

Breaking down the swing that made Jason Day a winner again p22

MONTHLY

# GolfPlus

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**FEATURE**  
YOUR SHOE OF SHOES

**+ COVER**  
FEATURE

**HOW TO HIT**  
GREAT WEDGES WITH  
DUSTIN JOHNSON &  
COACH CLAUDE HARMON

**KEITA NAKAJIMA**

**WINS HERO INDIAN OPEN**

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Veer Ahlawat



## OF WINNERS AND HEROES

**T**he Hero Indian Open 2024 concluded at the DLF Golf & Country Club with Keita Nakajima overcoming a nervy finish to win his maiden DP World Tour title with a record winning score. The 23 year old Japanese turned professional in 2022 after spending a record breaking 87 weeks at the top of the World amateur Golf Ranking.

His three challengers, Indian Veer Ahlawat, Swede Sebastian Sodeberg and American Johannes Veerman had to contend with being tied second.

While Nakajima was the winner of the Championship the real hero was Veer Ahlawat as he had the whole gallery rooting for him. On his part he used the home advantage to the hilt as he kept the hopes alive till the last putt.

In the Instructions section don't miss valuable tips from leading Golf Master Dustin Johnson whose rise to the top coincided with a massive improvement in his wedge game. The instructions



(L-R)Farzan Heerjee, Jasjit Singh and Maj Gen B Bhushan



(L-R)Farzan Heerjee, Jasjit Singh and Maj Gen B Bhushan

curated by Claude Harmon III, son of well Butch Harmon and grandson of Claude Harmon. Claude has worked with Dustin Johnson since 2012 and his other clients include Brooks Koepka, Ernie Els to name a few. The article is worth a read and follow up as Claude is in the top 100 Golf instructors list and will make an impact on your scores.

At Augusta Scottie Scheffler won the 88th Masters making it a second green jacket in last three years and a week later he won the PLAYERS championship. With the win he joined Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods as the only players to win multiple PLAYERS and Masters titles. We had a few Indian Golfers who travelled to Augusta to witness the event including representatives of the Indian Golf Union Farzan Heerjee, Maj Gen B Bhushan and Jasjit Singh!

Happy Golfing

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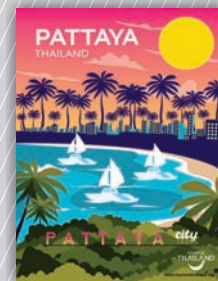
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May 2024

This month don't miss...



## Feature

### 18 NAKAJIMA WINS HERO INDIAN OPEN WITH RECORD WINNING SCORE

The 23-year-old Japanese, who spent a record 87 weeks at the top of the World Amateur Golf Ranking before turning professional in 2022, started the day at DLF Golf & Country Club four strokes ahead and extended that advantage to nine strokes with ten holes to play. Four birdies on the front nine contributed to his healthy lead, with just a single bogey on the par four seventh.

### 24 DAY FINDS LIGHT AT THE END OF LONG TUNNEL

Jim McCabe's fascinating study that can be made of the great professional golfers and how their careers often centered around one torrid stretch that accentuated their body of work. The win at the CJ Cup Byron Nelson, a title which he will defend in May, was punctuated with a closing 62 and provided a sense of symmetry for Day.

### 30 SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER WINS THE MASTERS

Scottie Scheffler has won the 88th Masters in a final-nine runaway. Scottie Scheffler stood in the second cut that borders Augusta National's 13th fairway and faced what the club's co-founder, Bobby Jones, once famously described as a "momentous decision." Just weeks earlier, Scheffler became the first player to win back-to-back PLAYERS Championships.

### 31 HOME FAVOURITE KATSURAGAWA SEALS VICTORY

Yuto Katsuragawa continued a history-making season for players from Japan on the DP World Tour with a three-shot victory on home soil at the ISPS HANDA - CHAMPIONSHIP. The local favourite entered the final day at Taiheiyo Club Gotemba Course three shots off the lead but was right in the mix at the turn as many of the leading players stumbled.

## Ladies on the Link

### 47 BROCH ESTRUP, TSAI AND WHITTING DECLARED JOINT WINNERS

Nicole Broch Estrup, Pei-Ying Tsai and Jess Whitting were declared joint winners after the final round of the Australian Women's Classic - Presented by Pacific Pay Resort Studios was cancelled. As a result of the tournament only being 18 holes, the tournament cannot be classed an official LET tournament so points will not be allocated to the Order of Merit and prize money will be unofficial. It was decided that the three players tied at the top of the leaderboard at the end of 18 holes would be declared joint winners.

### 49 TAMBURLINI STORMS TO EMPHATIC SEVEN SHOT VICTORY

Chiara Tamburlini sealed her first Ladies European Tour title in style at the Joburg Ladies Open as she dominated the field over the weekend to win by an emphatic seven shots. After a faultless performance moved the Swiss rookie six shots clear on 14-under par, Tamburlini completed the job on final day carding seven birdies en route to a round of 70 (-3).

## Masterclass Instruction

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

### 33 HOW TO HIT GREAT WEDGES

Claude Harmon has no difficulty pinpointing the moment he knew Dustin Johnson's wedge game had come of age. Here, Harmon reveals the process DJ went through to go from being an average wedge player to one of the best on Tour... and explains what you can take from it to tighten up your own play from 50-125 yards.

### 39 HIDEKI MATSUYAMA'S PRACTICE ROUTINE

Control the speed and start line to hole more

putts. His practice routine changes depending on how he's playing, but on a typical day he will spend 60 per cent of his time working on putting and short game. If you do that with the correct read then you will hole the putt - Read to learn more!

## PGTI

### 57 GAGANJEET BHULLAR OUTSHINES RIVALS

Bhullar (67-67-65-68), a 12-time international winner who was playing at his home course, bagged his 25th career title and 13th win on the PGTI after posting a gritty last round of four under 68 to ease to a comfortable four-shot victory with a week's tally of 21-under 267 which also happened to be the lowest winning total at the Chandigarh Golf Club.

### 58 VEER AHLAWAT CONTINUES FINE FORM WITH VICTORY

Gurugram's Veer Ahlawat continued his fine form with a flawless last round of six-under 66 to march to a one-shot victory at the Delhi-NCR Open 2024. Veer (68-67-70-66), fresh from his joint runner-up finish at the Indian Open two weeks back, totalled 17-under 271 to take home his third professional trophy and the winning cheque worth INR 15 lakh.

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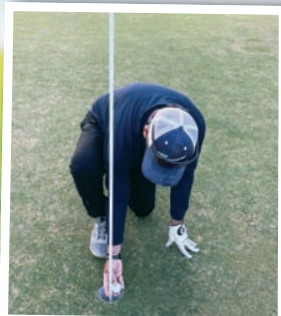
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# EAT FOR A HEALTHY HEAD

## THE YOGIC SCIENCE OF GOOD MOOD FOOD

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**Sadhguru:** The yogic system does not identify body and mind as two different entities. Your brains are part of your body. It is just that what we generally refer to as mind is a certain amount of memory and intelligence. Between the brain and the rest of the body, which has more memory, which has more intelligence? If you look at it carefully, your body's memory goes back millions of years. It clearly remembers how your forefathers were. The mind cannot claim that kind of memory. When it



**If you eat certain foods, the body will become happy. If you eat certain other foods, the body will become dull and lethargic. Just experiment and see, when you eat vegetarian food in its live, uncooked form, what a difference it will make. The idea is to eat as much as can be consumed in its aliveness.**

comes to intelligence, what is happening in a single molecule of DNA is so complex that your whole brain cannot figure it out.

In the yogic system, we see that there is a physical body and there is a mental body. There is an intelligence and memory running right across the body. People generally think the brain is everything just because it handles the thought process. It is because of this separation of body and mind that a large number of people in the West are taking antidepressants at some point in their life.

## The Effect of Food on the Mind

The type of food we eat has a huge impact on the mind. An average American is said to consume 200 pounds of meat per year. If you bring it down to 50 pounds, you will see 75% of the people will not need antidepressants anymore. Meat is a good food to survive if you are out in the desert or the jungle. But it should not be a daily food when there are other choices.

There are many ways to look at this. One thing is animals have the intelligence to know in the last few moments that they are going to get killed, no matter how cunningly or how scientifically you do it. Suppose you come to know right now that at the end of this day, you are going to get slaughtered. Imagine the struggle that you would go through, the burst of chemical reactions within you. An animal goes through at least some fraction of that. This means when you kill an animal, the negative acids and whatever other chemicals are in the meat. When you consume the meat, it creates unnecessary levels of mental fluctuations.

Another aspect is to look at what kind of food the human system is really designed for. One can easily experiment with this and see. Don't ask your doctor, your nutritionist,

yoga teachers or anyone. When it comes to food, it is about the body. Ask the body – not your tongue – what kind of food it is most comfortable with. The kind of food your body feels most comfortable with is always the ideal food to eat.

If you eat certain foods, the body will become happy. If you eat certain other foods, the body will become dull and lethargic. Just experiment and see, when you eat vegetarian food in its live, uncooked form, what a difference it will make. The idea is to eat as much as can be consumed in its aliveness. Cooking the food destroys the life in it. Eating foods after this process of destruction does not give the same amount of life energy to the system. When you eat natural food, it brings a different level of aliveness in you. If one eats lots of sprouts, fruit, and whatever vegetables that can be eaten in a live condition, if you bring in at least thirty to forty percent live food, it will sustain the life within you very well.

If you put people who are on antidepressants on a conscious vegetarian diet, in about three months' time, most of them will not need their medication anymore. We have seen this with many people who have come to the Isha Yoga Center.

## Commercial Forces Should Not Decide Food Choices

For most of those who have become mentally ill, the illness has been cultivated – there is nothing pathologically wrong with them. Such a large percentage of people cannot be mentally sick unless we are culturing it within our social fabric. We should never let commercial forces determine the quality of our lives. Commerce is there to serve humanity. But right now, we have structured the economic engine across the world in such a way that human beings are here to serve the

economic and commercial process. When I was at the World Economic Forum a few years ago, everyone was referring to India, China, and other places as emerging markets.

I said, "Please don't refer to people as a market. If you saw them as human beings, maybe you would get the right idea as to what to do with them." If you don't see people as people, if you don't see life as life, you won't care what you stuff into them. You will want to sell something that makes maximum money for you. Right now, for the health of the economy, we are surrendering the health of the human being. Commercial forces are deciding what you should eat, what you should drink, and how you should live. It should never be so.

I think we need an effective campaign for food, like the anti-smoking campaign in the US. In the 70's, in any public place in the United States, you had to wade through

**IF YOU PUT PEOPLE WHO ARE ON ANTIDEPRESSANTS ON A CONSCIOUS VEGETARIAN DIET, IN ABOUT THREE MONTHS' TIME, MOST OF THEM WILL NOT NEED THEIR MEDICATION ANYMORE.**

smoke. Then they started an active and successful campaign that cleared up the air. At one time, smoking was not just a necessity for a whole lot of people, it was fashionable. It was the right thing to blow smoke into other people's faces.

With the right kind of campaign, within one generation, this situation has changed completely. Today, you see less tobacco smoke in America than in many other countries in the world. A similarly successful campaign is needed about what we eat and what we drink.

Above all, one must remember there is nothing religious, philosophical, spiritual or moral about the food we eat. It is a question of life sense. Every individual must arrive at one's own balance of diet, not by taking vows, but by observation and awareness. **GP**

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



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# IGU MAHARASHTRA AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Poona Club Golf Course

## TOP SCORES - April 12, 2024

S. No.	STATE	NAME	TOTAL	RANK
1	Delhi	Rakshit Dahiya	277	1
2	Uttar Pradesh	Arin Ahuja	279	2
3	Haryana	Rohit	281	3
4	Delhi	Deepak Yadav	281	3
5	Haryana	Tushar Pannu	282	5
6	Uttar Pradesh	Parth Raman Sood	282	5
7	Chandigarh	Vivek Kumar	283	7
8	Haryana	Anant S Ahlawat	283	7
9	Delhi	Shat Mishra	284	9
10	West Bengal	Sandeep Yadav	284	9
11	Karnataka	Varun Muthappa	285	11
12	West Bengal	Uzair Firdausi	285	11
13	Karnataka	Manoj S	285	11



# IGU WESTERN INDIA AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Kalhaar Blues & Greens Golf Club

## TOP SCORES - April 19, 2024



S. No.	STATE	NAME	TOTAL	RANK
1	Haryana	Anant S Ahlawat	275	1
2	Haryana	Rohit	281	2
3	Haryana	Tushar Pannu	285	3
4	Gujarat	Rachit Mankoti	286	4
5	Uttar Pradesh	Sukhman Singh	286	4
6	Uttar Pradesh	Arin Ahuja	286	4
7	J&K	Kritein Gandotra	287	7
8	Karnataka	Jaiveer	288	8
9	Gujrat	Swayam Ambalia	290	9
10	Rajasthan	Sawai HS Bhati	293	10
11	Maharashtra	Jaash Parekh	293	10
12	Delhi	Deepak Yadav	293	10
13	Delhi	Shat Mishra	293	10



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# EASTERN INDIA LADIES & JUNIOR GIRLS GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP'2024

## Tollygunge Club, Kolkata



Winners in various categories



Mannat Brar

### TOP SCORES - April, 17-19th, 2024

S. No.	STATE	NAME	TOTAL	RANK
<b>CATEGORY - B</b>				
1	Chandigarh	Guntas Kaur Sandhu	225	1
2	Haryana	Yogya Bhalla	231	2
3	Karnataka	Dia Cris Kumar	232	T3
4	West Bengal	Mehak Lohan	232	T3
5	Delhi	Ayesha Gupta	237	5
<b>CATEGORY - C</b>				
1	Rajasthan	Ojaswini Saraswat	231	1
2	Delhi	Anushka Gupta	234	2
3	Haryana	Naina Kapoor	244	3
4	Haryana	Smria Bhambri	247	4
5	Karnataka	Aida Thimmaiah	254	T5
6	Chandigarh	Rabab Kahlon	254	T5
<b>LADIES Category</b>				
1	Panjab	Mannat Brar	217	1
2	Maharashtra	Anuradha Chaudhuri	218	2
3	UP	Zara Anand	219	T3
4	Karnataka	Vidhatri Urs	219	T3
5	Gujrat	Janneya A Dasanniece	224	5
<b>CATEGORY - A</b>				
1	Panjab	Mannat Brar	217	1
2	Maharashtra	Anuradha Chaudhuri	218	2
3	UP	Zara Anand	219	3
4	Gujrat	Janneya A Dasanniece	224	4
5	Maharashtra	Nishna Patel	225	T5
6	Chandigarh	Guntas Kaur Sandhu	225	T5

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

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

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

## Inspiring Track Record

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



## PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR CONTINUOUS PROGRESS



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

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



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



Level 2 Rules School at Hyderabad

Tournament Directors and Rules Instructors are trained and certified accordingly.



