a memorable win on the Hero Pro Tour with a fine birdie on the 18th for a round of 1-under 70 and totalled 6-under 207 as Sneha (67) and Hitaashee (69) were stranded one shot behind at 5-under 208 at the Par-71 course.

Nishna, who had Hitaashee and Sneha for company in the lead group, began the day with a two-shot lead over Hitaashee and four over Sneha.

Yet, it was the 2023 Hero Order of Merit winner, Sneha who made the big charge. She seemed to be running away as she opened the day with three birdies in a row. She added a fourth birdie on the fifth hole and a fifth birdie on the ninth to turn in 5-under 30.

Nishna with one birdie and one bogey on the front nine was suddenly one shot behind Sneha, who then stretched the lead to two shots with a sixth birdie of the day on the 11th.

Nishna hung in courageously and birdied the 12th to reduce the gap to one. It stayed like that till the end of the 16th, which was bogeyed by all three players in the lead group.



Amateur Nishna Patel in action at PCGC

With two holes to go, Sneha faltered with a bogey on the 17th, which Nishna parred and the two were now level. On the 18th, Nishna found a birdie and Sneha managed only a par. Hitaashee had a chance to force a play-off, but she failed to find a birdie on the two closing holes and ended in a tie for second with Sneha.



Amateur Nishna Patel receiving winner's award and trophy from Mr. Ikram Khan-Captain PCGC

That gave Nishna a well-deserved maiden title on the pro circuit, while still being an amateur. Nishna kept up the tradition of at least one win by an amateur every year since 2017.

Another amateur, Mannat Brar (70) finished in a tie for fourth with Seher Atwal (71) at even par 213. **GP**

LYDIA KO GETS A NEW YEAR OFF TO THE RIGHT START

It took only four rounds for Lydia Ko to put a dismal 2023 LPGA Tour season completely behind her.

Ko rediscovered her winning touch in the season-opening Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, closing with a 2-under 70 for a two-shot victory over Alexa Pano at Lake Nona.

Ko, who finished at 14-under 274, won for the 20th time on the LPGA Tour. The 26-year-old from New Zealand became the seventh woman to win 20 LPGA titles before turning 27.

"The win is obviously great," Ko said. "I wasn't sure if I was going to be back in the winner's circle, and to be back to the first tournament of the season, it's pretty cool and so much faster than I could have ever anticipated."

Ko was winless in 20 LPGA starts a year ago, and she now can resume her quest for entry into the exclusive LPGA Hall of Fame. Ko needs 27 points to get there, and the triumph Sunday put her just one point away. Each regular LPGA win is worth one point.

She could get there as early as this coming week, at the LPGA Drive On Championship, played just two hours from her home, in Bradenton.

Round's final margin was two shots, but Ko remained in control throughout the final round,

played amid unseasonably cool temperatures that dipped into the 40s. Ko, bogey-free in her second and third rounds, birdied four of her first 15 holes Sunday against a single bogey to leave her pursuers battling for second most of the day. She stretched her lead to five shots early on the final nine. The only anxious moment arrived at the reachable par-5 15th, where Ko tugged her second shot left, toward a hazard. The ball finished in some gnarly rough short of the water and Ko, who displayed a top-notch short game all week, promptly pitched her third shot to 3 feet to set up the fourth birdie of her round.

What did she learn in a difficult season? "I cry a lot," Ko said.

On Final day, there were no tears. Winning against a limited field of champions from the last two seasons seemed as if it was expected. Business as usual.

"I'm playing against the best female golfers week-in and week-out," she said, "and you know that your 'B' game is not going to cut it. People think golf is easy. It's not."

With a cold, steady breeze blowing and the ball not flying as far it had been earlier in the week, scoring in the final round was difficult. Only three players among the 34 LPGA finishers (Jody



Ewart-Shadoff withdrew Sunday) managed rounds below 70. The low round was 68, and Ko was fine making pars.

She would bogey the final hole (where she hit a rare poor chip), but still won with ease. **GP**

WOMEN'S GOLF AT THE 2024 OLYMPICS

7 As we get set for an exciting year of golf on the Ladies European Tour (LET) the countdown to the 2024 Paris Olympic Games is also well and truly on with the women's golf competition now just 200 days away.

Sixty competitors from around the globe will take to the fairways at the prestigious Le Golf National in Paris, France for the 72-hole stroke play individual event between 7-10 August 2024. This year marks the third consecutive staging of golf at the Olympics after the long-awaited competition returned in 2016 for the Rio Games followed by the Tokyo Games in 2020.

Both events featured an abundance of LET stars past and present, including the likes of Solheim Cup captain Suzann Pettersen (Norway), Aditi Ashok (India), Celine Boutier (France), Charley Hull (Team GB), Diksha Dagar (India), Carlota Ciganda (Spain), Leona Maguire (Ireland), Manon De Roey (Belgium), Christine Wolf (Austria), Anne van Dam (the Netherlands), and Klara Davidson Spilkova (Czech Republic).

Last time out it was USA's Nelly Korda who secured an historic gold medal with Japan's Mone Inami earning silver and New Zealand's



Celine Boutier

Lydia Ko taking home the bronze.

Eligibility to compete in the Games will be determined by the Olympic Golf Rankings, which are calculated using a player's position in the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings. The top 15 players in the Rolex Rankings will qualify for the Olympics, with a four-person limit for each country represented in the top 15.

From number 16 onwards eligibility will be based on World Ranking. Each country that does not already have two or more players ranked inside the top 15 will have a two-person limit.

A total of 60 players will tee it up in the women's golf competition with the host country France guaranteed one of those 60 spots. **GP**

QUALIFICATION FOR THE EUROPEAN TEAM AT THE 2024 PING JUNIOR SOLHEIM CUP GETS UNDERWAY

7 The qualification process to secure a spot on the European Team at the 2024 PING Junior Solheim Cup begins tomorrow at the Portuguese International Ladies' Amateur Championship at Penina Hotel & Golf Resort, Portugal.

The PING Junior Solheim Cup will take place at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia, just 20 minutes outside Washington D.C., on 8-10 September. The 2024 edition will see twelve of Europe's most promising young female golfers between the age of 12 and 18 playing against the U.S. Team.

Europe will be seeking to win the competition for the third time in a row after securing historic back-to-back victories at the 2021 and 2023 editions.

Throughout the 2024 season, there are nine Official European Qualifying events with the first this week in Portugal and concluding with the European Ladies' Amateur Championship on July 24-27.

The European Team, which will be made up of the leading six players in the PJSC Rankings and six Captain's picks, will be announced



PJSC Team Europe

after the completion of the nine events.

There are 90 participants from 21 different countries entered into the Portuguese International Ladies' Amateur Championship, which takes place from Jan 24-27 on the Algarve.

Seven players from the winning European Team at the 2023 PING Junior Solheim Cup are in Portugal with Rocío Tejedó, Anna Cañado, Cloe Amion, Meja Örtengren, Nora Sundberg, Josefin Widal and Helen Briem all competing in the tournament. **GP**

ASHOK MALIK - THE GOLFER AND A GENTLEMAN



By Farzan Heerjee

ASHOK MALIK IN A NUTSHELL

Ashok Malik is a passionate golfer who hails from a golfing dynasty. He has been deeply entrenched in every aspect of the game in India - as President of the Indian Golf Union, Captain of the Royal Calcutta Golf Club, Captain of the Delhi Golf Club and a regular participant of the Eisenhower Cup from 1958 to 1968 and again in 1980 - he is the epitome of the game itself and a gentleman par none!

His record of 14 East India titles, 3 West India titles, 1 Northern India title, and 23-time Club Champion at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC) still stands strong. His outstanding performances in the All-India Championship are revered even today.