Junior Program at CIAL Cochin

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

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



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



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

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



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



Indian team at Eisenhower Cup



Indian team at Nomura Cup



National Squad Camp

## WHAT CAN THE IGU DO FOR YOU?

### Helps improve your golf



NGAI Campus, Chandigarh



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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



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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.

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

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



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World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler cemented his stature as the game's current dominant golfer with a second victory at the Masters Tournament in three years. It was also his ninth career PGA TOUR victory and third title in four starts. His four-stroke win over Ludvig Åberg comes just weeks before the arrival of his first child with his wife, Meredith. This is his blog from Augusta National.

**I**t's hard to put into words how special this win is. It's been a long week, a grind of a week as the golf course was so challenging, and to be wearing this green jacket again and getting to take it home is extremely special.

When I look at the tournament from two years ago, I'd built myself a lead on Friday afternoon and was able to play with the lead and play comfortably, whereas this week, I felt like I was battling the whole week. I got out there on Thursday, and it was so windy, and I was able to shoot a great score. The next two days were really just a fight. I can't even describe how difficult the conditions were on Friday afternoon. It was a long week and I had to battle some ups and downs.

Just like any human would, your mind starts to wander a little bit out there on the golf course. We're out competing for four or five hours at a time and you've got to let your mind wander. I tried to soak in the stuff around me ... I looked up at the trees at times and I looked up at the patrons occasionally to try to soak in some of their energy.

I did not let myself get attached to the lead. I just tried to keep pushing. I think if I had played a little bit defensively, it would have been a significantly different finish. I went for the green in two on 13, and was able to

make birdie, and I attacked the pin on 14 and made birdie. Went for it again on 15 for a nice par, and I hit a really good shot on 16 to make birdie again. If I was just trying to make pars on the back nine, I would have been standing on 18 having to make par and hoping Ludvig (Åberg) would only make a par.

The Sunday morning this time around was definitely different than two years ago too. Instead of just me and my wife, Meredith at the house, I had a couple of my buddies with me, and we sat and relaxed, and I tried not to think about golf. But it was increasingly difficult. They were a great support for me and while it was a long morning, it was well worth it. I told my buddies I was a bit overwhelmed, and I wish I didn't want to win it as badly as I did. I think it would make the mornings easier. However, I love winning and I hate losing. When you're here in the biggest moments, when I'm sitting with the lead on Sunday, I really, really want to win badly.

My buddies then told me my victory was secure on the cross (Note: Scheffler's faith is Christianity). That's a pretty special feeling to know that I'm secure forever and it doesn't matter if I win this tournament or lose this tournament. I get to come out here and compete, have fun, enjoy it; and then at the end of the day, win or lose, my identity



Images Credit: Getty Images

is secure. So when I'm out there, I try to compete to the best of my abilities. I feel like that's how I was designed. I've been that way since I was a young kid.

I wish I could soak this in a little bit more. Maybe I will when I get home. But at the end of the day, I think that's what the human heart does. You always want more, and I think you have to fight those things and focus on what's good.

I feel like I'm playing really good golf right now. I feel like I'm in control of my emotions as I've ever been, which is a good place to be. I feel like I'm maturing as a person on the golf course, which is a good place to be. I think it's hard to argue with the results of the last few weeks. I'm going to go home and reflect on this win and soak it in as best I can. I try not to think about the past or the future too much. I love trying to live in the present. I've had a really good start to the year, and I hope that I can continue on this path that I'm on.

I'm going to continue to put in the work that's got me here and keep my head down. When I step up on the tee at a tournament, being able to tell myself that I did everything I could to play well and the rest isn't up to me.

I will definitely enjoy the birth of my first child. My priorities will change very soon. My son or daughter will now be the main priority, along with my wife, so golf will now be probably fourth in line. But I still love competing and I don't plan on taking my eye off the ball anytime soon, that's for sure.



Scottie Scheffler celebrates his Masters win



# NAKAJIMA WINS HERO INDIAN OPEN WITH RECORD WINNING SCORE, INDIA'S AHLAWAT TIED SECOND

Keita Nakajima

Venue: DLF Golf & Country Club, New Delhi, India  
Prize Fund: \$2,250,000

**K**eita Nakajima overcame a nervy finish as he won his maiden DP World Tour title at the Hero Indian Open on just his 11th start.

The 23-year-old Japanese, who spent a record 87 weeks at the top of the World Amateur Golf Ranking before turning professional in 2022, started the day at DLF Golf & Country Club four strokes ahead and extended that advantage to nine strokes with ten holes to play.

Four birdies on the front nine contributed to his healthy lead, with just a single bogey on the par four seventh. He parred the first four holes on his back nine before a double bogey on the 14th saw his lead cut to five strokes.

Nakajima recovered with a birdie on the 15th to move six strokes ahead and he then bogeyed each of his last three holes to sign for a one over par 73, finishing with a 17 under par total, four strokes clear of India's Veer



Keita Nakajima

Ahlawat, Sebastian Söderberg of Sweden and American Johannes Veerman.

The victory was his fourth in the space of



Veer Ahlawat (Photo Credit Getty Images)



Espen Kofstad (Pic Courtesy Getty Images)



Keita Nakajima

I'm really happy to have played so well in front of my home crowd, my family and my newly-wedded wife.

- Veer Ahlawat

just ten months, adding to three wins on the Japan Golf Tour in 2023 which saw him top the Order of Merit and earn playing rights for the 2024 Race to Dubai.

This is also the third win in seven months on the DP World Tour by players from Japan as he joins Open de France champion Ryo

Hisatsune and Rikuya Hoshino, who won the Commercial Bank Qatar Masters in February, in the winner's circle.

Söderberg and Veerman carded matching five under par 67s to share second along with Ahlawat, who carded an eagle on the last in front of a raucous crowd on his home course to join them on 13 under par.

There was a lot to cheer for the local fans as local golfer Veer Ahlawat produced a grandstand finish with an eagle for a round of 1-under 71 after a mid-round run of four bogeys between the sixth and the 14th. The Tied-second was Ahlawat's best finish on the DP World Tour and should get him into the next event in Korea in a fortnight's time.

Ahlawat was the top Indian for the second year in a row, after being T-13 last year with Shubhankar Sharma (72), who this time ended T-31st.

Manu Gandas (71) who played the DP World Tour in 2023, was the next best Indian, just

**TOP SCORES**

- 271 K Nakajima (JPN) 65 65 68 73,
- 275 J Veerman (USA) 70 65 73 67, S S? Derberg (SWE) 71 67 70 67, V Ahlawat (IND) 69 66 69 71,
- 276 M Manassero (ITA) 65 68 70 73, J KO (FRA) 67 67 69 73, R Langasque (FRA) 66 66 70 74, G Green (MAS) 72 66 64 74,
- 277 J Winther (DEN) 69 68 72 68,
- 278 Y Paul (GER) 71 68 68 71,
- 279 M Gandas (IND) 73 65 70 71, J Luiten (NED) 65 69 72 73,
- 280 J DE Bruyn (GER) 67 74 72 67, K Kochhar (IND) 68 70 73 69, M Jordan (ENG) 68 69 73 70, M Rottluff (GER) 71 69 69 71, J Girschbach (SUI) 67 70 70 73, S Bairstow (ENG) 66 72 67 75,
- 281 F Zanotti (PAR) 67 70 72 72, D Huizing (NED) 67 71 69 74,
- 282 S Forsstr ?M (SWE) 71 72 72 67, F Lacroix (FRA) 72 70 71 69, M Schneider (GER) 70 72 70 70, M Kinhult (SWE) 68 75 67 72, C Shinkwin (ENG) 72 69 68 73



Joost Luiten



Gavin Green (Pic Courtesy Getty Images)

outside the Top-10 in Tied-11th place, which was his best finish on the Tour.

Apart from Ahlawat and Gandas, the other Indians were Karandeep Kochhar (69) in T-13, Shubhankar Sharma (72) in T-31,

Aman Raj (78) in T-51, Jairaj Singh Sandhu (71) and Gaganjeet Bhullar (72) in T-58 and Rashid Khan (78) in T-65.

Even as he finished tied second, Ahlawat was very happy with the result. He said, I'm

really happy to have played so well in front of my home crowd, my family and my newly-wedded wife. There was some pressure on me this week as there were high expectations from me playing at my home course with my

## DP WORLD DELIVER ON GRASSROOTS GOLF PROJECT IN INDIA

**D**P World, title partner of the DP World Tour, has continued its partnership with The Golf Foundation India, by donating a large quantity of golf equipment; including 10,000 balls, new golf clubs, clothing and training aids, ahead of the Hero Indian Open on the DP World Tour.

A donation ceremony to mark the occasion took place at the Hero Indian Open venue, DLF Golf and Country Club, with 15 teenagers invited by The Golf Foundation as well as a surprise visit from DP World Tour player Rahil Gangjee. Two-time Ladies European Tour winner Diksha Dagar and the chairman of Hero Indian Open Committee, SK Shartma were also there to spectate.

Following the ceremony, the youngsters, who had travelled from Jandiali Village in Punjab, were treated to an interactive golf clinic with Aman Raj where they were given the chance to hit some balls alongside the DP World Tour professionals on the driving range and learn from the Indian golfer.

The Golf Foundation, who were chosen as one of the initiatives beneficiaries, (India) supports talented young golfers from underprivileged backgrounds to nurture the future of Indian Golf. DP World supports the foundations mission and the equipment donated will make a big difference to the group from Punjab who currently use construction rods moulded into various clubs and ping pong



balls to practice with. The hope is that one day a new champion will be inspired to follow in the footsteps of Indian golfers such as Shubhankar Sharma and compete on the DP World Tour. **GP**



Karandeep Kochhar



OP Chauhan



Matteo Manassero



**I'm very happy. Winning here on DP World Tour for the first time is a new feeling all in itself, but right now just very happy.**

**- Keita Nakajima**

coach also being present here. But I managed to put together a good week thanks to some brilliant driving and iron-play.”

“Finishing with an eagle was the icing on the cake. There was just one bad drive by me on the eighth today, other than that I didn't hit bad shots. I just didn't make good pars on a few holes I would say. Playing well in such a strong field and negotiating the tough windy conditions on the final day really boosts my morale. With the roars, I almost felt like a winner, especially since we were all fighting for second place, once Keita went so far ahead.”

After the win Keita Nakajima said “I'm very happy. Winning here on DP World Tour for the first time is a new feeling all in itself,

but right now just very happy. I felt very comfortable heading into the front nine with an eight stroke lead, but the back nine was playing very tough today and I didn't have the best finish, but very happy to have gotten it done in the end.

There were a number of tough holes on the back and I was frustrated with my play finishing with three consecutive bogies and of course the double bogey, but fortunately I had a few strokes in the bank which I can credit back to my strong play on the front nine and the earlier rounds this week, so overall very proud of my performance. The win definitely gives me a lot of confidence in myself and hoping now to take what I did this week and turn it into even more wins in the future.” **GP**



# TODD ANDERSON INSTRUCTIONAL

# BREAKING DOWN THE SWING THAT MADE JASON DAY A WINNER AGAIN



## INTRODUCTION

In 2015, Jason Day was one of the world's top players, but he unfortunately endured a few injuries which saw him go through a winless streak. He subsequently made swing changes that has brought his game back to that top level again. In this tutorial, we'll talk about those changes and how it essentially relieved the pressure in his lower back, yet still allowing him to hit great golf

shots and becoming a winner again on the PGA TOUR.

## IT'S ALL IN THE HIPS

When you look closely at the changes in Jason's golf swing in 2015 and today, you will notice he had a very restricted hip turn back previously (Photo 1). So on his back swing, he didn't turn his hips very much, whereas now, he is allowing his right hip to

turn back and load more into his right leg. This new hip action allows his arms and club to swing more around his body on the backswing as opposed to his wider more upright plane in 2015.

## ANGLE OF ATTACK

Jason's old upright backswing produced a steeper/narrower angle of attack. Because he pulled down aggressively with the left



side at the start of the downswing, his upper body would tilt back away from the target and the shaft would get closer to his right shoulder. This leaning back produced a lot of side bend in his spine, and this put a lot of pressure on his lower back (Photo 2). The action would cause him to have to use his hands to fix his release through impact. Although this was a unique swing, Jason's talent made it work.

## SHALLOWER INTO THE BALL

With the new swing changes, he now has a deeper right hip turn (Photo 3), lower left arm plane and can deliver his arms more efficiently from around his body. This new action doesn't have as much torque between his lower and upper body. Jason now lowers the club by lengthening his right arm versus pulling the club down with his left side (Photo 4 and 5) and he is more level in his delivery position into the ball with less side bend. (Photo 6). From here, his right side can stay higher, rotate out in front of him and move with the club through impact. This relieves all the pressure on his lower back and allows him to release of his body, arms, hands and the club face through impact without manipulating the club face.

So a little more hip turn, a bit more around on the back swing, lengthen the right arm with a higher right side so the right side can release through impact to improve club face control. **GP**



Images Credit : Getty Images

Todd Anderson is the Director of Instruction at the PGA TOUR Performance Center at TPC Sawgrass, home of THE PLAYERS Championship. The 2010 National PGA Teacher of the Year has seen his students amass more than 50 victories across the PGA TOUR and Korn Ferry Tour, including two FedExCup titles. He is currently rated by Golf Digest as one of the top 20 golf instructors in the United States. In this tutorial, Anderson breaks down Australian Jason Day's remodelled golf swing which helped him win the 2023 CJ CUP Byron Nelson which Day will defend his title this month.





Jason Day with the 2023 CJ CUP Byron Nelson trophy

# DAY FINDS LIGHT AT THE END OF LONG TUNNEL

by Jim McCabe

**T**here is a fascinating study that can be made of the great professional golfers and how their careers often centered around one torrid stretch that accentuated their body of work.

Arnold Palmer perhaps is the quintessential example. While he was arguably the game's biggest star for the bulk of time from 1960 to 1975, he won all seven of his major titles between April of 1958 and April of 1964.

When he won a fourth Masters in '64, Palmer was just 34 and had you suggested he'd never again win another major, no one would have believed you. But that's how it unfolded.

Now to use an introduction of Arnold Palmer to morph into a discussion of Jason Day is taking great latitude, admittedly. But remember this premise of torrid stretches of play that punctuate careers of great golfers. With Day, the Aussie who took his "can't miss" tag and

rode it to the top of world rankings, it is easy to forget in this era of instant gratification just how brilliantly he played at his very best. After all, it wasn't that long ago.

Crazy, but our focus on PGA Tour golfers in today's landscape is often fixated on Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas. Best pals since their American Junior Golf Association days. College rivals while at Texas and Alabama. Glued at the hip as Ryder Cup and Presidents

Cup teammates. In their 20s, they each caught fire on the PGA Tour and got to No. 1 in the world.