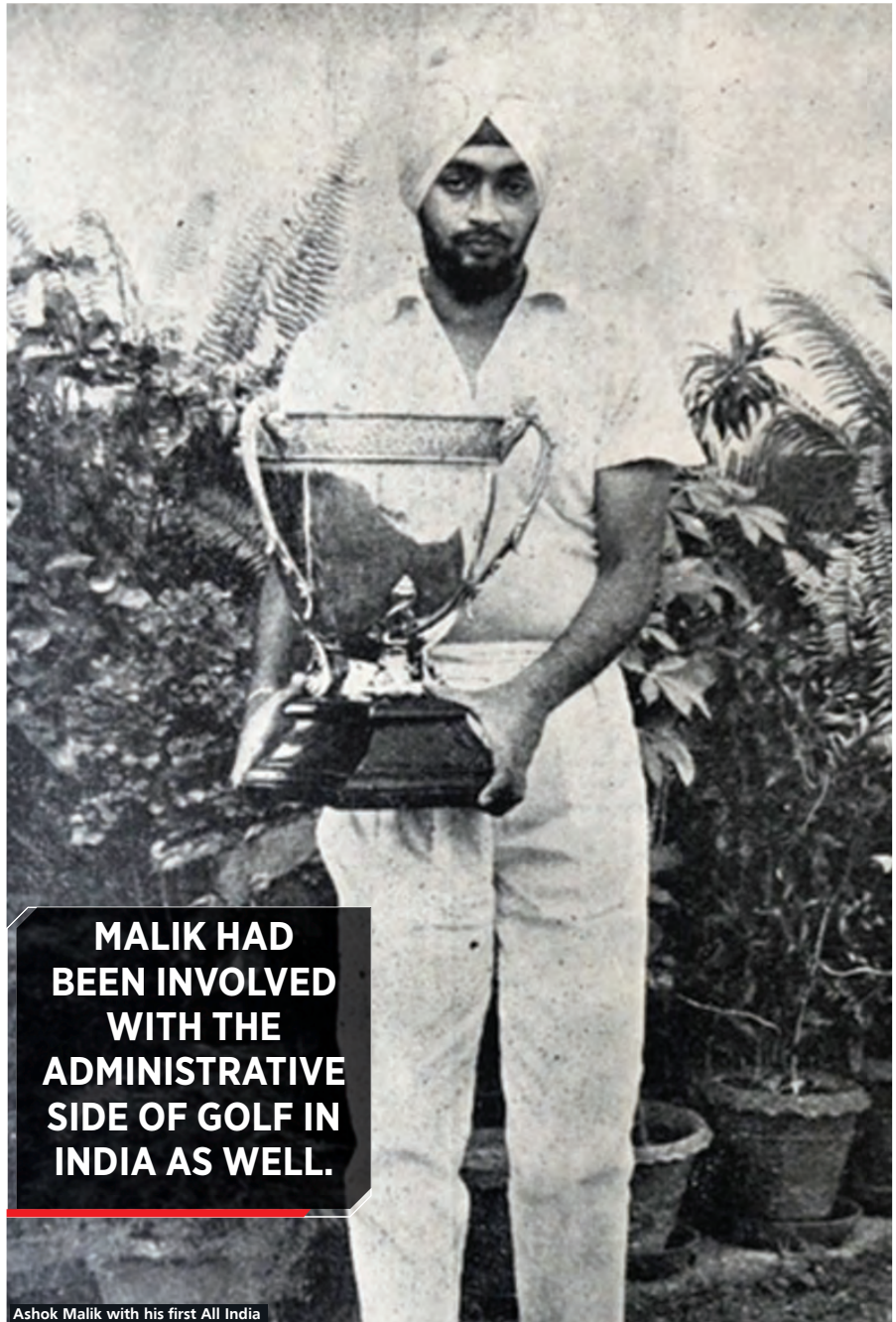
Despite the stellar record, championships and accolades, Malik never turned pro but is the most prolific and well-rounded amateur golfer that India has ever produced.

EARLY YEARS

He was born on the 9th of September 1938, a day before Arnold Palmer's birthday, although 9 years later! At that time there was no scope for Professional Golf in India and, because of India's very tight foreign exchange rules after Independence, golf equipment was expensive and very difficult to attain. There were very few youngsters playing the game at the time as golf had a shroud of being considered an old man's game! He attended the Doon School from a little more than 11 to a few months short of turning 17.

During this period, he was not keen on golf and was more interested in sports like cricket, hockey, football, tennis, table tennis, and badminton, all of which were more encouraged in school. Cricket was his passion, though he excelled in hockey as well. He also won the School Tennis Championship. Without a doubt, he is a born sportsman who revels in any game he puts his mind to.

As mentioned, he comes from a dynasty of



MALIK HAD BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE SIDE OF GOLF IN INDIA AS WELL.

Ashok Malik with his first All India



Between the two rounds of the 1960 final



I S Malik in 1920

TITLES, RECORDS & ACCOLADES

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Amateur Golf Champion of India 5 times (a record). 3 at the RCGC
- Amateur Senior Golf Champion of India 6 times (a record). 3 at the RCGC
- Amateur Golf Champion of Singapore in 1977. The first National championship to be won by an Indian, either by an amateur or professional, outside the sub-continent
- Leading Amateur in the Indian Open 3 times

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Eastern India Amateur Golf Championship 14 times (a record). Runner-up 8 times

- Western India Amateur Golf Championship 3 times
- Northern India Amateur Golf Championship 1 time

RCGC EVENTS

- Club Championship - Centenary Cup 23 times (a record)
- Club Gold Medal 13 times (a record)
- Reading Medal 15 times (a record)
- Cashmere Cup 17 times (a record)
- Asian Cup Scratch Prize 13 times (a record)

HANDICAP CLUB EVENTS

A record 56 tournaments

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Arjuna Award 1963
- Played in the National or Senior National teams over 51 years - 1958 to 2009.
- Won his first All India a little over 3 years after playing his first round of golf.
- Shot his age in my 60's, 70's and 80's several times

POSITIONS HELD

- Captain of the RCGC 1989-90
- Vice President of the Indian Golf Union for 8 years
- President of the Indian Golf Union from 1990 to 1992
- Captain of the Delhi Golf Club 2001-02

golfers- the most prolific being his father- I S Malik. During his formative years, his father was India's top golfer. He won the Indian Amateur Golf Championship three times and is considered the "Father of Indian Golf". He was his inspiration, mentor, and coach all rolled into one.

I S MALIK AS THE FATHER OF INDIAN GOLF

I S Malik, known to many as I S, won the All India 3 times and was runner-up on 6 occasions, the last time in 1957 when he was over 55. He was the first Indian to win a major Indian

Golf Championship, the Northern India in 1923, at the age of 21, in Gulmarg, Kashmir. His record in Northern India is amazing and almost beyond belief. From 1923 to 1930, he played 3 times (away in England from 1924 to 1928), winning in 1923 and 1929 and runner-up in 1930 to his elder brother, H S Malik. He did not play in Gulmarg again after 1930, as he was posted in Eastern India till he retired in 1952. There was no championship from 1940 to 1944 because of the Second World War. The Northern India Tournament resumed in 1945 for a few years, before the disturbances in Kashmir again stopped the event from 1947 onwards. It resumed in 1954 at the Delhi Golf

Club, where I S won again. In the 10 years from 1954 to 1963, he won 5 times - from 1958 onwards almost all the top golfers in the country participated. In 1960, I S beat Billoo Sethi on the 37th hole, after being 7 down with 12 holes to play!

His last victory was in 1963, 40 years after his first, a record that is unlikely to be ever beaten.

ASHOK'S FIRST INNINGS IN GOLF

I S Malik did not push young Ashok into golf, but encouraged him to play all games and, of course, to study hard. He was also deeply



Mr and Mrs Ashok Malik at the Hero Indian Open at DLF 2018. With PK Bhattacharya former Secretary of IGU



Receiving the cup from Lt.Gen. J S Arora in 1969 for his 5th title

inspired by his uncle, H S Malik whose name became a household one amongst golfing families at the time. His uncle was one of the very few established golfers during the 1920s when most Indians were not even allowed to join clubs, let alone become famous for playing in the Amateurs and Open Championship in 1921.

He did swing a golf club very intermittently in his early years, but took it up seriously in 1955, when he started college in St. Stephen's in Delhi. He played his first round of golf in August of that year when he was just shy of 17 by a month. Before that, the family had gone up to Gulmarg, in Kashmir in June 1954. It was here that the golfing bug bit him as he followed his father and his friends a few times, before hitting golf balls in the very large practice ground there. His father made him a Junior member at the Delhi Golf Club upon their return to Delhi but only to practice and not to compete. His father who was his inspiration and role model made sure that his son, Ashok, would only be allowed to compete under two strict conditions. One, that he practice hard enough to hit the ball reasonably well and second to learn to develop respect for the rules and etiquette of the game. In hindsight, he wanted to make sure his son was moulded into a strong sportsman on his own rather than just another player with a legacy behind him.

In August 1954, he was back to school for his Senior Cambridge that he gave in December, which resulted in him ranking second in school. A short winter holiday later, he was back in school for the next term but the golf fever had still not left him. Three years and two months after his first round of golf, in October 1958, as Ashok was just over 20 years of age, he won his first All India Tournament or as it is now known as the Indian Amateur Golf Championship. This was the record which stood for over 20 years.

GOLF AND WORK-LIFE BALANCE

He began working in Calcutta in August 1959 with Shaw Wallace & Co Ltd, a large company at that time, with regular office hours and leave rules. The only exception they made towards his golfing was to give him an extra fortnight's leave to take part in the Eisenhower Cup, the International Team Championship held every two years and the Nomura Cup, the Asia Pacific Team Championship, which is also a biennial event.

He had to use part of one month's annual leave to play in events outside Calcutta and travel at his own expense. For some years now most Amateurs who have been employed in the Public sector play golf and travel at the company's time and expense, almost as ambassadors of their company.

He had to put in many hours of practice either early in the morning before work or after playing a round over the weekends and holidays. He had to sacrifice most parties, late nights and drinks (although he was a teetotaler for most of his working life) for at least the first 11 years of his career. This was before he was promoted to a more responsible job, which involved a lot of travelling all over the country. It was during this time that he won a majority of his Championships.

He won the All India in 1958, 1960, 1963, 1967 and finally in 1969. Apart from the numerous tournaments in Calcutta, mainly at the RCGC and some at the Tollygunge Club, he also won several tournaments in Delhi, while in college and much later after retirement, in Gulmarg on holidays and in Singapore from July 1976 to March 1978. He was sent there on secondment to Shaw Wallace's main shareholder, Sime Darby & Co. This was just after he had completed the Advanced Management

Programme at the Harvard Business School from February to June 1976. He retired from Shaw Wallace as Joint Managing Director after 38 years of dedicated service.

MEMORABLE GAME

Every sportsman, however renowned or not has moments that stood out, games that truly struck a chord or incidents that stayed with them throughout their lives. Ashok Malik is one such sportsman, as you, the reader, can well imagine. It was 1958- Malik, still in college at the time, was chosen to play for India in the inaugural Eisenhower Cup- the World Amateur Team Championship organised at the prestigious St Andrews at the start of October. All the Indian golfing stalwarts from Billoo Sethi to Raj Kumar Pitamber as well as his father, I S Malik who was the team captain participated in this tournament. Whether it was the pressure of the grand stage or performance anxiety that took over, Malik did not play very well. Much to the dismay of the golfing community, there were allegations made and even an anonymous letter printed in the local newspaper pointed out that perhaps Malik only made the team because of nepotism. It was truly a crushing blow after the St Andrews defeat.

With his confidence shaken and a slightly jilted state of mind, Malik was due to play in the All India Amateur Championship merely a fortnight later. To make matters worse, Malik was in a tight spot in the most difficult quarter of the draw that had some strong players on the course who were in their prime and could beat the most fancied golfers of the time. Adversity in sport sometimes brings out the best in oneself- and so it was with Malik. The performance he gave that week is his most memorable and most dear as he simultaneously beat the best golfers in some gut-wrenching matches.

Dr Bharat Ram was a force to be reckoned with

MUCH TO THE DISMAY OF THE GOLFING COMMUNITY, THERE WERE ALLEGATIONS MADE AND EVEN AN ANONYMOUS LETTER PRINTED IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER POINTED OUT THAT PERHAPS MALIK ONLY MADE THE TEAM BECAUSE OF NEPOTISM.

and Malik went head-to-head with him in his second round. The next game, Malik butted heads with Bill Legeans- a powerful striker and unofficially voted most likely to win. Malik was off to a tremendous start and was 3up with 5 to play. The legendary Leagans birdied the 14th and won the 15th to reduce the deficit to only one hole. He then drove the green at the 282-yard par 4 16th.

Although the hole was a short par 4, it was tight, with bunkers guarding both sides of the fairway and two more bunkers on either side of the green, leaving only a narrow entrance. Malik's talent shone through as he was able to match Leagan's birdie to halve the hole and went on to win the 18th and the match- all in the same afternoon!

His next opponent was John Keane in the quarter-final. Kean held the Championship and was a crowd favourite to win his 3rd All-India. Although it was a tough and tight match, it produced some good golf from both players before it finished 3 & 1 in Malik's favour.

Malik was now up against John Forman- holder at the time of the Northern India and Western India titles and perhaps the finest golfer never to have won the All India. Earlier that year, Forman had got the best of Malik in the semi-finals of Northern India. The match could have gone either way- but Forman succumbed on the 18th, leaving a glorious victory for Malik.

The next day was the 36-hole final against the great Raj Kumar Pitambar or 'Pit' as he was affectionately called. Pit was based in the UK where he played golf at the highest levels as Captain of Oxford University where he earned his Blue. Upon his arrival in India, as he played in the Western India tournament, he lost narrowly to I S Malik in the final of the All India in December 1956. He did not play in



From top to bottom, Ashok Malik, Raj Kumar Pitambar, I S Malik (Captain) and Billoo Sethi, the Indian Team for the Eisenhower Cup at St. Andrews in 1958



Mr Ashok Malik, Chief Guest at the Steel City Golf at Jamshedpur in 2015. Also in the picture is Late Mr KC Mehra.

1957, as his grandmother who lived in Bombay for many years, passed away shortly before the All India. After a one-year hiatus in 1957, Pit played exceptionally well in the Eisenhower Cup of 1958 just two weeks before the All India. Owing to his exceptional form and cadence during his play, the All India should have been a cakewalk for Pit but that was not to be. Malik was 3up after nine holes in the morning but Pit squared the match at the 18th hole.

Pit then had a couple of birdies to go 2up after 23 holes and most of the very sizable spectators thought it was all over once again! With great tenacity, Malik squared the match after the 26th hole which he birdied! On the 9th hole, Malik hooked his drive into the trees. Pit played safe with a 2 iron but his drive was not long enough to clear the trees. This gave Malik a great opportunity to recover into the heart of the greens with his 4 that led him to go 1up. With

another birdie on the 28th for Malik, Pit too had a birdie on the 30th. It was head to head as the next hole was halved in pars. The tension in the air was palpable. Malik played a tight downhill lie on the long 14th to within 4 feet of the pin. This birdie put Malik 2up but still in a tough spot going forward. This became clear when Malik made too bold a move at the 15th and went over the green.