For five years (2013-2017), Spieth won 13 times, three of them majors. Thomas' five-year stretch (2016-2020) produced 13 wins, two of them majors.

Suffice to say, their legends are cemented, even if as 30-year-olds they are caught in a drought. Wins have come painfully infrequently since their torrid stretches, and the fact they have fallen to Nos. 19 (Spieth) and 28 (Thomas) in the Official World Golf Ranking has people wondering what's wrong.

Which proves that everything is a matter of perspective, because the golfer currently sitting 22nd in the world ranking, Day, has people applauding what has gone so right for the personable Aussie.

His story isn't unlike those of Spieth and Thomas. Day's five-year heater (2014-18) was 95 tournaments of impactful play. There were 11 PGA Tour wins, including the 2015 PGA Championship when he outplayed Spieth in a memorable battle at Whistling Straits.

What should never be overlooked is how Day dominated the world ranking – he was No. 1 on three different occasions, including a 47-week stretch from March of '16 to February of '17. Like Spieth and Thomas, Day got to the peak of the world rankings in his 20s (he was 27 and 28 years old), but what makes his story so appealing is how he battled through injuries (vertigo and back pain, among others) and confronted a real-life dilemma.

“To be honest, I was very close to calling it quits,” said Day, citing injuries that led to poor play and made him miss being at home with his wife, Ellie, and their five children.

He had followed his monster year of '15 (five wins, including the PGA) with three

**“To be honest, I was very close to calling it quits, citing injuries that led to poor play and made him miss being at home with his wife, Ellie, and their five children.”**



Jason Day

marquee triumphs in '16 (Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, WGC Dell Technologies Match Play, The Players Championship) and in '17 he signed a massive contract with Nike. Day was No. 1 in the OWGR for a 51st week in early April of '17 but exactly five years later, he found himself ranked 178th and sliding badly.

Quit? There were signs pointing that way and guess what? “I was OK with it,” said Day, “just because it was a very stressful part of my life.” Ellie, though, wouldn't hear it. “She never gave up on me trying to get back to the winner's circle. She just always was pushing me to try and get better.”

Even when Day ended the 2022 season with



**“At the end of the day, golf is a nice thing to have and winning is a great thing to have.”**

Images Credit : Getty Images

just US\$1,086,460 – his lowest money total since his rookie season of 2008 – there was a sense of enthusiasm. The key, Day has said, was his maturation and he addressed that question in May of 2023 when he won for the first time in five years.

“I think the advice I’d have to give (a younger

Jason Day) is to be patient, always strive to get better . . . just try to better yourself.”

The win at the CJ Cup Byron Nelson, a title which he will defend in May, was punctuated with a closing 62 and provided a sense of symmetry for Day. That’s because his first PGA Tour win had come in this same

tournament 13 years earlier.

“It’s mainly about the journey,” said Day in the aftermath of that win. And now, at 36 the Aussie is saturated in perspective.

“At the end of the day, golf is a nice thing to have and winning is a great thing to have. But the people around you (his wife and children) are the most important things at the end of the day.”

The win, Day’s 13th on the PGA Tour, clearly meant a lot to him. But what provides comfort, also, is a high-standard of play that has him firmly entrenched among the game’s elite once again. Sitting 22nd, just behind Spieth and slightly ahead of Thomas, is noteworthy on the cusp of the major season ahead, plus a potential return into the Presidents Cup fold where he last appeared for the International Team in 2017.

Day’s greatest strength is his peace of mind. “I just can’t help but feel thankful to be able to play this game,” he said earlier in 2024, though it’s a sentiment that consumes him every day.

So if you find yourself pondering elite names who have been dropping in the world rankings, stop and pay notice to a quality player who has battled back to be where he belongs.



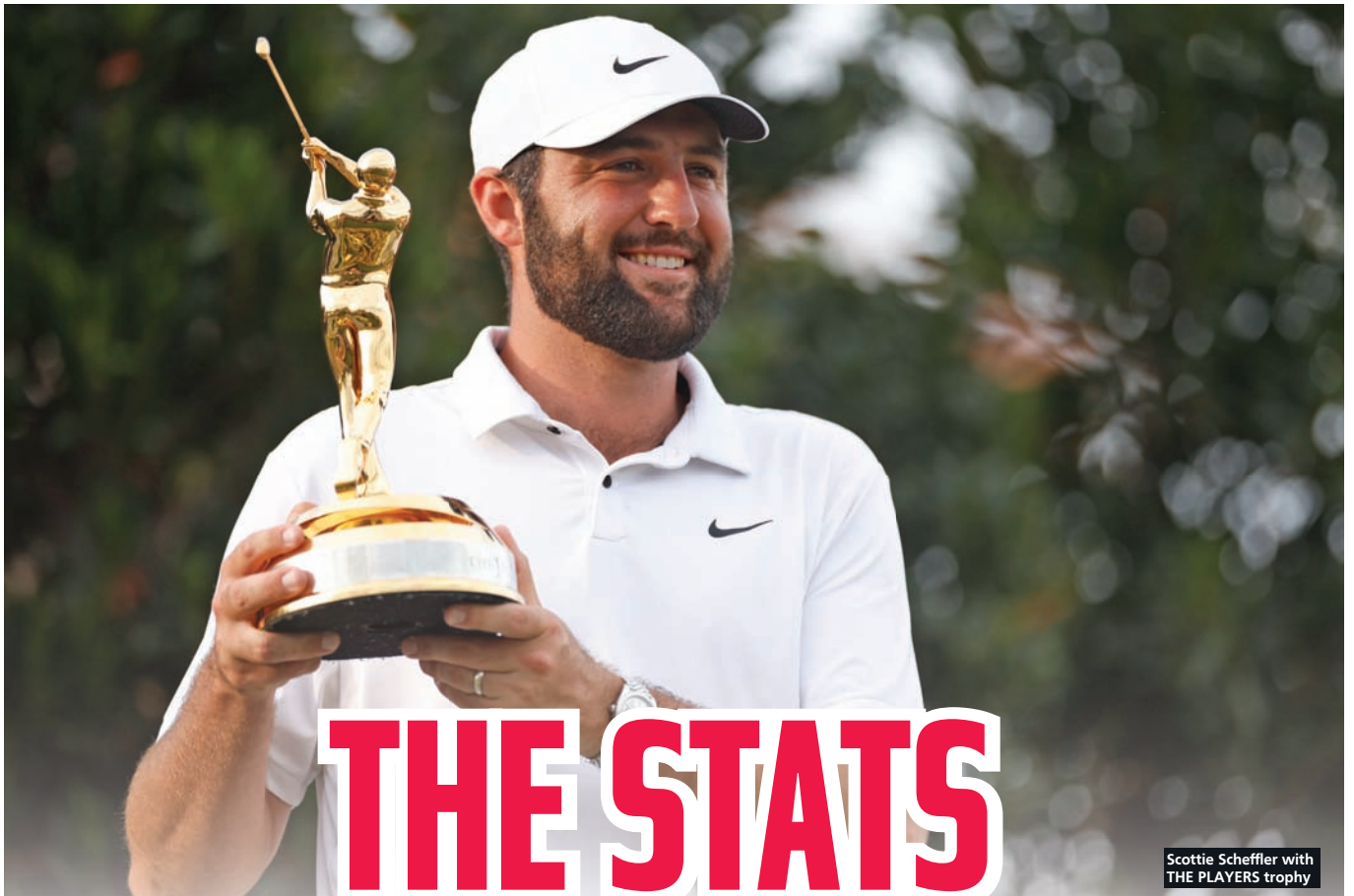
Ellie Day gives Jason a kiss after his win at The CJ Cup Byron Nelson in 2023

# CHAMPIONS RISE ABOVE THE BEST



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Scottie Scheffler with THE PLAYERS trophy

# THE STATS

## THAT DEFINED THE PGA TOUR IN MARCH

World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler dominates with back-to-back wins as Malnati, Jaeger and Eckroat triumph

by Helen Ross

**W**e probably shouldn't have been surprised. After all, Scottie Scheffler hadn't shot higher than 68 in the final round of any tournament this year – not to mention, he came to Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., on the heels of victory at Bay Hill the previous week.

Even so, he trailed Xander Schauffele by five strokes entering the final 18 holes of THE PLAYERS Championship. And a comeback of that magnitude on the diabolical Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass is no small order.

The world No. 1 was more than equal to the task, though, making six birdies and an eagle on the way to a 64 that tied Davis Love III (2003) and Fred Couples (1996) for the lowest final round by a winner at THE PLAYERS. The comeback matched Henrik Stenson (2009) and Justin Leonard (1998) for the largest at the Stadium Course, as well.

Also eye-catching, the victory was the first successful title defence at the PGA TOUR's

flagship event. The previous year, Scheffler led by two when he teed it up on Sunday, closed with a 69 and won by five. He is the only player to have shot all four rounds in the 60s on the Pete Dye masterpiece in two separate years.

Scheffler relied on his bread-and-butter in both wins – hitting fairways and greens and converting once he got there. His Strokes Gained: Tee to Green total of +15.88 in his title defence was the third best by a winner there in the ShotLink era – while his +17.17 total in 2023 topped the list. He finished +6.47 in that category on Sunday, also the best.

### Scheffler is king of Bay Hill

It didn't take Scottie Scheffler long to reap the benefits of his recent putter change. The Texan came to Orlando with a TaylorMade Spider X in his bag in place of the blade style he's used for the majority of his career.

Scheffler ended up leading the field in Strokes Gained: Putting on Sunday at +3.892 as he closed with a 66 to win the Arnold Palmer

Invitational. That was his best final-round SG: Putting tally since the second round of the Shriners Children's Open in 2021 – and the third best on TOUR in the last two years.

For the week, Scheffler's Strokes Gained: Putting total was 4.347 – his best 72-hole total since he picked up his first win at the 2022 WM Phoenix Open. He made all 17 putts he attempted inside 15 feet – one of eight rounds in which he hasn't missed inside 15 feet.

He was particularly solid on Bay Hill's challenging back nine, shooting 13 under, which was the lowest by anyone in the field.

**SCHEFFLER ENDED UP LEADING THE FIELD IN STROKES GAINED: PUTTING ON SUNDAY AT +3.892 AS HE CLOSED WITH A 66 TO WIN THE ARNOLD PALMER INVITATIONAL.**

He ranked sixth or better in Strokes Gained: Off the Tee, Approach the Green and Putting which led to a whopping +12.33 advantage in Strokes Gained: Total.

**Malnati ends 3,095-day drought at Valspar**

Peter Malnati was hardly the odds-on favorite at the Valspar Championship. After all, the genial 36-year-old had only made the cut twice in the previous eight times he'd played the event. Not to mention, the last time he'd won on the PGA TOUR was in 2015, a span of 3,095 days.

But Malnati hung tough when it counted on the Copperhead Course at Innisbrook Resort, playing the three closing holes, aptly nicknamed the Snake Pit, in 3 under. Contributing to that tally was a 6-foot birdie in the final round at the par-3 17th as his nearest competitor, Cameron Young, was in the process of bogeying the final hole.

Only Vijay Singh had done better, playing the Snake Pit in 5 under when he won the tournament in 2004. Malnati was the sixth Valspar Championship winner to go bogey free over the difficult finishing stretch, as well. But the par 4s on the Copperhead Course were where Malnati really shined. He played them in 11 under with a scoring average of 3.69, both of which led the field. His birdie or better percentage of 36.11 on the par 4s also ranked him No. 1.

**Jaeger enjoys winning jig in Texas**

Stephen Jaeger knows how to go low. After all, this is a man who shot 58 on the way to one of

**STEPHEN JAEGER KNOWS HOW TO GO LOW. AFTER ALL, THIS IS A MAN WHO SHOT 58 ON THE WAY TO ONE OF HIS SIX KORN FERRY TOURS.**



Peter Malnati

Images Credit: Getty Images

his six Korn Ferry Tours. So, what are the odds that the 34-year-old would pick up his first PGA TOUR win by grinding out nine pars on the back nine Sunday at the Texas Children's Houston Open? And playing in the final group with No. 1 Scottie Scheffler, no less. Well, that's exactly what happened at Memorial Park. Jaeger entered the final round in a five-way tie for the lead, turned in 32 and then gutted out the one-stroke victory. There were some anxious moments as Scheffler, bidding for his third win in as many starts, eyed a 5-footer that would have forced a playoff, though.

Jaeger is the fifth player since 2017 to win with nine pars on the back. He averaged +1.60 in

**PETER MALNATI WAS HARDLY THE ODDS-ON FAVORITE AT THE VALSPAR CHAMPIONSHIP.**

Strokes Gained: Putting, which was his third best performance in his 135 TOUR starts. The Munich native, who now lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee where he went to college, joins Bernhard Langer, Martin Kaymer and Alex Cejka as TOUR winners from Germany. He's the fifth first-time winner this year and the fourth international player to raise a trophy.

**Easy does it for Eckroat**

The last time Austin Eckroat had won a tournament was at the 2019 Querencia Cabo Collegiate when he was a sophomore at Oklahoma State. So, what was another night's sleep at the rain-delayed Cognizant Classic of the Palm Beaches?

The 25-year-old had built a one-stroke lead through seven holes at PGA National on Sunday when play was suspended. He returned Monday morning and was never caught as he won by three strokes in his 50th start on TOUR. The PGA TOUR University alum finished the week ranked first in Greens in Regulation, hitting 59 of 72, and he was tied for third in Fairways Hit, finding 45 of 56. Eckroat's total of +9.01 in Strokes Gained: Tee to Green was the second best of his young career. Eckroat's work on the greens was solid, too - he tied for third in Putts per GIR and was sixth in Putting overall. He ended the week with 23 birdies, also second best in his career. [G+](#)



Scottie Scheffler (R) congratulates Stephen Jaeger

# SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER WINS THE MASTERS



Scottie Scheffler has won the 88th Masters in a final-nine runaway.

Scottie Scheffler stood in the second cut that borders Augusta National's 13th fairway and faced what the club's co-founder, Bobby Jones, once famously described as a "momentous decision."

His ball lay 215 yards from the hole, a distance he could easily cover with a single swing. There were several factors that made this anything but an easy choice, though.

Scheffler, the best iron player on the planet, striped a 4-iron into the middle of the green, then two-putted from 75 feet for a birdie that nullified the one Ludvig Åberg was making one hole ahead. Scheffler's lead remained at two strokes with five holes remaining, and only grew larger after a tap-in birdie at No. 14 and another at No. 16, where he made a 9-footer.

"I try not to think about the past or the future too much," Scheffler said. "I love trying to live in the present. I've had a really good start to the year, and I hope that I can continue on this path that I'm on. I'm going to continue to put in the work that's got me here. That's pretty much it."