In turn, Pit hit a lovely long drive on the narrow 16th about 20 yards short of the green. In high-pressure moments like this, a golfer can depend on one of two things, their experience or innate talent. Malik, who at the time had only been playing for three years, was unable to summon the wisdom that accompanies experience and was therefore compelled to put his faith in his inherited talent. As he was about to play the tee shot on that hole; in pin-drop silence; just as he was about to swing, there was a loud clatter of hooves that stopped him from swinging. Incidentally, a group of three or four tongas were racing down Lodi Road just behind the 16th tee- what a way to break the rhythm of a game! Of course, Malik stopped his swing, stepped away for a breather and after regaining his focus hit a shot from the middle of the screws of his driver right into the heart of the green. It is suffice to say the talent genes kicked in at the right time. Pit was not able to match the birdie which resulted in Malik becoming dormie 2. At this stage, a safe par at the 17th was adequate to close the match in his favour.

Upon winning the championship, Col Erick Sen wrote, "A S Malik, the new champion, played like a seasoned campaigner and won his crown the hard way in that he defeated such opponents as W T Leagans, J R B Keen, J Forman and R K Pitamber. This brilliant youngster in seven days did not even once play a bad round. He drove with great power, his seconds, whether struck with wood or iron, were executed with strength and precision. His short game often turned what appeared to be a lost hole into a win or at least a half; to the great discomfiture of his opponents. His only weakness was a tendency to hook his longer shots possibly as a result of trying to get too far with them. He was under extreme pressure in four of his matches but he never wilted- a worthy champion!"

ASHOK WAS JUST OVER 20 YEARS OF AGE, HE WON HIS FIRST ALL INDIA TOURNAMENT OR AS IT IS NOW KNOWN AS THE INDIAN AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP.



Receiving the All India cup from Mrs. K K Mitra, wife of the Captain of the Royal in 1963

GOLF LANDSCAPE- THEN AND NOW

There were very few young golfers back in the day. As mentioned, equipment was difficult to get as it was expensive. There were not many good courses, this is a crucial element in producing good golfers. Till the end of the sixties, the best players in India were the Amateurs but they had very little prospect of going further than that.

There were very few tournaments, with small prize money for the Professionals, who were entirely from the ranks of caddies. It was only in the seventies that golfers from well-off families started turning Professional. The IGU, before the Indian PGA came into existence, persuaded corporates to promote the game by sponsoring tournaments for professionals. The IGU also started the Indian Open in 1964, with the help of the great Australian golfer, Peter Thomson. After some years the Indian Open became a part of the Asian Tour.

That was a stark contrast to the golfing landscape of today where the whole picture has been repainted. The change was accelerated with the opening of the country's economy in the 1990s. New courses designed by international architects came up in the late nineties and during the first decade of the 21st Century. Simultaneously, the number of golfers increased, prize money for professional events increased and more and more people started looking at golf as a career. Indian professionals also started playing outside the country, where the prize money was much larger.

Another massive change has been the emphasis and the change in perspective around physical fitness. Nowadays physical fitness is very important and an essential part of any sportsman's life. Each leading sportsman now has his entourage of coaches, trainers, doctors, physiotherapists and mindset coaches- none of

which existed merely a few decades ago.

The most important change has been technological improvements in the equipment, balls and clubs, which have not only increased the distance golfers are hitting the ball but also improvements in shaft technology that enables golfers to keep the ball straight.

Earlier, shafts were nowhere near as good and all the best golfers could expect at least one or two balls ending up off the fairway, which in a course like DGC meant in an unplayable lie in a bush.

Technology has changed the way the game is played and has been churning out greater players at a never-seen-before rate!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOLF ADMINISTRATION

Malik had been involved with the administrative side of golf in India as well. He was asked to join the Greens Committee of the RCGC in 1964 and served on the subcommittee for many years. He was then elected to the General Committee of the RCGC in 1969 and served in this capacity for many years. He was Captain of the RCGC between 1989 and 1990.

On relocating to Delhi at the end of 1995, the DGC, where he had been an outstation member since 1959, co-opted him to the Greens Committee, where he served intermittently for several years. He was elected to the General Committee and was Captain for one year from 2001 to 2002.

He also had a long involvement with the IGU. He was first elected to the Council in 1970. It was here that out of the blue, Brigadier Rajbir Chopra got him elected as Vice President when he finished his two-year term as President at the AGM of 1972. He resigned after one year and became VP in 1982 and enjoyed a tenure of 8 years.



Mr Ashok Malik, Guest of Honour at the 112th All India Amateur Championship held at RCGC in January 2013, alongside Mr HM Nerurkar, the then MD, Tata Steel, and Chief Guest at the function, Mr Raian Irani, the then President, IGU, Shubankar Sharma, winner of the tournament and Mr Aweek Sarkar.

UPON WINNING THE CHAMPIONSHIP, COL ERICK SEN WROTE, "A S MALIK, THE NEW CHAMPION, PLAYED LIKE A SEASONED CAMPAIGNER AND WON HIS CROWN THE HARD WAY IN THAT HE DEFEATED SUCH OPPONENTS AS W T LEAGANS, J R B KEEN, J FORMAN AND R K PITAMBER."

As per the rules of the IGU, when the President was not from Calcutta, the VP's duty (who would be from Calcutta) was to oversee the day-to-day affairs of the IGU at the local office. The term of the President then was for two years. Saroj Mehera of the East Zone became President in 1982, but because of the pressures of work, could not devote much time to the IGU and Malik became the de facto VP. When he retired in 1984, Malik became the de jure VP for the next 6 years until he became President for the proceeding 2 years. After which he then remained in the Council for one more year as an ex officio member. Russi Mody, who was the head of Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited lent tremendous help to the IGU. Apart from financial aid, he generously provided space in the Tata Center as the IGU's office for many years.

UNTOLD ANECDOTES

Since its inception in 1964, Wills and ITC were the major sponsors and without their help, it would not have been possible to hold this event regularly for almost 20 years. Sometime after becoming Vice President in 1982, Mr. Ajit Haksar, the ITC Chairman's office called with regard to the next Open coming up in the next few months. However, not in the way Malik expected as the conversation took a turn for the worse.

Mr Haksar tactfully advised that with the Government of India's clear policy that tobacco companies were banned from advertising their products, ITC would not be able to sponsor the next Indian Open - only a few months away. The

news left Malik dumbfounded as key sponsors such as ITC were pivotal in the planning, organizing and execution of grand events. He advised the Council of this development with the request to try and find a new sponsor.

Malik contacted a friend and relation, B P Singh, who was the Marketing Director of Vazir Sultan Tobacco Company to see if he could help. (The major shareholder in both ITC and VST was The Imperial Tobacco Company of the UK, but VST was very much considered the younger brother)

Fortunately, VST was under the same Government diktat but had come up with a way to bypass the ban. Thus, the 'Charminar Challenge idea' of sponsoring sporting events to keep their brand in the public's consciousness came to fruition. (This was also the start of surrogate advertising used ever since by tobacco and liquor companies). B P, after consulting his Board, agreed that VST would be the main sponsor and signed a 5-year contract with the IGU. They deputed two of their young and bright marketing men Charu Sharma and Vijit Bery who took them through the process and showed the IGU how an event of this stature should be branded. So successful was their scheme that after 2 or 3 years of the 5-year contract, ITC asked VST to step aside so they could return as the Title Sponsor!

The second anecdote was when Malik was in his first year as Vice President of the IGU and was put in a very delicate position. There was no separate Selection Committee of the IGU in 1973 and the Council selected teams for international events. Before the Nomura

Cup in 1973, to be played in Jakarta, P K Bhattacharyya, the Assistant Secretary, asked the Council Members to nominate a team of 4. All those who replied were unanimous with the names of R K Pitamber, Billoo Sethi and Vikramjit Singh. The two North zone people did not reply despite repeated reminders. For the 4th position an equal number of people who replied chose Lakshman Singh and Malik. Pitamber, who was President then, and Malik did not give any names. Pitamber visited Malik in his office in Calcutta and asked him to nominate himself to complete the team and have all the government permissions in place- this was a very tedious and time-consuming affair. Owing to the fact he was the Vice President in his first year, Malik was not comfortable nominating himself and gave his vote to Lakshman instead. In a strange twist of fate and even though the teams had been finalised internally, the North Zone sent in their nomination in Malik's name. Such was this man's professionalism and acute sense of virtue that he decided that so long as he was in contention for the National Team, he would not be a member of the Council and resigned after only one year in office.

PHILOSOPHIES AND LEARNINGS

For this biography, we asked Mr Ashok Malik about the philosophies and learnings that golf taught him. This was his poignant reply-

"Golf to me, apart from being a sport, also reflects what a person is like. If a golfer cheats in golf, he is also likely to be a crook. If he is calm and unruffled while playing the game, that is how he probably behaves in his business."

When asked what golf means to him, he purports "As a sport, golf is inspiring. This is perhaps the only game where you are playing against yourself. Your opponent's game should not affect you, as there is no physical contact. You are, therefore, constantly trying to play to the standard you set for yourself."

As a parting message to young golfers everywhere, Malik shared that there is no secret to success, except hard work. **GP**



HYDERABAD PREMIER GOLF LEAGUE

As the first golf league in Telangana, we provide a prestigious & unparalleled golfing experience

Golf, often referred to as the “gentleman’s game,” is not just a sport but a testament to patience, precision, and perseverance. The Hyderabad Premier Golf League, HPGL, embodies these qualities as it brings together golf enthusiasts from all walks of life, across Hyderabad, creating a vibrant community bound by a shared passion for the sport.

In our previous seasons, we’ve witnessed extraordinary growth, with an increasing number of participants, higher levels of competition, and greater brand exposure

with the finals in Thailand. This season, our aspirations remain higher than ever. We aim to further the golfing experience for both our participants and partners and to foster an environment where talent is nurtured and celebrated.

This year with the World by DSR as our main sponsor we will definitely put the league on top of this world - Sumanth.

- 3 Seasons Completed
- 750 Players
- 16 Teams

Played over 3 courses in 3 different formats leading to a grand finale in Thailand is the most unique golf league experience in the country.



HPGL is conceptualized and managed by Krishna Guduru, Ajay Kumar Dasrathi, Sri Myneni and Sumanth. D.S.

THE WORLD

“The World” has partnered with HPGL as the “Title Sponsor” and also as “DSR – The World Team”. “The World at Jubilee Hills” is a masterpiece in the making. Situated in Jubilee Hills, offering 478 apartments in 14.5 acres comprising 128 Sky pools, 30,000 sqft of High-street brands and Garage car parks, it would be the seat of power once completed.

“The World” comprises a range of sporting



facilities including Pickleball, Futsal, Golf Simulator, Cricket nets, Tennis Courts, Basketball Courts, Squash Courts, Badminton Courts, etc. These are being designed in consultation with experts to ensure that the sporting experience is uncompromised.

Sidharth Reddy Indukuri, CEO, of The World, is a sports enthusiast and takes extreme care in the design and execution of each sports amenity.

“TUTORROOT’S TEN: A TEAM REFLECTING EDUCATIONAL MASTERY ON THE GREENS”

On the golf course, a distinctive team of ten, representing Tutorroot, an edutech leader in personalized learning, captures attention. This diverse squad, with players from the US and UK and a woman, epitomizes Tutorroot’s global reach and inclusive ethos. Their presence in the golf arena mirrors Tutorroot’s mission in education: uniting varied talents and backgrounds to achieve success, much like the company’s approach in helping a multitude of students excel academically.

The team’s commitment to golf echoes



Tutorroot’s dedication to precision, strategy, and excellence in education. Each stroke they play on the greens is akin to Tutorroot’s tailored educational strategies, aimed at nurturing each student’s potential.

For Tutorroot’s owner Satish Manchala, observing this team is not just about the sport; it’s a vivid illustration of the



company’s core values and goals: fostering growth, diversity, and success, one student and one swing at a time.

MYK STRIKERS



a symbol of skill, unity, and a passion for achieving super success in golf.”

“MYK Strikers, owned by Murali Yadama, has put up a competitive team for HPGL Season IV. Known for their exceptional skills and coordinated teamwork, MYK Strikers have consistently showcased a high level of competitiveness in the prior edition of HPGL as well as in all leagues.

Murali Yadama, founder of MYK LATICRETE & MYK ARMENT, has been instrumental in forming a strong core cohesive team which has been steadfast for many seasons and excelled. Under his leadership, the team has built a commendable reputation for sportsmanship and determination. MYK Strikers stand as

FINVISTA EHAM



exhilarating experience that brings together passionate golfers, dedicated team owners, and enthusiastic supporters and sponsors. We have built a dream team of highly competitive golfers and looking forward to a season where we continue our winning streak from the previous seasons and will strive to bring home the cup.

Finvista which is an Investment Banking advisory firm and EHAM which is a Talent Transformation company came together and owning this Golf Team. The respective founders: Srinivasu Satti and Murali Bukkapatnam both have tremendous passion and love for the game of Golf, and both are avid Golfers.

EHAM provides win-win solutions that delight both aspiring software engineers and IT companies looking for top-notch talent, it carefully selects raw talent and puts them through an accelerated career path, turning them into job ready software engineers with real-world experience. Finvista is a specialized mid-market M&A and Capital raising advisory firm. It provides strategic

and financial advice to the clients looking for acquisitions, divestment, exits, roll-ups, and capital raising at various stages. Participating in HPGL season 4 is an



MYSA



We step up to the tee, swingin’ our clubs We’re the Mysa golf team, ready to play We got the skills, we got the game Golf is our passion, we play everyday. Our focus is sharp, our aim is true

We study the course, and we know what to do We strategize, we analyze, we make our plan And when we execute it, we’re the ones who stand So watch out, world, we’re coming through The Mysa golf team, we’re the ones to pursue We’re not just a team, we’re a family too And together, we’ll always pull through.



SYNTHOKEM SWINGKINGS



Synthokem Swingkings are looking forward to the 4th edition. We are in the so called group of Death and are looking forward to the event.

Synthokem has been supporting golf events for the last 2 decades lead by Jayant Tagore. His passion to promote sport in general and Golf in particular by establishing a robust Junior Program at Hyderabad Golf Club has resulting in producing national level golfers in a short span of 10 years.



Let the excitement and competition begin we are all eager to go.

VILLAGGIO

In the realm of construction, VILLAGGIO stands out as a beacon for those seeking an alternative lifestyle intricately woven with nature's embrace. With a mission to enhance the weekend experiences of young achievers, the company is redefining leisure living. Their visionary projects, crafted for the weekend enthusiast, seamlessly blend luxury, innovation, and a touch of escapism.

Hyderabad, a city pulsating with energy, witnesses the footprint of VILLAGGIO's captivating weekend getaways.