Scheffler, who already was the No. 1 player in the world at the start of 2024, has somehow become even more dominant. He now has three wins and a runner-up in his past four starts. He won a Signature Event, the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, by five. A week later, he shot a final-round 64 to win THE PLAYERS by one despite a neck injury that sapped his swing of power. And now he has his second Masters victory in the



last three years, adding this green jacket to the one he won two years ago.

Scheffler finished this Masters at 11-under 277 (66-72-71-68), four shots clear of runner-up Ludvig Åberg. Tommy Fleetwood (69), Max Homa (73) and Collin Morikawa (74) tied for third, seven shots back.

With the win, Scheffler joined Jack Nicklaus

and Tiger Woods as the only players to win multiple PLAYERS and Masters titles, and became just the fifth player to win two Masters before turning 28 (Nicklaus, Woods, Seve Ballesteros and Horton Smith are the others). Just weeks earlier, Scheffler became the first player to win back-to-back PLAYERS Championships. **GP**

## DOMINANT RUN FOR SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER



A Masters green jacket wasn't enough for Scottie Scheffler.

Scheffler was running on emotional fumes fresh off his four-shot victory at Augusta National Golf Club, but full of purpose that more than made up for his lack of preparation for the RBC Heritage. The result not only was similar, it has come to be expected.

He rarely missed a shot. He gave little hope to those chasing him. And he walked away from Harbour Town Golf Links with another victory that extended a dominance not seen since the peak years of Tiger Woods.

Victory was inevitable - Scheffler had a five-shot lead with three holes to play when the final round, delayed 2 1/2 hours because of storms, was suspended by darkness. It's starting to feel that way whenever he plays.

Scheffler was staked to a one-shot lead starting the final round and chipped in for eagle on the second hole. Before long, he had a four-shot lead and never showed any signs of coming back.

"I got off to a good start yesterday and kind of just kept it going from there," he said.

Sahith Theegala birdied the 16th hole, saved par from a bunker on the par-3 17th and closed with a par for a 68 to finish alone in second. **GP**



## PORTEOUS SECURES SECOND CHALLENGE TOUR TITLE



Garrick Porteous ended a seven-year wait for his second Challenge Tour title after he secured a one-stroke triumph at the Abu Dhabi Challenge. The Englishman, who entered the final round in a three-way tie for the lead, carded a bogey-free seven under par final round of 63 to finish on 24 under par at Al Ain Equestrian, Shooting & Golf Club and a one-shot victory over five-time DP World Tour winner Alexander Levy.

The 34-year-old, whose last professional win came at the Prague Golf Challenge in 2017, was delighted to return to the winner's circle in Al Ain.

"It feels amazing", he said. "It was a good battle out there with some great players - Alex played amazing from start to finish." You always doubt whether another win will come, but I feel like my game is trending in the right direction. I've made plenty of cuts recently, I just needed to get it over the line, like I did today."

Porteous, who resides in Dubai, cited his experience of playing regularly in the UAE conditions as a key to his victory this week.

Dane Nicolai Kristensen finished in third



**"IT WAS A GOOD BATTLE OUT THERE WITH SOME GREAT PLAYERS - ALEX PLAYED AMAZING FROM START TO FINISH."**

position on 22 under par, while Scotland's Euan Walker matched the course record by carding a sensational ten under par final

round of 60 to climb into fourth alongside South African Oliver Bekker and Irishman Connor Purcell on 20 under. **GP**

## HOME FAVOURITE KATSURAGAWA SEALS VICTORY



Yuto Katsuragawa continued a history-making season for players from Japan on the DP World Tour with a three-shot victory on home soil at the ISPS HANDA - CHAMPIONSHIP.

The local favourite entered the final day at Taiheiyo Club Gotemba Course three shots off the lead but was right in the mix at the turn as many of the leading players stumbled.

Sebastian Söderberg was the only one keeping pace with him but the 25-year-old started the back nine with five birdies in seven holes to leave the Swede in his wake and finish at 17 under after a course-record equalling 63.

Söderberg carded a 67 to be the nearest challenger but all the headlines belonged to Katsuragawa, who made it back-to-back Japanese wins in regular DP World Tour events for the first time after Keita Nakajima's victory at the Hero Indian Open.

Isao Aoki was the first Japanese winner in DP World Tour history at the 1983 European Open but we had to wait 33 years for another when Hideki Matsuyama lifted the trophy at the 2016 WGC-HSBC Champions. Matsuyama would lift another World Golf Championships title the following year before his monumental Masters Tournament victory in 2021 made it four all-time Japanese wins on the DP World Tour.

Japan's Ryosuke Kinoshita, Ivan Cantero of Spain, German Marcel Schneider and South African Christiaan Bezuidenhout were then in a tie for third place at 12 under par. **GP**



## BRILLIANT CATLIN WINS WIRE-TO-WIRE

John Catlin completed a rampant wire-to-wire victory in the US\$1million Saudi Open presented by PIF, for the first back-to-back win on the Asian Tour in five years.

Playing some of the hottest golf in the game at the moment, he shot a final-round five-under-par 66 to finish on 24-under and win by seven shots from Australian Wade Ormsby.

Ormsby registered his best performance since winning the International Series Thailand in March of last year by carding a 64 here at Riyadh Golf Club.

American Peter Uihlein finished strongly shooting a 63 to share third place, nine behind the champion, with Kiradech Aphibarnrat from Thailand, who returned a 67.

Catlin, who won the International Series Macau presented by Wynn last month, also nearly made history on the Asian Tour. He came agonisingly close to becoming the first player to complete 72 holes bogey-free, but he missed a seven-foot par putt on 14, much to the disappointment of everyone looking on.

Last month he did actually write his name into the Asian Tour history books by becoming the first player to shoot a 59, in the third round in Macau.

The victory here, which earned him a cheque



for US\$180,000, saw him overtake Spaniard David Puig at the top of the Asian Tour Order of Merit. Puig closed with a 67 to finish in sole possession of fifth, 10 back from Catlin.

Catlin becomes the first player to win successive events on the Asian Tour since

Thailand's Jazz Janewattananond in 2019, when he claimed the Indonesian Masters and Thailand Masters.

"I am tired, but very, very happy," said the 32-year-old, after his sixth victory on the Asian Tour. **GP**

## PKNS SELANGOR MASTERS SET FOR JUNE DATE

The PKNS Selangor Masters, which has been one of the highlights of the season on the Asian Development Tour (ADT) for the past two years, returns to the schedule this year and will be played at its regular home Seri Selangor Golf Club from June 19-22.

The popular event, which celebrates its 11th edition this season, will boast total prizemoney of US\$175,000, and it will be the ADT's fifth leg of the season.

It will also mark the ADT's first visit of the season to Malaysia, and it will be jointly sanctioned with the Toyota Tour - Malaysia's domestic circuit, and a long-standing partner.

Eighty players from the ADT will be eligible to play, while there will be 40 from the Toyota Tour. The total field size will be 144, with 24 invites.

Chinese-Taipei's Ho Yu-Cheng (main picture) claimed the Selangor Masters last year, succeeding Ariffin - who when he triumphed became only the second Malaysian to raise the trophy. Malaysia's Ben Leong triumphed in 2008. **GP**



HOW TO HIT

# GREAT WEDGES

WITH DUSTIN JOHNSON & COACH CLAUDE HARMON

Dustin Johnson's rise to the top of the game coincided with a massive improvement in his wedge game. Here, coach Claude Harmon III explains the process they went through to sharpen up his pitching... and how you can copy it

CLUB SPEED  
75.2 MPH

BALL SPEED  
78.4 MPH

LAUNCH ANGLE  
28.8°

CARRY  
99.8 YARDS

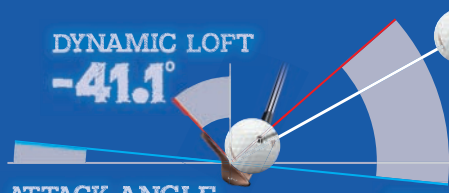
DYNAMIC LOFT  
-41.1°

SPIN RATE  
9486 RPM

SMASH FACTOR  
1.04

ATTACK ANGLE  
-5.7°

SPIN LOFT  
46.9°



## Claude Harmon III

Son of Butch and grandson of Claude, the 1948 Masters winner, Claude has worked with Dustin Johnson since 2012. Other clients include Brooks Koepka, Ernie Els and Yani Tseng. He is now ranked 12th on Golf Digest's 2017-2018 Best Teachers in America List and is a Golf Magazine Top 100 instructor.



**C**laude Harmon has no difficulty pinpointing the moment he knew Dustin Johnson's wedge game had come of age. "It was last August at the Northern Trust, the first event of the PGA Tour's FedEx Series," he recalls. "Dustin was fighting his way back after an injury and loss of confidence, while Jordan had just won the Open. The 18th hole is 470 yards, dog-legging left around a lake. DJ had the length to carry it but it would leave him around 100 yards from the green, in a wedge zone that up to 2016 had been something of a weakness for him. But he took the drive on, hit a massive shot and was left with just 95 yards to the pin.

"He just got up there, pitched it to three-feet and sank the putt for a winning birdie. That shot was the culmination of two years of hard work that turned his wedge game around... and took him from being a top-10 player to a top-one player."

Here, Harmon reveals the process DJ went through to go from being an average wedge player to one of the best on Tour... and explains what you can take from it to tighten up your own play from 50-125 yards.

### How did you and DJ arrive at the decision to focus on wedges?

Mostly through looking at stats. The first one was simply an appreciation of just how many times in the course of a round or a year DJ is going to have a wedge into a green, given how far he hits it. But we also looked at his Strokes Gained performance on short approach shots; in 2015 from 100-150 yards he was at 0.09, so basically bang average for the PGA Tour. The main focus became to find a way to help him take advantage of his length and the yardages he was leaving himself into a lot of holes.

### So how did you set about improving Dustin's wedge play?

Practising his wedges wasn't exciting or glamorous or interesting to him. It's human nature to gravitate towards the parts of the game we are already good at, the ones we enjoy, and for DJ that meant the driver and power shots. Dustin is also not a guy who will hit balls for hours a day; he tends to practise for 90 minutes to two hours, and after this he just kind of checks out. So we needed to find an approach he found engaging and enjoyable, one that would allow him to achieve effective, targeted work. We settled on technology, and specifically the launch monitor TrackMan.

### How did you and DJ use TrackMan?

Quite simply, we used it to get consistent at hitting distances. Dustin has three wedges (52°, 60° and 64°) and three wedge swings – half, three-quarter and full-length. We created

# PITCH PERFECT HOW DJ HAS IMPROVED...



## STROKES GAINED PER ROUND 100-150 YDS

2015  
**0.09**

2016  
**0.19**

2017  
**0.35**

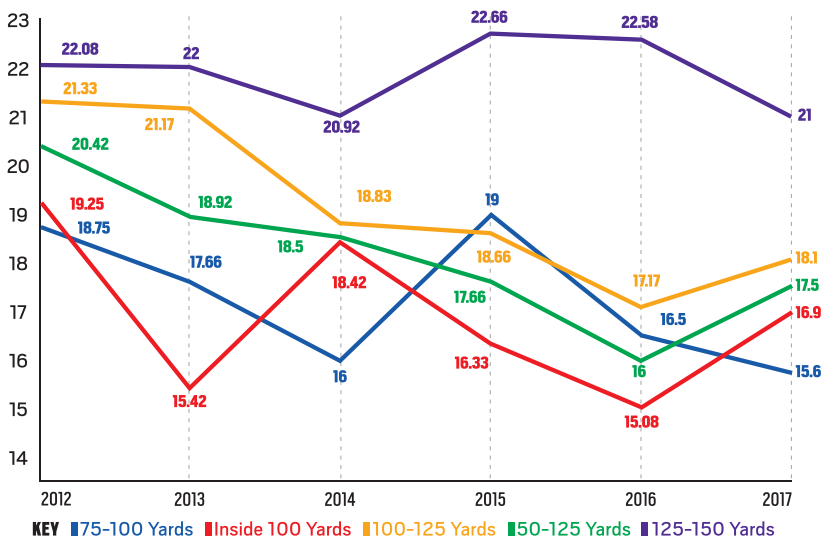
## APPROACHES FROM 50-125 YDS

2015  
**T53**  
(17ft 8in)

2016  
**T4**  
(16ft)

2017  
**T15**  
(17ft 5in)

## PROXIMITY TO HOLE WITH HIS WEDGES (FEET)



Charting the last five years of Dustin Johnson's performance at different distances inside 125 yards, this graphic gives a clear picture of just how much progress he has made with his wedge game. DJ has improved in each parameter, hitting the ball on average three feet closer than he did in 2012 – a massive change at this level of the game. But these figures also help us understand how sharper pitching has contributed to his rise to the top. In 2012, when his average of 20ft 5in from 50-125 yards placed him 166th in this category on the PGA Tour, his official world ranking was 23. By the close of 2016, when his high point of 16ft moved him up to 4th in the stats, he was ranked 3rd in the world. While his figures since have softened slightly, his 17ft 5in average ensured he finished the year as the world's best golfer.



**SET-UP** In 2015 Dustin changed his shape from a draw to a fade – including his pitching. He sets up to promote a slight leftward path through the ball.



**BACKSWING** We can see here how Dustin's left wrist has started to bow and the clubface is shut to the path. His release of the club ensures this does not cause problems.



**AT THE TOP** Dustin uses three stock swing lengths – half, three-quarter and full. Here, he is using his full-length swing.

target distances for each wedge and swing – so nine yardages in all – and he used the ball-tracking tech to see how good he could get at hitting each one. He loved that instant feedback. Dustin likes to warm up for about an hour-and-a-half – about twice as long as most guys on Tour. Until 2016 that would have been based around long game; these days he'll spend upwards of an hour of that time just hitting wedges, working on his numbers. When he won the US Open at Oakmont in 2016, he hit wedges for 75 minutes before teeing off.

**That sounds like something DJ could do by himself; what is your role in this?**



Absolutely, and that's one of its strengths. At any level of golf the last thing we want is for the player to be reliant on their coach; we want them to figure stuff out on their own. The fact it doesn't have a lot to do with me is the ultimate goal. My role is to give DJ information, areas he can get better, and then come up with ideas and ways to make the process something he would be willing to do and look forward to doing. He is very much a feel player, something he doesn't get a lot of credit for, so a launch monitor was ideal, something he could just put on the ground and get instantaneous feedback from.

**Was there any technical work involved?**

Not really, though I strongly believe the changes we made late in 2015, when he took the decision to play with a fade and not a draw, have really helped his wedge game. With the fade the attack gets a little more downward, the path more neutral or even a little left, and Dustin feels like he is a little more on top of the ball through impact, 'covering it' with his chest. These are all things you'd like to do when you are

hitting a wedge anyway, so from that perspective the shape change helped him make progress with his pitching.