These projects, designed to elevate leisure living while



Shailender Singh

harmonizing with the surrounding nature, are captivating the imaginations of those in search of a distinctive lifestyle. Meanwhile, in the picturesque landscapes of Goa, VILLAGGIO's holiday home projects offer an array of choices, from chic studios to opulent villas and charming boutique hotels—all seamlessly integrated with the beauty of the natural surroundings.

At the helm of this visionary enterprise is Shailender Singh, an industry veteran boasting 28+ years of invaluable experience in real

estate industry. His leadership has propelled VILLAGGIO into a realm where innovation meets excellence. Shailender's unparalleled vision and foresight, coupled with hands-on, client-centric solutions, set the company apart in the real estate sector.

Beyond bricks and mortar, VILLAGGIO Highlanders personify the brand's passion for golf. Active participants in six Hyderabad golf leagues, the Highlanders embody a culture of camaraderie and sportsmanship. More than just a team on the course, they bring an unprecedented approach to golf, elevating standards and injecting life into the spirit of local leagues. VILLAGGIO Highlanders' commitment to spreading golf awareness is unwavering, with plans to participate in numerous competitive leagues at both local and national levels in the years to come.

In essence, VILLAGGIO is not merely constructing buildings; they are crafting experiences and shaping lifestyles. With an unwavering passion for golf and an avant-garde approach to real estate, VILLAGGIO is defining a new era of living-one that seamlessly integrates luxury, leisure, and the enchantment of the natural world.

LAHARI LIONS

Sanjay Gaddipati is the Managing Director of the Lahari Group which is defined by its legacy of trust and reliability. With Sanjay at the helm, Lahari is reaching for new heights with a focus on delivering excellence and embodying care in every facet of business activities. As it expands into new verticals and territories, Lahari is dedicated to creating

more than just products; it is building legacies.

The Lahari Group is in their second season with HPGL as the Lahari Lions. Professionally conducted and providing an incredible league experience, the HPGL has become the best way to welcome the new year for the Lions.



ROUGH RIDERS

A PASSIONATE TEAM OF GOLFERS - COMBINATION OF YOUTH & EXPERIENCE
Team Co-owned by Q-MART & GOLFTRIPZ

Q-MART is an upmarket retail chain which caters to a premium niche in food & home needs retailing. A pioneer in Gourmet & world foods, it commenced operations in 1997 and is widely regarded amongst the first movers of modern retail in India. Q-mart stores are upmarket, lifestyle destinations for an unparalleled range of products from all over the world.

GOLFTRIPZ is a leading global golf travel and events company. Started by a couple of



IIT graduates & intensely passionate golfers in 2009, as an endeavour to deliver delightful golf holiday experiences to golfers from all over the world. The passion to innovate great experiences at great value are the core philosophies at Golftripz.



STONEX INDIA

Stonex India has evolved into a lifestyle brand guided by the philosophy of delivering enriching experiences. Since 2001, Stonex has believed in challenging the paradigm, exploring new artistic expressions and an unwavering focus on craftsmanship and consumer delight. Powered by a legacy that's built upon technology, commitment, and promise. Over 500 imported marble and stone varieties curated from the world over are processed at one of Asia's finest manufacturing facilities. A luxury collection of white marble, granite, travertine, onyx, limestone, and semi-precious stones. Stonex India is at par with global quality benchmarks enabling the brand to drive robust demand across India and key international markets of the USA, UAE, Australia, the UK and Singapore.

Stonex Group is also venturing into two new businesses – Stonex Icon and Stonex Couture.

Stonex Icons partners with leading global artists to create a unique collection of stone sculptures, carvings, and other artistic



Vikas Agarwal

creations. The brand aims to work with artists to bring their artistic vision to life. Stonex Couture is a lifestyle brand dedicated to creating innovative and functional products using natural stone. The brand is collaborating with leading product designers to create unique home decor solutions that seamlessly blend aesthetic, design story and function.

"We are thrilled to be sponsoring Hyderabad

Golf Premier League for the first time. The robust synergies within our team is truly remarkable. Each swing and putt serve as a testament to our shared passion and unwavering dedication to the spirit of sportsmanship, a value deeply resonant with Stonex. Sending my best wishes to Team Stonex, eagerly anticipating a league filled with memorable moments, unwavering focus, and the harmonious echoes of success."



ULTIMATE GOLF CHALLENGE TRIUMPHS AS THE INAUGURAL GOLF SPECTACLE



The Emirates Golf Club witnessed history as the first-ever Ultimate Golf Challenge (UGC) unfolded, introducing a novel golfing experience to Dubai and the UAE. The two-day event, attracted golf enthusiasts from across the region and marked a significant milestone in fostering corporate networking through the sport of golf.

Ten teams, with a dynamic mix of 14 players comprising both men and women, showcased their golfing prowess over two challenging rounds. The event took place on the esteemed Faldo Course and the iconic Majlis Course, providing a diverse and exhilarating experience for participants

The participating teams in the inaugural

Ultimate Golf Challenge at Emirates Golf Club include Alpha Ninjas, Dugasta Titans, Meteora Magicians, Moore Aces, Petrochem Condors, Shershaah Eagles, Sultans of Swing, The A Team, Three Comma Masters, And Tristar Gladiators

Results Highlights:

Most Valuable Player (Lady): Anabel Ayres from Tristar Gladiator

Most Valuable Player (Men): Bayhaan Lakdawala of Moore Aces

2nd Runner-Up Team: The A Team

Runners-Up Team: Shershaah Eagles

Winning Team: Petrochem Condors

The success of the Ultimate Golf Challenge was made possible through Action Creative Communication and Brandon de Souza alongwith generous support of partners and sponsors. **GP**



15TH MERCHANT & BANKERS GOLF TOURNAMENT FOR PHILANTHROPY

The Merchant & Bankers Golf Tournament hosted by the Rotary Club of Madras. With 100 participants encompassing corporate, banking, medicine, law, architecture and education, the event marked 15 years of a philanthropic tradition.

The champions across various categories showcased exceptional skill and sportsmanship. In the category for golfers with handicaps of 10 and under, the winners were Suman Ranjit, Sandip Chakraborty, and Hari Manoj. In the 11-18 handicap range, the top performers were P Krishnan, Sohail Ahmed, and Alankrit Arora. In the 19 and above handicap category, the honourees included Rakesh Vishwanathan, Ravi Vishwanathan, and Krishnamurthy HK. The Corporate category witnessed victories by Sonam & Sasidhar (Beardsell), Dhananjay & Alok Bhargav (Hermes), and Sid Lulla/Sriram Vijay Raghavan (Kintsugi Capital).

Rotarian Family Category winners were Iqbal Sait & Munir Sait, while Hemant Chordia & Atishe Chordia secured the runner-up position. In the Rotarian Category, Suniel Lulla emerged as the winner, with Prasanna Rajagopal and Arjun Ananth as the runners-up.

Uma Hataria, R Pavitra Devi, and Ananthi Vivek claimed victory in the Ladies Category.

The Overall Winner was Karthikeyan K, who showcased an outstanding performance across all categories. Skill prize winners included Nagi Reddy for the Longest Drive, D Vasu (ex-first



division cricketer) for the Closest to the Pin, and Salim Thomas for the Straightest Drive. The event was managed by Brandon De Souza Management Services. **GP**

GULMOHAR GOLFER OF THE YEAR 2024

Date : 26th, 27th & 28th January

Venue : Gulmohar Greens Golf & Country Club

Total 34 Golfers from 4 categories earned Reward Points.



Tejas Deswal



Mihir Sheth



Namit Sharma

1/11 G G O Y - JANUARY 2024 - SUMMARY					
#	CATEGORY	PRIZES	NAME	GROSS	POINTS
1	Category - 1	Winner	MIHIR SHETH	78	38
2	H'cap 0-14	Runner up	VISHAL DESAI	89	34
3	Category - 2	Winner	NAMIT SHARMA	92	39
4	H'cap 15-23	Runner up	Haidar Ali	88	36
5	Category - 3	Winner	SACHIN MEHTA	106	36
6	H'cap 24-36	Runner up	RAHUL RAJAGOPAL	100	35
5	Category - 4	Winner	TEJAS DESWAL	80	36
6	JUNIOR	Runner up	JUHI MAVANI	102	34
SKILL COMPETITIONS					
7	Longest Drive - Hole # 1		VARUN SOOD	260 YRDS	OVER ALL
8	Closest to Pin - Hole # 3		SURESH PANWAR	10 FT	
9	2nd Shot Closest to Pin - Hole # 9		NEIL DAVE	2'6" FT	

TEERING OFF TO NURTURE GOLF TALENT !

Following the resounding success of the inaugural Golf tournament in 2023, The Leela Palace Bengaluru hosted the second edition of this enthralling 18-hole tournament at the Karnataka Golf Association, Bengaluru on 30th January 2024. The second edition of the shotgun tournament by The Leela is in collaboration with KGA Junior Golf Development and Golf Foundation. What truly sets this tournament apart, is that it attracted a wide range of promising golfers, from budding talent to seasoned professionals. There were over 30 children who took part in the tournament that included children from all walks of life.

Speaking on the occasion, Madhav Sehgal, Area Vice President – South India, The Leela Palaces Hotels and Resorts says, “We are thrilled to announce the second edition of our annual golf tournament hosted by The Leela Palace Bengaluru. This year, our aim is to create a platform to not only inspire young aspiring golfers but to recognise and celebrate them as well.”

Before the tee off of the tournament, Tennis legend, Vijay Amritraj said “I am really excited to be associated with this tournament for the second year in a row, and I commend The Leela in their efforts to nurture young Indian



HERO SHOT - Children from The Leela Annual Golf Tournament on stage at the awards ceremony held at The Leela Palace Bengaluru

golfing Talent. I see more and more youngsters taking to this game, and this initiative by The Leela is sure to go a long way in identifying budding talent and enabling them to achieve excellence in the sport”

The tournament was inaugurated with a ceremonial shotgun tee-off by the legendary Vijay Amritraj. Amritraj, an icon of resilience and sportsmanship, epitomises the values this tournament embodies—a relentless pursuit of excellence with grit and determination.

His presence on the course is a testament to the spirit of sportsmanship and its ability to transcend boundaries.

Beyond the honour of triumph, the winners received attractive prizes including couple stay vouchers and couple dining vouchers from across hotels within The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts portfolio. These awards go beyond mere material recognition; they acknowledge the dedication, perseverance, and excellence exhibited on the course.

MAITRI GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 19th edition of the Maitri Golf Tournament was held at the Qutab Golf Course. The event supported year after year by SARA & Kohinoor Group saw participation of various supporters and well wishers of Maitri.

The tournament started for a generous cause of supporting the widows of Vrindavan, and was a great success and received an overwhelming response from various participants. The Maitri Golf Tournament is an integral part of the MAITRI annual calendar due to its power to generate funds that create a platform of essential awareness. The annual fixture was a huge success. More than 100 golfers participated in the festivities which concluded with a gala Prize distribution ceremony. [GP](#)



RESULTS

LADIES CATEGORY :

- **Winner :** Malini Joshi
- **Runner Up :** Sunita Dutt

HANDICAP 0-15

- **Winner :** Yogesh Gupta
- **Runner Up :** Arun Malik

HANDICAP 16-24

- **Winner :** VN Singh
- **Runner Up :** Sanjay Mahajan

GROSS STABLEFORD CATEGORY

- **Winner :** Narendar Pal



LITTLE MASTER JUNIOR GOLF TOUR

Little Master Junior Golf Tour held its First event of 2024 at Godrej Golf Links. The event was a Five Club Challenge over 18 holes and we had 4 mixed age categories. 14-16,12-13,10-11 & 8-9. The players were playing for top prizes including the Overall Best Player of the tournament and on course prizes closest to pin, maximum birdies and maximum pars.



RESULTS

14-16 YEARS

Champion: Navya Chaudhary
Runner-Up: Vanshika Bhati

12-13 YEARS

Champion: Nabhya Lalwani
Runner-Up: Rabiah Goyal

10-11 YEARS

Champion: Dhruv Singh
Runner-Up: Harshiya Bhati
Third: Nia Goyal

8-9 YEARS

Champion: Aadya Kochhar

OVERALL WINNER

Dhruv Singh 57 (3 over par)

CLOSEST TO PIN

Boys: Dhruv Singh
Girls: Harshiya Bhati

MAXIMUM BIRDIER

Navya Chaudhary

MAXIMUM PARS

Dhruv Singh

POINTS	PLAYER NAME	RANK
1800	KARTIK SINGH(M)	1
1700	PRITISH S. KARAYAT(M)	2
1370	SIDDHAAN CHIBBER(M)	3
1360	VIHAAN MALHOTRA(M)	4
1260	ANSHUL BHATI(M)	5
880	VANYA BANSAL(F)	6
840	PRINCE BAINSLA(M)	7
800	VEDANT S. BANERJEE(M)	T8
800	ARJUN S. BAHTIA(M)	T8
800	KRISH CHAWLA(M)	T8
800	SHUBHAM KUMAR(M)	T8

MIXED WAGR ORDER OF MERIT 2023

POINTS	PLAYER NAME	RANK
1260	SHAT MISHRA	1
1130	BHAVESH NIRWAN	2
1100	VEDANT SIROHI	3
950	PRITISH SINGH KARAYAT	4
800	ARJUN SINGH BHATIA	T5
800	RAKSHIT DAHIYA	T5
700	CHAITANYA PANDEY	T7
700	JIA BAHL	T7
600	VIVAAN CHIBBER	9
570	ANSHUL BHATI	10

MALE WAGR ORDER OF MERIT 2023

POINTS	PLAYER NAME	RANK
1000	MAHREEN BHATIA	1
500	DIA CRIS KUMAR	2
350	HEENA KANG	T3
350	KEERTHANA RAJEEV NAIR	T3
350	RAGINI NAVET	T3
250	YASHITA RAGHAV	T6
250	KAYA DALUWATTE	T6
235	PRETISHA KAUR GILL	T8
235	VANYA BANSAL	T8
220	LAVANYA GUPTA	T10
220	MUSKAN BHARDWAJ	T10

FEMALE WAGR ORDER OF MERIT 2023





CLASS OF 2023

THE ELITE FIELD OF 75 AT THE TATA STEEL TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP 2023



The elite field of 75 at the TATA Steel Tour Championship 2023 pose with Mr. D B Sundara Ramam, Vice President, Raw Materials Division, TATA Steel & Captain, Jamshedpur Golf (first row, 4th from left) and Mr. U S Mundy, CEO, PGTI (first row, 5th from left)



Content Editor : Nikhil Kalaan, Media Manager, PGTI





JYOTI RANDHAWA WINS LEGENDS TOUR QUALIFYING SCHOOL

Jyoti Randhawa shot a closing 70, including birdies at the final two holes, to finish four shots clear at the top of the leaderboard at 12-under 276. The Indian started the final 18 holes with a two-shot lead and remained in control of the tournament in blustery conditions at the Gloria Golf Club in Turkey.

Jyoti shot scores of 71, 67, 68 and 70 at the tournament played between January 19 - 22.