**DJ famously has a very bowed left wrist, which puts the clubface into what we would regard as a shut position. How does that not cause issues with pitching and distance control?**

Because he continues to rotate. If you rotate out of the way it minimises and nullifies a lot of things that historically having a shut face like that would cause. I actually think his wrist action is a great way to play; he is basically setting up an angle in the wrists which allows him simply to rotate, and that promotes consistency both of attack angle and face loft. But also, note that DJ releases the club through impact. He is not dragging the handle through, holding on to that lead-arm/clubshaft angle; he hits what we call release fades, and that allows him to deliver the club on the path and with the loft he needs.

**Does he have a tendency you have to guard against?**

**'WHEN HE WON THE US OPEN AT OAKMONT IN 2016, HE HIT WEDGES FOR 75 MINUTES BEFORE TEEING OFF'**



**START DOWN** Even on pitching, it's important Dustin rotates hard as he starts down. This mitigates the closing and delofting that typically accompanies a shut face.



**IMPACT** There is no retaining of angles here; Dustin releases the club through impact, allowing him to deliver loft and helping him swing slightly left through impact.



**FINISH** Compare Dustin's hand height to his top of the backswing position and you can see how close the two are for length. This helps regulate speed and promotes distance control.

Dustin hits bad shots when he gets slow, when he babies it, and that's across the board, not just with wedges. With pitching, the number one thing I'm always telling him is to keep his body and chest speed up, hit it harder, perhaps to find shorter positions on the backswing and follow through so he can hit with the speed he wants.

### If he's not hitting the numbers he wants, how do you handle it?

We basically quantify it by looking at the figures. Say he's looking at hitting a shot of 125 yards and he's hitting it 130-135; we'll tend to look to make that motion a little shorter and tighter, keep the speed in and control the distance. But one thing about Dustin is that he doesn't care if the shot misses to the right; it's just not an issue for him. But he hates the one that misses left. In 2016 and 2017 he pretty much took the whole of the left side of the course out of play by fading the ball; he looks to fade every shot he plays, even shorter pitch shots. We know that if his path is three degrees left of the target and his face one degree closed to the target, he will hit a

nice soft fade, and that's a great lesson for the club player; find a good relationship between the face and path and you can play from anywhere. If he hits a wedge shot left, you can guarantee it's because his path isn't left enough, and his body doesn't rotate. From here, he can overdraw it.

### So, in a nutshell, what can I take from your work with Dustin that will improve my wedge game?

I'd love to tell you there has been some intricate and convoluted process to improving Dustin's wedge play, but there wasn't. Ultimately, the road map to turning a weakness into a strength is pretty simple. Just like the work DJ has done in the gym to improve his shape, this is simply a question of standing there and putting the time in. It's all been about gaining the control that allows him to hit distances at will; he's used a data-led approach, and there's affordable technology out there that will allow anyone to follow the same process. It worked for DJ... and it can work for you. **GP**

Picture Courtesy - Getty Images

### The ordinary golfer doesn't have £20,000 to splash out on a TrackMan; what can we do?

This is true, but there is technology out there anyone can use that do a similar job, especially the Arccos shot-tracking system used by Cobra in its Connect technology. The system uses a sensor in the butt of the club to send data to your phone. Its Smart Distance function gives you an average distance for each shot, with the accompanying Smart Range feature showing you the spread of that distance.

The great thing about this system is that unlike pretty much every other technology it works on the course, giving you a true picture of how you perform when it counts.

Track your wedge shots over eight-12 rounds and you will get an average distance for each wedge. Having got those distances, you can go to the range and use a rangefinder to practise hitting them. You can then work on tightening the dispersion figures thrown up by Smart Range.

After all, pitching performance is not about hitting it further, it's about hitting a specific distance. As Sam Snead once said, "If you want to know how good you are, go to an empty field with your 9-iron, perch up a single ball, and program yourself to hit the ball exactly 125 yards. Hit the shot, then pace off the yardage. If you came within five yards, you're a player."



# PITCH HARMONY

## STRIKE THE RIGHT NOTE WITH DJ'S APPROACH

Claude Harmon reveals three things you can learn from Dustin's razor-sharp wedge game



### 1 KEEP THE SPEED UP TO ADD BITE

For most of us, the Holy Grail of pitching is the shot that bounces once before spinning to a standstill. But to hit that shot you need speed, and most club golfers pitch with an action that has none. The typical problem is a backswing that's too long. We have some sort of internal GPS which tells us this and slows the swing down through impact... and that compromises quality of strike. With DJ we constantly work on keeping the action short and crisp, allowing him to build that speed into his motion. If your wedge play lacks bite, shorten the backswing and follow this rule.

### 2 WORK ON THREE SWING LENGTHS

When I work with an average golfer, I'll give them 10 balls to hit to the same pin. The bad shots are always when the bottom falls out of club and ball speed, perhaps by as much as 5-10mph.

Good players are always within 1-2mph. Nine times out of 10, this is down to swing length either side of the ball.

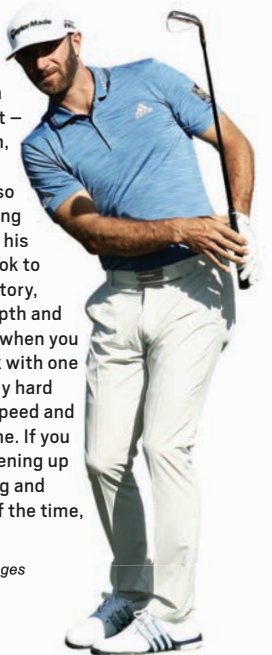
However long your backswing is, your throughswing should mirror it. DJ employs three lengths of swing – half, three-quarter and full – and is very diligent about matching up backswing and follow through lengths. This allows him to deliver the club with consistent acceleration. So just as he did, head to the range and work on creating and hitting those three lengths, marrying up the travel either side of the ball.

This will massively help with keeping up the club speed, strike quality and general consistency.



### 3 WORK ON GIVING YOUR SHOTS THE SAME 'LOOK'

If you tracked 20 pitches to the same target it should look like painting by numbers; but for most club golfers it bears a closer resemblance to abstract art. When I look at Dustin's pitch data on TrackMan I can see it is very consistent – the launch, height, spin, club speed are very uniform. But DJ can also see this simply by looking at the flight of the ball; his shots have the same look to them in terms of trajectory, shape, height, divot depth and of course distance. So when you practise pitching, stick with one distance and work really hard on keeping the swing speed and shot trajectory the same. If you struggle, go back to evening up the length of backswing and follow through; most of the time, this is the issue. **GF**



Picture Courtesy - Getty Images



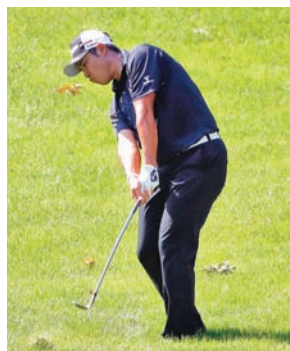
## HIDEKI MATSUYAMA

# ‘Control the speed and start line to hole more putts’

My practice routine changes depending on how I'm playing, but on a typical day I will spend 60 per cent of my time working on putting and my short game. A lot of my short game practice is based around startling the ball on the line and speed I want to. If you do that with the correct read then you will hole the putt.

### Practice one-handed to improve feel

From four feet I make 10 putts with just my left hand on the club, followed by 10 with the right and then 10 with both hands as normal. Add a narrow tee gate in front of the ball to make it harder.




### SHORT GAME: KEEP YOUR LEGS QUIET

My biggest piece of advice for shots around the green is to keep your lower body quiet. Keep your knees bent and weight forward and treat the shot more like a putting stroke so you let the club do the work. Holding a straight right wrist helps to slide the club under the ball rather than scooping it.

### Match putter speed and stroke length

My stroke is quite slow so I take the putter back further than many would as I'm not hitting the ball as hard. My stroke is the opposite of Brandt Snedeker's pop stroke. Both work, but match the length to your speed.

### Start the ball on your intended line

I have a chute-like putting aid that ensures I start the ball on my intended line. I've found it's much easier to do this with my shoulders perfectly square to the target line. You can replicate this with tee gates or canes. 



Picture Courtesy - Getty Images

# YOUR SHOE OF SHOES

By Randy O. Williams

**W**hen it comes to footwear - be it style, technical components, multi-functional models as well as those specifically made for golf, everyone has their own tastes.

And manufacturers' quests in trying to provide players on and off

the course with a complete shoe really is an endless pursuit and a tricky one.

Since it comes down to personal preference, let's allow the pictures and captions here tell the story about how you can get Happy Feet in 2024. **GP**



1



The first new model of 2024 from True Linkswear combines TOUR-level performance with a new fit and feel. LUX G is a fully waterproof (2-year warranty) construction with the signature TRUE easy-on collar and cushioned ride. Designed with style and performance in mind, it offers a comfortable fit and feel unlike anything on the market.

2

Talk about distinctive, these Davinci-Light Blue from Duca Del Cosma will certainly make you stand out and propel you ahead in the style game. The embossed full-grain leather upper, showcases a distinctive design.



3



The Phantom Footwear marks the start of an exciting golf season for Under Armour and for golfers everywhere. Designed in both men's and women's styles, the Phantom takes the footwear that players would usually wear off the course as inspiration in creating a shoe they'll never want to take off. The Phantom Series combines the comfort of a sneaker with the traction and waterproof knit upper of a golf shoe. The waterproof membrane uppers will keep golfers' feet dry and maintain ground-hugging traction to help navigate any condition on the course. With wearability both on and off the course, the Phantom Footwear utilizes Under Armour's technology that is typically used for running shoes, combining both style and functionality.

4



Under Armour's new Drive Pro Series, was developed with leading golf biomechanist, JJ Rivet, to combine style and performance while providing golfers with every solution to gain a competitive edge. What makes the Drive Pro Series unique from other golf shoes is it includes Under Armour's innovative Swing Support System™, a revolutionary 3-layer structure that supports the natural movement of the golf swing, delivering comfort and traction all in one.

5



Feel your best. Play your best. And with Adidas Tour360 24 Wide Golf Shoes that feeling is spreading around the world. Add to the waterproof leather upper, it features 360Wrap for enhanced hold and support. A combination of adidas Lightstrike cushioning and BOOST complement a Torsion Bridge stabilizer to energize every step and stabilizes every stance for powerful drives.

6



The S2G Spikeless 24 model is essentially a running-inspired golf shoe (and of course Adidas knows running!). Featuring waterproof ripstop upper with protective toe cap, OrthoLite® sockliner, molded TPU heel stability clip and Lightstrike cushioning, this model comes in multiple color options. So, lace up and enjoy all-day comfort for social rounds and beyond.

7



The Pro SLX Carbon from Footjoy is a technical marvel guaranteed to “advance your game”. Engineered with the PWR TRAX System, transforming golf footwear with its innovative 3D X-Wing, effectively redistributing energy during your swing for enhanced stability. The Race Trak outsole, featuring Radial Disc Traction, extends into the ground to optimize overall traction, addressing varied on-course conditions and walking needs. The engaged 3D X-Wing, FTF+ foam, and exposed heel stabilizer, effectively manages lateral and upper movement, ensuring a comprehensive blend of traction, comfort, and control.

9



With the reputation as one of golf’s most stable shoes, the Speed2 from Sqairz is now lighter and more breathable than ever. Available in a multitude of colors, what you get is TPU carbon film for heel to arch stability; breathable textured tongue and collar lining forms to your foot for unrivaled comfort and airflow; heel stabilizer that runs from the heel to the arch for integrated arch support and dual-density compression foam removable insole provides immediate step-in comfort.

8



There’s many reasons why the Velo from Sqairz are worn and endorsed by Tour legends Sir Nick Faldo & David Duval and world-renowned instructors Jim McLean, Rick Smith, and David Leadbetter. Mostly they provide a wealth of features. Sta-Put lacing system has printed silicone on the top of the lace to lock in comfort and performance without ever having to tie the laces again throughout the round. Breathable textured tongue and collar lining forms to your foot for unrivaled comfort and airflow. Heel stabilizer that runs from the heel to the arch for integrated arch support. Dual-density compression foam footbed provides immediate step-in comfort. And finally, a new lightweight responsive NRG-Foam midsole delivers optimal comfort and increases energy return.

10



The Gel Ace Pro M from Asics offers advanced stability and cushioning from a shoe company that has been very successful worldwide for decades. MONO-SOCK™ design improves stability. FLYTEFOAM® cushioning helps provide lightweight impact absorption and rearfoot GEL® technology improves shock absorption and creates a softer feeling at foot strike all of which offers good comfort throughout the variations of the course.

11



▲ For your other physical activities off the course, Asics always is a world leader.

These GT-2160 sneakers come in a wide variety of colors and features GEL® technology inserts in the midsole for advanced cushioning underfoot.

12



▲ These Reebok Preseason 94 Low Dynamic shoes carry the story forward with an aggressively lugged outsole to prepare today's consumer for whatever the elements are thrown their way. Colorful and sturdy with a leather and nubuck upper, you can count on these shoes to take any heavy pounding your fitness program incorporates.

13



▲ The Nano X4 Training shoe from Reebok are light and breathable. Available in many different shades, they feature an updated Flexweave® woven textile upper that is ultralight and a new midfoot ventilation panel that allows for greater air flow. Ultimate stability comes from the innovative Lift and Run Chassis system, while Floatride Energy Foam cushions every stride.

14



▲ When you need to expand your footwear to beyond golf and fitness to take on the hard stuff, Olukai's Kekaha boot is a fine choice. Water-resistant waxed leather that improves with each wear you get genuine shearing warmth and unmatched Wet Grip Rubber traction. Additionally, inspired by the feeling of bare feet in wet sand, the anatomically contoured and cushioned footbeds deliver all-day comfort. Footbeds are removable & washable.

15



▲ Versatile, classy and comfortable, these ST.1 Hybrid Wing Tip Derby Shoes from Ecco, will have others in your company asking where they can get a pair for themselves. Available in cocoa brown and black, this lace-up shoe puts a modern spin on a traditional style. Featuring an ultra-light PHORENET™ midsole and innovative SHOCK THRU point provides shock absorption with every step. The lightweight sole provides cushioning and flexibility, using innovative ECCO FLUIDFORM™ Direct Comfort Technology.



By Farzan Heerjee

# INSIDE SCOOP ON AUGUSTA MASTERS 2024

*We at GolfPlus know that you all must have kept a keen eye on the most anticipated event of the year, the event that players train for and the one that patrons watch without batting an eye.*

**W**e speak of course of the Augusta Masters that took place between the 11th and 14th of April in Georgia, USA. This was the 88th edition of the tournament; one of four majors that professional golfers play. It is indeed the ultimate tournament and the following interview with Farzan Heerjee, Vice-President of the Indian Golf Union gives a rare insider scoop of what it was like at ground level.

### What was the highlight of the event for you?

**FRH** The Augusta Masters is a spectacular event from the moment one steps onto the hallowed grounds- so every moment there is a delightful highlight.

However, if I were pressed to isolate an event in particular I would have to say it is the opportunity to see the legend, the myth, and the man himself, Tiger Woods play. I say this not just because he is an aspiration model for generations of golfers, his records and accolades aside, but because of the tenacity and determination that he showed through his game. What truly blew my mind was the way he carried himself through the course despite the numerous injuries and accidents that he had been through. With a ruptured ACL, back issues, injuries to his neck, back, shoulder, and legs and a car accident to boot (to name a few) he walked



(L to R) Farzan Heerjee, Jasjit Singh, Maj. Gen B Bhushan



through one of the toughest hilly terrain golf courses at Augusta just as well as any of the other athletes. I witnessed Tiger Woods set the world record of not just attending the tournament 24 times consecutively, but also making the cut each time. This also meant that even though he did not win, we lucky patrons saw the master in action on the fairway for four whole days. His game attracts fans and leaves them stunned at his performance each time- simply fantastic! On a personal note, with a few aches and pains of my own that come with age, I can't imagine

where he summoned the determination to give such a knockout performance! Tiger Woods is in a league of his own.

### How would you describe the atmosphere and crowd energy?

**FRH** The atmosphere at the Augusta Masters Golf Tournament is typically electric, with a sense of tradition, prestige and anticipation in the air. It is incumbent upon me to point out that team Augusta refers to the spectators more as patrons rather than 'crowds' or 'audience' and what have you. It speaks to how they see their contributions to the game- as patronage that is held to high esteem befitting such a grand platform. So, in that spirit, the patrons are respectful and often dressed in their Sunday best, adding to the sense of occasion. They are always well-behaved, respectful, and deeply knowledgeable about golf. There's a sense of reverence for the tradition and history of the event alongside an air of excitement as the gathering watches their favourite players navigate the iconic course.





**Did you have any favourite players or memorable moments?**

**FRH** As I said, seeing Tiger Woods play was simply phenomenal and goes down as my most memorable moment. However, there are a few more that come to mind and I would love to share my experience. As it was my second time attending Augusta on an all-access pass, I was privy to the goings on within the clubhouse. I had the privilege of meeting exceptional stars of yesteryears. I was able to watch practice sessions and see the heroes of golf strut their stuff on the turf. It is honestly like a picnic at a carnival and I felt like a wonderstruck child on the loose!

Speaking of children, the Masters Par 3 on a shortened course for fathers and their kids, held on that Wednesday was memorable as well. It was not just heartwarming but also prophetic. The girls and boys swung their clubs as if to solidify their future positions on this grand platform. It's the culmination of these small instances that make this tournament iconic.

Lastly, once the metaphorical 'carnival left the city', there was an evening farewell soiree for officials and country federation representatives.

The millions of patrons on the course during the day dwindled to an exclusive dinner party that was by invite only, courtesy of the Chairman of Augusta National Golf Club himself, Mr Fred Ridley. The gracious host organized the banquet beautifully under the legendary grand oak tree. This tree was planted in the 1850s and is well known to be the tree under which the world of golf congregates. It is therefore considered as the living highlight of the Masters that forms the epicentre of one of the most major events of the year. The ambience of the now empty golf course was mesmerizing and serene and will forever be etched into my mind. Hats off to Mr Ridley and his phenomenal team who put this wonderful night together. If there was a heaven on Earth- Augusta is where it's at.

**What was the most surprising thing you learned or observed at the event?**

**Hats off to Mr Ridley and his phenomenal team who put this wonderful night together. If there was a heaven on Earth-Augusta is where it's at.**

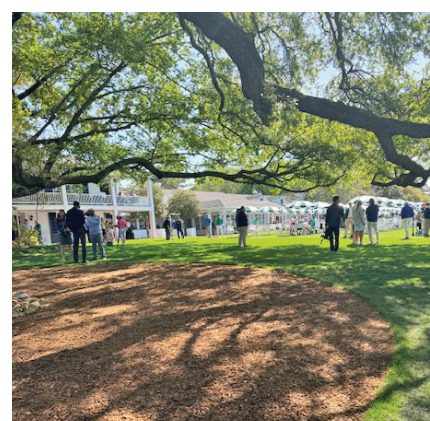
**FRH** It's not so much surprising as it is an incredible observation that one has while attending Augusta. Once the phones are all locked up, it is like you are transported back into the past. An old world with grace and sophistication, call it the old world charm. At this 88th Augusta Masters, golfing giants Jack Nicklaus, Gary Players and Tom Watson hit the ceremonial shots to open the tournament. It is truly class and elegance incarnate. There are no large screens or rambunctiousness at Augusta. There is a manual scoreboard that is updated by the scorekeeper and the scattered oohs and aahs of patrons near that let you know something truly special has happened. Yet, you don't miss a thing. Owing to its legacy and its irreplicable brand power, there are no ads or banners at the tournament. Augusta Masters is unique in that sense as they have done something very few brands can afford to do because they don't need to. It is the ultimate name in golf.

**Were there any challenges or drawbacks to attending?**

**FRH** There were no challenges or drawbacks. Each moment was thrilling and unique in its own way. We witnessed the impeccable conditions of the ground, mind-blowing golf performances and each detail attended to with clockwork precision. The on-ground staff were polite, hard-working, amicable and meted out luxurious comfort beyond belief!

**Did you get the chance to interact with any players or golfing personalities?**

**FRH** Yes, I was fortunate enough to meet



many professionals during my visit. Among them was the great German professional golfer Bernhard Langer with whom I had coffee with. I also met the legendary Tom Watson and English professional golfer Nick Faldo- all golf giants in their own right. South African golf



“ Seeing Tiger Woods play was simply phenomenal and goes down as my most memorable moment. ”

icon Gary Players and, Nick Faldo were kind enough to autograph flags for me to add to my collection of memorabilia and souvenirs.

**How would you rate the organization and logistics of the event?**

**FRH** One has to deeply commend the team that worked tirelessly and seamlessly behind the scenes. For example, 80-100 million USD worth of merchandise was sold at Augusta to the serpentine lines at the kiosk. Yet, stocks were replenished without making any scenes or even the slightest hullabaloo or a moving truck in sight. A truly remarkable feat and a true testament to the brilliance of organization and execution of the staff and team. I, for one, was left wondering how it was all done, but I suppose magicians do not reveal their secrets for a good reason!

**Would you attend another golf event in the future? Why or why not?**

**FRH** I would attend it every time the opportunity presents itself. I consider myself extremely privileged as the Indian Golf Union (IGU) nominated me to go in my capacity as vice president. But even then, a ticket to the Augusta Masters is akin to winning a lottery in that not many people can attend the ultimate tournament as the tickets themselves are expensive. It is when the factors of fate, luck, privilege and opportunity perfectly align that one gets this rare chance. You are made to feel like part of a rare premium club. If a player earns the coveted green jacket by playing, a patron earns it by attending it.

**What advice would you give to someone attending this golf event for the first time?**



**FRH** Should you have the good fortune to receive the golden ticket to Augusta I would advise you to be on your best behaviour. It is not the place for ill manners or any kind of ungentlemanly conduct. Always follow the dress code and do your best to be prim and proper to blend in with the other patrons. Always be kind and show respect for others, the institute you represent, and the grand stage before you. Soak up every moment of it because there is truly nothing like this in the world. It is a tournament steeped in tradition and revered unlike any other.

**Overall, what impression did the event leave on you?**

**FRH** The Masters Tournament at Augusta National is renowned for its rich traditions, stunning scenery, and challenging course. It's one of the most prestigious events in golf, attracting top players from around the world. The tournament is known for its iconic green jacket awarded to the champion, the beautiful azaleas and dogwoods lining the course, and the famous Amen Corner, among other notable features. The tournament's emphasis on tradition, exclusivity, and pristine course conditions contributes to its unique and revered status in the world of golf. The Masters is also known for its strict rules and protocols, creating

a unique and revered atmosphere for both players and patrons alike. The entire experience has left an indelible mark on me- one, much like the tournament, is irreplaceable, irreplicable and in a league of its own.

**What, if any, are some traditions or rules that Augusta follows that are unique or that caught you by surprise- please elucidate**

**FRH** Aside from the well-known ones about the ceremonial starters, Par 3 contests, use of caddies, and no commercialization, Augusta has a few unspoken rules, especially about conduct. For instance, running is forbidden and doing so may result in a lifetime ban. Similarly walking on well-manicured grass instead of the footpath may cause the on-ground police to have a firm word with you. Incidentally, using mobile phones is also frowned upon. Much to my dismay, I was compelled to put my phone away despite wanting to take photographs for keepsake. The rule is a strict one as even the merchandise stands and nearby malls did not have any cameras left for sale. No technology also meant there were no digital scoreboards or large screens that projected the happenings on the course. However, despite this, it is paradise on earth and I wouldn't have it any other way. 🏌️‍♂️



## BROCH ESTRUP, TSAI AND WHITTING DECLARED JOINT WINNERS

➤ Nicole Broch Estrup, Pei-Ying Tsai and Jess Whitting were declared joint winners after the final round of the Australian Women's Classic – Presented by Pacific Resort Studios was cancelled.

As a result of the tournament only being 18 holes, the tournament cannot be classed an official LET tournament so points will not be allocated to the Order of Merit and prize money will be unofficial.

It was decided that the three players tied at the top of the leaderboard at the end of 18 holes would be declared joint winners.

Broch Estrup, Tsai and Whitting all produced rounds of 66 (-6) on Saturday to sit tied at the top of the leaderboard.

Denmark's Broch Estrup, who won on the LET in 2015, said: "I was on the range when I found out. I really wanted to go and play golf. It's really unfortunate that we're not playing, and we can't do anything about the weather.

"I have things I want to improve so while we were waiting, I went to the range. It feels a bit weird. Hopefully, I will get another official win at some point this year, but I will take it."

Australia's Whitting commented: "I wanted a chance to go out there and prove myself, but



then also this is a great outcome too because I could have gone out there and moved further down the ranks. It was out of my control, but I'm pretty excited. It's a pretty cool thing to write down on the resume."

Tsai of Chinese Taipei added: "It feels a little bit weird because I wanted to play today. They are both very good players. It's a good course, so it was also very exciting. It's good [to be a winner], but it would be good to play." **GP**

## SINGAPORE TO HOST FOUR EVENTS IN THE EFG CHINA LADIES PROFESSIONAL GOLFERS Q SERIES

➤ The EFG China Ladies Professional Golfers (CLPG) Q Series will begin in Singapore on May 27- 28, 2024. Supported by EFG Bank AG as a new title sponsor, this four-part competitive event will showcase professional talent from the world of golf as well as attract the interest of young amateur golfers.

In partnership with LLD Sports, this also marks the first time the CLPGQ Series will be held outside China. The dates of the next three events in the Series will be announced in due course.

It will be held at Laguna National Golf Resort Club- the same venue that will host the CLPG Tour's Singapore Ladies Masters from June 14 to June 16, 2024.

EFG Bank AG has a long tradition of supporting young sporting talents in the region. In Singapore, EFG is a long-term sponsor of the country's leading touring golf professional, Koh Sock Hwee, and has strongly committed to support Singapore's most promising young golfers through a national scholarship programme.

EFG has also been the title sponsor for numerous top regional amateur and professional tournaments, including the EFG Singapore

Junior Masters and the EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open.

In Hong Kong, EFG has been supporting Hong Kong's first LPGA Tour star, Tiffany Chan, since her teenage years, when she was one of the beneficiaries of the EFG Young Athletes Foundation.

"We are delighted to partner with LLD Sports in bringing the EFG CLPG Q Singapore Series to fruition," said Albert Chiu, Executive Chairman, Asia Pacific at EFG. He added: "This collaboration underscores our commitment to supporting the development of women's golf, not only in Singapore but across the entire region, as well as our commitment to enriching the local sports scene and empowering athletes to achieve their full potential.

The CLPGQ Series event is open not only to women professionals and amateurs but also to amateur men, giving them the opportunity to earn valuable World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) points.

Participants will have to play a gruelling 36-hole golf marathon on the first day, with only the top 50 players and ties advancing to the third and final round.

Prize money will be awarded solely to the top 10 finishers and ties. As an additional incentive



for amateur golfers to compete against their professional counterparts, they will be eligible for prize money if they finish in the top 10, with a limit of USD 1,000 per event. **GP**



## GOLFER CÉLINE BOUTIER, JOINS THE EVIAN FAMILY !

➤ The Amundi Evian Championship, one of the five women’s professional golf majors, is pleased to share that Céline Boutier, the winner of its 2023 edition, joins the evian® family, one of the tournament’s historical Major Partner !

In this exciting year of sport, evian® is thrilled to welcome the French golf star and hydration champion among its newest ambassadors: Céline Boutier, ranked world n°31, and winner of The Amundi Evian Championship in 2023. evian® natural mineral water<sup>2</sup>, originating from the heart of the Alps, will team up with her on the golf course and in her daily life, highlighting the need to stay hydrated every day.

A champion of healthy hydration<sup>3</sup>, evian® has long maintained close ties with the world of sport, as a worldwide partner for many leading athletes and sporting events around the world.

The spirit of the “Live Young” brand platform, which encourages everyone to be

young in body and mind, regardless of age, is perfectly embodied by these ambassadors.

This year evian® reaffirms this promise by supporting a talented athlete: the golfer Céline Boutier. With a daily life characterised by sports, she is a true source of inspiration for all those wishing to cultivate their health and well-being. Perfectly aligning with the brand values, Céline fully embodies the “Live Young” philosophy.

Staying active and drinking uniquely composed natural mineral water<sup>2</sup>, sourced from alpine glacial rocks, helps you feel good both mentally and physically. Thus the brand will support Céline Boutier to perform at her best across an exciting line up of sporting challenges this year.

“Supporting emerging talents and established names in the sports world is an evian® tradition. While staying hydrated is essential for all of us, it is even more vital for high level athletes. From her exploits and energy, Céline perfectly embodies our philosophy



Anna Magnusson  
Pic Credit - Terre Blanche Golf Club

which celebrates the inner youthfulness in us all.” Christel Chaulet, Marketing Director Hydration at Danone France. **GP**

## MAGNUSSON WINS THE 2024 TERRE BLANCHE LADIES OPEN

➤ Sweden’s Anna Magnusson stormed her way through the final round to finish nine-under-par and claim her third professional victory.

Magnusson, who started two shots behind posted a magnificent 68 (-4) on a low scoring final day at Golf Du Terre Blanche to usurp amateur Sara Brentcheneff from claiming a home win.

The Swede started strongly, firing two birdies in her first three holes before a bogey on the fourth.

Magnusson didn’t let this deter her as she started another birdie train dropping putts in on holes five, six and eight.