The former DP World Tour player and eight-time Asian Tour winner built a five-shot cushion by the turn, picking up shots at the 4th and 7th as the chasing pack battled against the pressure and wind. When he made another gain at the 10th it looked like he would coast to victory, but a double bogey at 13 and a bogey at 15 opened the door for Frenchman Lionel Alexandre, Englishman Simon Griffiths and Spaniard Carlos Balmaseda. That hope was quickly extinguished as Randhawa emphatically sealed the victory with his two closing birdies, leaving the others to focus on the tight battle for the other four cards.

“It feels really good,” said the winner. “I got a few starts last year but I thought if I come to Q School and get in the top five, I’ll get to play the whole year, and here I am. I’m happy that I won and now I can plan my season.

“There was a lot of pressure, especially when we started off. I thought it was going to be -9 for the top five, and then I thought I need to



Image Credit : Getty Images

**“I GOT A FEW STARTS
LAST YEAR BUT I
THOUGHT IF I COME TO Q
SCHOOL AND GET IN THE
TOP FIVE, I’LL GET TO
PLAY THE WHOLE YEAR,
AND HERE I AM.”**

focus, play my game and do the best that I can.”

Randhawa is setting himself some lofty goals ahead of his 2024 MCB Road to Mauritius campaign: “I’m pretty young for starting out (on the Legends Tour). If I can go in there and win a tournament then that makes everything a lot easier. My aim is to win one and take it from there.”

Alexandre, Balmaseda and Griffiths finished tied-2nd on -8, while England’s Andrew Marshall claimed fifth place to secure the final

card at -7.

The field was made up of 72 players, with 41 advancing from a 36-hole First Stage held on 15th and 16th January and 31 exempt into the Final Stage, which was played over four rounds from 19th to 22nd January. A cut was applied after 54 holes, so only players within eight shots of the final qualifying spot (5th) played in the final round. The top five after 72 holes secured their playing rights on the Legends Tour for this season. [GP](#)

Source: Legends Tour





PGTI STATS - 2023

HERE'S A LOOK AT TATA STEEL PGTI'S STATS FROM THE 2023 SEASON



TATA Steel PGTI Ranking champion Om Prakash Chouhan set the record for the highest earnings in a PGTI season, posted the most wins during the season, was the joint birdie leader and registered the most top-10s

Highest Earnings by a Rookie in a PGTI Season:

INR 33,15,577 by Varun Chopra (2023 PGTI Emerging Player of the Year)



PGTI Emerging Player of the Year Varun Chopra set the record for the highest earnings by a rookie in a PGTI season

Highest Earnings in a PGTI Season

INR 1,18,26,059 by Om Prakash Chouhan (2023 TATA Steel PGTI Ranking champion)

Total No. of Events 20

No. of Winners 13

Longest Gap between Two Wins by a Player :

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.





Multiple Winners 4

Om Prakash Chouhan (4 Wins), Aman Raj (3 Wins), Sachin Baisoya (2 Wins), Karan Pratap Singh (2 Wins)

Most Wins 4

Om Prakash Chouhan (Duncan Taylor Black Bull Challenge, J&K Open presented by J&K Tourism, IndianOil SERVO Masters Golf & SSP Chawrasia Invitational presented by TAKE Sports)

Birdie Leaders

Rank	Player	Birdies
1.	Aman Raj	286
1.	Om Prakash Chouhan	286
3.	Sachin Baisoya	268
4.	M Dharma	260
5.	Sunhit Bishnoi	254

Eagle Leaders

Rank	Player	Birdies
1.	Karan Pratap Singh	16
2.	Harshjeet Singh Sethie	12
2.	Shaurya Binu	12
4.	Om Prakash Chouhan	11



Aman Raj was a multiple winner, the joint birdie leader and jointly held the record for the most cuts made

First Time Winners at PGTI Order of Merit events

- Sachin Baisoya** - TATA Steel PGTI Players Championship presented by Tollygunge Club
- Karan Pratap Singh** - TATA Steel PGTI Players Championship presented by Chandigarh Golf Club
- Sunhit Bishnoi** - India Cements Pro Championship
- Harshjeet Singh Sethie** - Coimbatore Open presented by KGiSL
- Jairaj Singh Sandhu** - Haryana Open presented by Wonder Cement

Most Top-10s 13

Om Prakash Chouhan



Karan Pratap Singh was a multiple winner, first time winner and the eagle leader



Most Cuts Made 18

Aman Raj & M Dharma



M Dharma jointly held the record for the most cuts made

Lowest Rounds

- 10-under 62 by **Rahil Gangjee** in Round 2 of TATA Steel Tour Championship (Preferred Lie)
- Nine-under 63 by **Manuel Elvira** (Spain) in Round 1 of Duncan Taylor Black Bull Challenge
- Nine-under 63 by **Victor Pastor** (Spain) in Round 4 of The Challenge presented by KGA
- Nine-under 61 by **Akshay Sharma** in Round 1 of Bollineni Panache & Telangana Tourism presents Telangana Golconda Masters (Preferred Lie)
- Nine-under 61 by **Sachin Baisoya** in Round 2 of Bollineni Panache & Telangana Tourism presents Telangana Golconda Masters (Preferred Lie)



Rahil Gangjee fired the lowest round of the season

Lowest Winning Total 25-under 263

by **Gaganjeet Bhullar** at TATA Steel Tour Championship (Preferred Lie)



Gaganjeet Bhullar shot the lowest winning total of the season



Biggest Winning Margin 9

9 shots by **Sunhit Bishnoi** at India Cements Pro Championship



Sunhit Bishnoi was a first time winner and registered the biggest winning margin

Avg. Winning Score : -15

Avg. Cut Score : +2

Lowest Cut Score : -3

at Duncan Taylor Black Bull Challenge

Albatross

- Divyanshu Bajaj** - Bhawani Singh Rathore presents Jaipur Open powered by AU Small Finance Bank
- Varun Parikh** – Bhawani Singh Rathore presents Jaipur Open powered by AU Small Finance Bank

Holes-in-One 18

2 Holes-in-One by **Sachin Baisoya**

1 Hole-in-One each by Sunhit Bishnoi, Gaurav Pratap Singh, Mohammad Sanju, C Muniyappa, Divyanshu Bajaj, Pranav Mardikar, Aman Raj, Arjun Sharma, Sandeep Singh, Rajesh Kumar, Anurag Neog, Divesh Rana, Akshay Neranjen, Shankar Das, Sudhir Sharma and Udayan Mane



Sachin Baisoya was a multiple winner, first time winner and made two holes-in-one during the season

Playoffs :

- Delhi-NCR Open – **Gaurav Pratap Singh bt Karan Pratap Singh** on the 1st hole
- Coimbatore Open presented by KGiSL – **Harshjeet Singh Sethie bt Om Prakash Chouhan** on the 2nd hole
- Haryana Open presented by Wonder Cement – **Jairaj Singh Sandhu bt Honey Baisoya** 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 Totals (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) **GP**



SUSTAINABLE STEEL FOR A GREEN FUTURE

Tata Steel is committed to producing sustainable steel. The Company's automotive flat steel products are certified under GreenPro Ecolabelling Standard by the CII*. These products are thoroughly evaluated for measurable environmental benefits

throughout their lifecycle, making a significant contribution to the automotive industry's green transition. Sure, we make steel.

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*Confederation of Indian Industry



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so does every mother. A mother needs a home where
she can live with Identity, Dignity and Respect".*

Maitri is a Delhi based NGO that is committed to providing nutritious food, safe shelter , health care, support and well being to abandoned elderly Widows of Vrindavan. Since 2010, Maitri has made a difference in lives of more than 500 widow mothers. Most of them are abandoned by their children and families and are lovingly called as Mayiya/Mother.

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