At the turn the 29-year-old seemed calm, rolling in consecutive birdies on holes 12 and 13 before nerves set in and two bogeys occurred on 15 and 17.

“It feels amazing,” Magnusson said. “I’m speechless right now. “The first nine I was calm and played some great golf and rolled in some amazing putts but then in the end it was pretty nerve-wracking.”

This win marks Magnusson’s first professional victory outside of the Swedish Golf Tour.

“I was just trying to hit the ball straight and get through the holes at the end, I’m so glad it’s over!”

In 2022, Magnusson earned her LET card through the LET Access Series after placing sixth in the Order of Merit but struggled to cement full LET status for this year.

Now the Swede admits she’s happy to start off her season on LETAS.

“I’m staying one more night here with Emily [Borggren] and we will probably do something fun, have a few beers around the pool and then take it from there.

“But honestly I will probably go straight to bed, it’s been a long week.”



Anna Magnusson  
Pic Credit - Terre Blanche Golf Club

16-year-old French amateur Sara Brentcheneff was a close second finishing one shot behind the Swede on eight-under-par to a roaring home crowd. **GP**



## TAMBURLINI STORMS TO EMPHATIC SEVEN SHOT VICTORY

Chiara Tamburlini sealed her first Ladies European Tour (LET) title in style at the Joburg Ladies Open as she dominated the field over the weekend to win by an emphatic seven shots.

After a faultless performance on Saturday moved the Swiss rookie six shots clear on 14-under par, Tamburlini completed the job on Sunday carding seven birdies en route to a round of 70 (-3).

“This obviously means a lot,” she said. “Being able to win on the LET in like my seventh start or so this year is really special. It just feels like all the hard work has paid off. I am honestly speechless at the moment and beyond grateful to be here and be able to win this tournament today.”

The 24-year-old started hot at Modderfontein Golf Club birdying her first two holes. A bogey on the par-3 3rd briefly halted her momentum before Tamburlini went in to cruise control, birdying the 5th and 9th to go out in 34 and move seven shots clear.

With the Joburg locals watching on, we were treated to a moment of magic on the par-3 11th when both Tamburlini and her playing partner Aunchisa Utama chipped in for birdie from an identical spot.

The Swiss rookie would follow this up with two more birdies on the 12th and 13th to move into dreamland with a 10 shot advantage. After three straight pars, Tamburlini dropped her first shot of the day on the 17th before she found water on the last hole.

But despite the double-bogey, Tamburlini was able to enjoy the moment as she sealed



Chiara Tamburlini  
Pic Credit - Tristan Jones/LET

the seven-shot victory before being soaked in champagne by close friends Elena Moosmann and Sofie Kibsgaard Nielsen.

The newest LET winner said: “I had always dreamed about it but I didn’t know that I was actually capable of doing it, so to be standing here now is just very, very nice.

“I just tried to go lower and lower and keep pushing until the end really. I think that is what kept me in it. I just set myself small little goals during the round, so I didn’t get comfortable, and I think that worked out really well.”

The victory comes less than a year on from the Ole Miss graduate winning twice on the LET

Access Series (LETAS) to secure her LET card.

With the win, Tamburlini becomes the second rookie to win this season after Shannon Tan’s heroics at the season opening Magical Kenya Ladies Open.

The 24-year-old also becomes the third Swiss player to win on the LET, following in the footsteps of Evelyn Orley (1990, Ladies Swiss Classic) and Morgane Metraux (2022 Ladies Italian Open).

In second place finished fellow rookie Utama on 10-under par. India’s Diksha Dagar and Spain’s Luna Sobron Galmes were one further back in a tie for third. **GP**

## DE ROEY CRUISES TO SECOND LET TITLE

Manon De Roey can now call herself a two-time Ladies European Tour (LET) champion after the Belgian cruised to a four-shot victory at the Investec SA Women’s Open.

Leading by three shots on 14-under par before the start of play, the 32-year-old held her nerve in windy conditions at Erinvale carding an even-par round of 70 to claim title number two.

“I’m super happy with my performance this week!” De Roey said. “I had a couple of goals at the beginning of this year and one of them was to win again. I like playing in windy conditions because I feel like I can shape the ball well. I can just let the wind do the work and I feel a bit more relaxed.”

Playing alongside Morocco’s Ines Laklalech and Sweden’s Lisa Pettersson, De Roey got off to a steady start as her playing partners

dropped shots early on carding six pars in a row.

As New Zealand’s Momoka Kobori made a move elsewhere, De Roey carded her first birdie of the day on the par-5 7th before dropping a shot after missing the green on the par-3 8th.

The one-time Olympian bounced back immediately thanks to a clutch birdie in front of the clubhouse on the 9th – one which took her lead to five as Pettersson and Laklalech found trouble on the same hole.

As victory loomed, De Roey would make eight straight pars in a row before dropping a shot on the 18th after three-putting the par-4.

Tapping in the bogey for a four-shot victory, De Roey – an immensely popular figure on Tour – was showered in champagne by Austria’s Christine Wolf and English trio Ellie Givens, Liz Young and Hannah Burke.



In second place on 10-under par finished Kobori and England’s Gabriella Cowley. **GP**

# NURTURING CHAMPIONS A CALL FOR INVESTMENT IN YOUNG INDIAN GOLFERS

By Brig Balwinder Singh Sandhu (Retd)

The Indian golf landscape is experiencing a surge in enthusiasm at the professional, amateur and junior levels. However, translating this grassroots passion into international winning success requires a robust ecosystem.

**W**hile young Indian golfers possess immense talent and ambition, their path to the world stage is often hindered by financial constraints.

## THE HIGH COST OF ASPIRATION

Golf is a multifaceted sport demanding physical strength, mental resilience and significant financial resources. Competing on international tours necessitates investment in logistics, elite coaching, specialized nutrition, and premium equipment. This financial pressure can push promising players towards a cautious style, hindering their potential.

## THE NEED FOR SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship acts as a crucial catalyst for young golfers. Its absence can transform daring competitors into risk-averse players, jeopardizing their dreams. Ironically, corporate support often focuses on established golfers

or club-level leagues, neglecting the critical initial development stages.

## A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

Just like the 1983 Cricket World Cup revolutionized Indian cricket, and Neeraj Chopra's meteoric rise revitalised athletics, Indian golf needs a defining moment. Imagine a young Indian golfer winning Major championship – that would be a game-changer.

## INDIA'S UNTAPPED POTENTIAL


India's flourishing economy boasts globally respected corporate giants. However, a strategic vision to elevate golf – akin to the transformation of cricket – seems lacking. While the government's TOPS scheme inclusion is a positive step, its impact hinges on the number of players it truly supports. A talent-centric approach is paramount, identifying and empowering promising golfers with resources needed to excel on the Asian Tour, DP World Tour, PGA

and win medals at Olympics, Asian and Commonwealth games.

## BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE ECOSYSTEM

The future of Indian golf hinges on a robust ecosystem:


- **Supportive Parents:** Providing encouragement and resources for skill development.
- **Expert Coaches:** Imparting knowledge, refining skills, and fostering sportsmanship.
- **Engaging Media:** Highlighting aspiring golfers, key events to generating corporate and fan interest.
- **Strategic Corporate Backing:** Providing financial aid through sponsorships, enabling access to better training facilities, equipment and professionalisation of the sport.

By fostering synergy between these elements, we can create an enabling environment where Indian golf can flourish and achieve its full potential. 

# OPTIMAS-JAGA INTERNATIONAL SERIES

The Junior Asian Golf Academy (JAGA) and the Emirates Golf Federation (EGF) hosted the inaugural Optimas-JAGA International Series - Order of Merit Championship at the Al-Ain Equestrian, Shooting & Golf Club. The three-day, World Amateur Golf Ranking event showcased a strong field of junior golf talent. Winning the overall championship was Natalii Gupta and Shijun Jing.

The inaugural championship featured an impressive lineup of 11 WAGR-ranked players and two NCAA Division 1 commits who will be joining the prestigious Duke University golf program. The field had players from 24 different countries that represented 16 different golf associations. Along with an overall leaderboard, categories and age groups were created ensuring a comprehensive platform for young golfers to showcase their skills.

Winners received the opportunity to experience 'The JAGA Way' at the Junior Asian Golf Academy campus - Black Mountain, Hua Hin, Thailand for 3, 5, or 7 days this summer along with prizes worth \$85,000 in total including bursaries. 



Kartik Singh



JAGA International Series



Natalii Gupta and Shijun Jing - Overall Champions

## WINNERS OF EACH DIVISION:

### Girls Division:


- Girls U13: Erum Kim (+21)
- Girls U15: Suritpreeya Praksanubal (+7)
- Girls U18: Lavanya Gupta (+4)
- Girls U23: Natalii Gupta (-1, Champion)

### Boys Division:

- Boys U13: Salem Alabdallat (+11)
- Boys U15: Kartik Singh (-12)
- Boys U23: Oliver Mukherjee (-10)
- Boys U18: Shijun Jing (-15, Champion)

# 3RD SENIOR AMATEUR GOLF TOUR ROUND & 1ST MID-AMATEUR TOUR ROUND

The Senior Amateur Golf Tour held its third round of the season at Golden Greens Golf & Polo Club. The event was supported by many golfers who turned up to play. The course was at its usual best. The age categories were Mid-Am 35-49 Senior 50-59, 60-69 & 70+.

The third round had a Strokeplay format with gross and nett prize on offer. The overall best gross trophy was won by Avneet Vohra. Srixon very graciously sponsored the closest-to-pin prizes for the winner in each group. The closest to pin winners in each group were Col. Azad Ruhail, Anurag Sharma, Sukhdev Singh, Amanpreet Guleria, Yash Chaturvedi, Kulwant Singh & Prateek Chawla. 



## The prize winners in the age divisions were :

### Mid-Am (35-49)

- 1- Amanpreet Guleria    2- Gaurav Bagga

### Champions Div (50-59) - Gross

- 1- Avneet Vohra    2- Bobby Kochhar    3- Atul Dhir

### Champions Div (50-59) - Nett

- 1- Yash Chaturvedi    2- Debobroto Chakraborty
- 3- Bobby Kochhar

### Star Div (60-69) - Gross

- 1- Prateek Chawla    2. Col. Azad S.Ruhail    3- Kulwant Singh

### Star Div (60-69) - Nett

- 1- Prateek Chawla    2- Col. Azad S.Ruhail    3- Sukhdev Singh

### Legends Div (70+)

- 1- Ravi Grover

## For the player of the Year awards the Order of Merit for:

**Gross Top 3 :** Avneet Vohra, Col Azad S.Ruhail & Bobby Kochhar.

**Nett Top 3 :** Prateek Chawla, Yash Chaturvedi & Col. Azad S. Ruhail

**Stableford Top 3 :** Bobby Kochhar, Avneet Vohra & Col. Azad S. Ruhail

**Maximum Pars Top 3 :** Avneet Vohra, Col. Anil K. Jule & Bobby Kochhar

**Maximum Birdies Top 3 :** Virender Malik, Neeraj Wadhwa & Rishi Poddar

**Putter of the year Top 3 :** Ravi Grover, Ranjith Nair & Purushottam Dass Sharma



# THE GOLF FOUNDATION 14TH AND 15TH INVITATIONAL FUND RAISER TOURNAMENTS

**Mumbai** : Willingdon Sports Club - Friday, 8th March 2024  
**Delhi** : Delhi Golf Club - Friday, 29th March 2024

**T**he month of March saw The Golf Foundation host the 14th and 15th editions of their Invitational Fundraisers in Mumbai and Delhi. The hugely popular tournaments – played on the 8th of March at the Willingdon Sports Club and on the 29th of March at the Delhi Golf Club – were organised with the objective of creating awareness and raising funds for helping and promoting young underprivileged talented golfers.

Participants in the two events included dignitaries, top corporate heads, golfers and sponsors who support the efforts of The Golf Foundation to develop champions from India, especially those from underprivileged backgrounds who are passionate, highly dedicated and have a dream of making it big in golf on National and International platforms. The events were played in a ‘Two Player Team Scramble’ format, a format which encourages aggressive, fun yet competitive golf and requires strategizing between the two partners.

The Mumbai event had Stableford scoring and saw the pair of Devajyoti Bhattacharya and Devashish Das shoot a team total of 49 points to take home the first position. The 2nd and 3rd positions were decided by a countback where

the pair of Gurpal Sachdev and Viral Sheth pipped the pair of Harmmeet Sawhney and Anuj Thapar for the runner up position when they both ended up with 48 points.

At the Delhi leg, scored on the Net Score format, the team of Sanjay Singh Gehlot and Pushpinder Rathore played some exceptional golf and finished with a team total of Net 55 to take home the 1st position. The runner-up position was taken by experienced golfers Ashit Luthra and Dilip Thomas, when they combined well to card a Net 56 and pipped the pair of Ramanpreet Sohi and Bineet Kumar by 2 strokes, who finished on Net 58.

Both events had special talent from The Golf Foundation on display. This included the kids from Jandali village who showcased their golf skills by competing with a ‘Saria’ (a golf club fashioned out of a construction rod), Yuvraj Singh who assisted players with his driving, Savdeep Kadian who was the ‘Third Putter’ for all pairs on one of the holes and Harsh Singh, who, despite having a speech and hearing impairment is leading the order of merit in his category on the IGU Tour.

Both the events were graced by India’s Cricket World Cup winning captain and legend Mr. Kapil Dev. In addition, the Mumbai event



had Miss Supranational India Sonal Kukreja and the Delhi event had Miss India World Nandini Gupta in attendance. Amongst the other activities, during the Delhi leg, The Golf Foundation felicitated various coaches and ex-professional golfers who have supported and assisted the Foundation over the years at various levels.

Speaking at the event, Founder-President of The Golf Foundation, Asian Games Gold



Amit Luthra addresses the gathering



Hitashaee Bakshi and Nandini Gupta, Miss India World 2023 at the event



Mr. Dilip Thomas, an avid supporter of TGF and Golf addresses the gathering



Angad Luthra, CEO of The Golf Foundation tees off at the tournament

Medallist and Arjuna Awardee Amit Luthra said, "We were humbled on being conferred the prestigious Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar, the highest award for sports promotion in India, by the Hon'ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind. This was thanks to the efforts of all the people who have supported the Foundation - both directly and indirectly - over the years. And I am grateful to all our sponsors for their continued support".

**BOTH THE EVENTS WERE BACKED BY EMINENT SPONSORS AND ORGANISATIONS WHICH ALL HELPED IN COLLECTING A TOTAL AMOUNT OF RS. 2.60 CRORES,** which will go towards supporting The Golf Foundation beneficiaries.

These included venue partners Delhi Golf Club and Willingdon Sports Club. Other esteemed sponsors included Indian Oil, Oil India, ONGC,

GAIL, BPCL, DLF, T&T Motors, EXL, Golf Plus – Print Media Partner, Group L, Grant Thornton – Scoring Partners, Air India – Airline Partner, Holtec, Shashi & Raj Bhargava Trust, Imperial Hotel, Savram, Ms. Banmala Singh, AKU's Burger, Eurosport, SRF, Truefitt & Hill, Ascot Hospitality, Volvo, Coal, Denave, William Grant & Sons, Indigo, Voltas Beko, Exathermometrics, 360, The Suryaa, Farmers Pride, Colonels Kebab, Havells, Radsson, Eros Hotel, BG foundation, AVT, MYND, Policy Bazaar, World Auto Forum, Creame Centre, Gold Ice cream, Bread Bar, Gelato Bar, ITC Hotels, MG motors, Selected Homme, Masque Restaurant, Foo Restaurant, Decathlon, Mirabillis, Spark Advertising. The Golf Foundation is affiliated to IGU and is supported by PGTI.

The Delhi event was managed by Digraj Golf Inc and the Mumbai event by Evolution Sport. **GP**

**RESULTS AT A GLANCE:**

**MUMBAI EVENT – 8th March 2024**

**ON COURSE OVERALL SKILLS PRIZES**

Overall Closest to the Pin  
Winner: Armaan Shah  
Overall Longest Drive  
Winner: Karan Kamte  
Runner Up: Armaan Thapar

**MAIN TOURNAMENT PRIZES**

**2ND RUNNER UP TEAM – 48 points**

- 1. Harmeet Sahney
- 2. Anuj Thapar

**RUNNER UP TEAM – 48 points**

- 1. Gurpal Sachdev
- 2. Viral Sheth

**WINNING TEAM – 49 points**

- 1. Devajyoti Bhattacharya
- 2. Devashish Das

**DELHI GOLF CLUB EVENT - 29TH MARCH 2024**



The tournament winners - Pushpinder Rathore and Sanjay Singh Gehlot receiving their prizes from the dignitaries



TGF 15th edition celebratory cake cutting ceremony

**ON COURSE OVERALL SKILLS PRIZES**

**ASCOT Closest to the Bunker on Hole# 6**  
Winner: Shon Kipgen

**THE IMPERIAL Straightest Drive on Hole # 9**

Winner : Brig. CK Maitra  
2nd: DP Singh

**HAVELLS 3rd Shot Closest to the Pin on**

**Hole# 14**

Winner: Ranvir Mittroo

**THE SURYAA 2nd Shot Closest to the Pin on Hole 16**

Winner: Girish Virk

**MAIN TOURNAMENT PRIZES**

**2ND RUNNER UP TEAM – Net 58**

- 1. Ramanpreet Sohi
- 2. Bineet Kumar

**RUNNER UP TEAM – Net 56**

- 1. Ashit Luthra
- 2. Dilip Thomas

**WINNING TEAM – Net 55**

- 1. Pushpinder Rathore
- 2. Sanjay Singh Gehlot

# GO GOLF !

30-31 March 2024

**G**ulmohar Golfer of the Year 2024 took place on 30th & 31st March as part of the MP Financial Services-Go Golf 2024 calendar.

At Gulmohar Greens-Golf & Country Club, Ahmedabad with 77 golfers participating in the event.

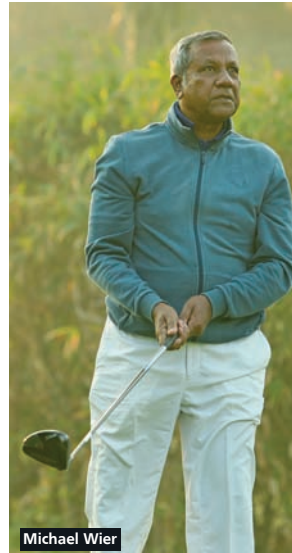
Total 37 Golfers from 4 categories earned Reward Points. **GP**



Hiren Thakkar



Ravi Shah



Michael Wier



Juhi Mavani

### 3/11 G G O Y - MARCH 2024 - SUMMARY

#	CATEGORY	PRIZES	NAME	GROSS	POINTS
1	Category - 1	Winner	RAVI SHAH	80	38 (B9-23)
2	H'cap 0-14	Runner up	ANKIT SHAH	83	38 (B9-20)
3	Category - 2	Winner	MICHAEL WEIR	86	38
4	H'cap 15-23	Runner up	HARDIK PARIKH	88	36
5	Category - 3	Winner	HIREN THAKKAR	95	43
6	H'cap 24-36	Runner up	NAVJOT SINGH BHAMRA	97	41
5	Category - 4	Winner	JUHI MAVANI	89	44
6	JUNIOR	Runner up	YASHVI SHAH	102	42

### SKILL COMPETITIONS

7	Longest Drive - Hole # 1	ANSH JOBANPUTRA	253 YARDS	OVER ALL
8	Closest to Pin - Hole # 3	MOHAN LAL	5'10" FT	
9	2nd Shot Closest to Pin - Hole # 9	MEET MAVANI	5'10" FT	

13-14 April 2024

**G**ulmohar Greens Golf & Country Club, Ahmedabad organised an AM/AM event on 13th & 14th April as part of their MP FINANCIAL SERVICES-Go Golf 2024 calendar. 62 golfers who participated in the event and Winner & Runner Up in each category were announced. Total 30 Golfers from 2 categories earned Reward Points. **GP**



Sanjeev Kumar



Manjeet Singh



Neev Patel



Tejas Deswal

### AM / AM - APRIL 2024 - SUMMARY

#	CATEGORY	PRIZES	NAME	GROSS	NETT
1	0 - 18	Winner Team	TEJAS DESWAL	67	53
2			NEEV PATEL		
3		Runner up Team	S P SINGH	72	58
4	SURESH PANWAR				
5	19 - 30	Winner Team	SANJEEV KUMAR	74	53
6			MANJEET SINGH		
7		Runner up Team	KAMLESH TIWARI	82	55
8	BHAVIN OZA				

# A GAME OF GOLF TO SPREAD ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS IN DELHI

**G**olf lovers from across the country came together to tee off the Road Safety Golf Cup, organised by Community Against Drunken Driving (CADD) at the Qutab Golf Course on Friday. Former cricketers

Dr Syed Kirmani and Manoj Prabhakar also participated in the game and showed their support for the mission. Former cricketer Atul Wassan also joined them in signing the pledge to support the cause of road safety and wrote, "Left is always right," on the

signing board. Prince Singhal, organizer of the event and founder of CADD, said, "People need to practice road safety every day, every hour. The idea was to bring stakeholders from different walks of life to join and promote the cause." **GP**



Pawan Munjal, Chairman, M.D. & CEO - Hero MotoCorp tees off at the event



Prince Singhal, Founder, CADD with cricketer Manoj Prabhakar



Signing the pledge - Pawan Munjal



Signing the pledge - Syed Kirmani



Prince Singhal, Founder, CADD with cricketer Syed Kirmani

**"Golf is my favourite game after cricket, so I am glad I was here to help raise awareness about road safety through my participation in the game. It is a good initiative."**

**Dr. Syed Kirmani, former cricketer**



# NISSAN AND PGTI JOINTLY LAUNCH NISSAN PRESENTS CHANDIGARH OPEN 2024 HOSTED BY CHANDIGARH GOLF CLUB



(L to R) Mr. Ravibir Singh, President, Chandigarh Golf Club, leading Indian professionals Abhinav Lohan, Gaganjeet Bhullar and Jeev Milkha Singh, Mr. Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI, Mr. Rohit Dagar, Captain, Chandigarh Golf Club and Dr. Agnish Rajesh, Chairman, Tournaments & Handicapping, Chandigarh Golf Club, pose with the trophy at the Press Conference

**N**issan and TATA Steel Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) jointly announced the inaugural Nissan presents Chandigarh Open hosted by Chandigarh Golf Club.

The tournament carried a prize purse of INR 1 crore and was scheduled to be played at the prestigious Chandigarh Golf Club from April 3 - 6, 2024.

The field was set to feature a galaxy of stars including leading Indian names such as Jeev Milkha Singh, Gaganjeet Bhullar, SSP Chawrasia, Om Prakash Chouhan, Manu Gandas, Rahil Gangjee, Rashid Khan, TATA Steel PGTI Ranking leader Veer Ahlawat, Abhinav Lohan, Yuvraj Singh Sandhu, Chikkarangappa and Karandeep Kochhar, to name a few.

Among the three amateurs participating was Jeev Milkha Singh's 14-year-old son Harjai Milkha Singh. It was to be Harjai's first-ever

appearance at a PGTI event.

**Mr. Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI,** said, "We are pleased to announce the inaugural edition of the Nissan presents Chandigarh Open 2024 hosted by Chandigarh Golf Club. We thank Nissan Motors India Pvt. Ltd. and the Chandigarh Golf Club for their support to this event. It promises to be a thrilling week with some of India's golfing greats such as Jeev Milkha Singh, Gaganjeet Bhullar and SSP Chawrasia, highlighting a strong field. The golf-loving Chandigarh crowds can expect a visual spectacle."

**Mr. Ravibir Singh, President, Chandigarh Golf Club,** said, "We are delighted to host the inaugural Nissan presents Chandigarh Open. The tournament promises to be a treat for golf fans in Chandigarh with some of the biggest names in Indian golf teeing it up and vying for a handsome prize purse. The event provides a great opportunity for the young golfing talents of

Chandigarh to get a first-hand experience of golf at the highest level and also for us to showcase our course to a much wider audience through the live coverage in the last two rounds."

**Mr. Rohit Dagar, Captain, Chandigarh Golf Club,** said, "We at the Chandigarh Golf Club are happy to host the Nissan presents Chandigarh Open 2024 hosted by Chandigarh Golf Club for a prize money of INR 1 crore. The event has attracted a very strong field with players like Jeev Milkha Singh winner of multiple tournaments across the world, SSP Chawrasia, Ajeetesh Sandhu, Karandeep Kochhar, Gaganjeet Bhullar, Manu Gandas and Rahil Gangjee. Overall, it promises to be an exciting and competitive week of golf."

The event was supported by PGTI's Tour Partners **TATA Steel, Rolex, Amrutanjana Electro+, Nissan Motors India Pvt. Ltd., Bisleri, Golf Plus Monthly, Athletic Drive and Golf Design India.**

**Content Editor:** Nikhil Kalaan, Media Manager, PGTI





# GAGANJEET BHULLAR OUTSHINES RIVALS ON FINAL DAY TO LIFT TROPHY AT NISSAN PRESENTS CHANDIGARH OPEN 2024 HOSTED BY CHANDIGARH GOLF CLUB

**BHULLAR SETS NEW RECORD FOR LOWEST WINNING TOTAL AT CHANDIGARH GOLF CLUB**



Champion Gaganjeet Bhullar receives the trophy and cheque from Mr. Ravibir Singh, President, Chandigarh Golf Club (2nd from right) and Mr. Rohit Singh Dagar, Captain, Chandigarh Golf Club (extreme right). The other dignitaries seen in the picture are Dr. Agnish Rajesh, Chairman, Tournament & Handicapping, Chandigarh Golf Club (2nd from left) and Mr. Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI (extreme left).



Gaganjeet Bhullar - Winner

**I**ndian star Gaganjeet Bhullar lived up to his billing of being one of the pre-tournament favourites as he outshined all his rivals in the final round to lift the trophy at the INR 1 crore Nissan presents Chandigarh Open 2024 hosted by Chandigarh Golf Club.

Bhullar (67-67-65-68), a 12-time international winner who was playing at his home course, bagged his 25th career title and 13th win on the PGTI after posting a gritty last round of four-under 68 to ease to a comfortable four-shot victory with a week's tally of 21-under 267 which also happened to be the lowest winning total at the Chandigarh Golf Club.

Gaganjeet's third win at the Chandigarh Golf Club saw him eclipse the previous best 72-hole total at the venue which was 20-under 268 achieved by Ajeetesh Sandhu and Rashid Khan at the Jeev Milkha Singh Invitational 2019. Ajeetesh went on to win that event in a playoff.

Angad Cheema (66-67-66-72), another

Chandigarh-based pro who was the overnight joint leader along with Bhullar, shot a 72 in round four to finish runner-up at a total of 17-under 271.

Gaganjeet Bhullar's ball-striking was on point as he found all fairways except one in the final round. His hitting coupled with his good wedge shots and one long conversion on the 15th earned him seven birdies in round four at the expense of three bogeys. The 35-year-old Gaganjeet, a winner on the DP World Tour, established a three-shot lead by the 11th hole and never looked back thereafter.

Bhullar, who took home the winning cheque worth Rs. 15 lakh, said, "I knew about the 72-hole course record being within my grasp but the target in my mind was 25-under for the week. The way I was playing, I thought I could achieve it."

"Nonetheless, 21-under is a great score. I could not start off well this year, so I needed a really solid week here at home to give me a boost for

the rest of the season. A win in the first half of the year is just what I was looking for."

Angad Cheema, on the other hand, missed fairways regularly in round four and as a result could not mount a challenge for the title. Angad carded a 72 that featured two birdies and two bogeys. **GP**



Angad Cheema - Runner-up





# VEER AHLAWAT CONTINUES FINE FORM WITH VICTORY AT NISSAN PRESENTS DELHI-NCR OPEN 2024, EXTENDS LEAD IN TATA STEEL PGTI RANKING



Champion Veer Ahlawat receives the trophy from Mr. Rajesh Srivastava, Head - Marketing & Communications, Nissan Motor India



Veer Ahlawat - Winner

**G**urugram's Veer Ahlawat continued his fine form with a flawless last round of six-under 66 to march to a one-shot victory at the INR 1 crore Nissan presents Delhi-NCR Open 2024 played at the Noida Golf Course.

Veer (68-67-70-66), fresh from his joint runner-up finish at the Indian Open two weeks back, totaled 17-under 271 to take home his third professional trophy and the winning cheque worth INR 15 lakh. The tall and lanky 28-year-old from the DLF Golf & Country Club thus further extended his lead in the TATA Steel PGTI Ranking as his earnings moved to INR 86,82,267.

Manu Gandas (68-69-66-69), a former champion of the Delhi-NCR Open and another Gurugram-based golfer, gave Veer a tough fight on the final day before signing off with a final round of 69 to finish runner-up at 16-under 272. Manu bagged a cheque worth INR 10 lakh to move up from third to second position in the PGTI's merit list.

Veer Ahlawat, who was overnight third and two off the lead, had a confidence-boosting start as he made birdie on the first hole followed by a chip-in for eagle on the second.

Veer's accurate tee shots contributed to his strong start. The 6-foot 4-inch tall Ahlawat collected three more birdies on the eighth, 10th and 14th.

Veer had a stroke of luck on the 18th where his drive bounced out of the hazard and ended up off the fairway but just 50 yards from the flag. He then landed it 15 feet from the flag before making a two-putt for victory even as his closest rival Manu missed an up and down from the bunker to drop a bogey on the 18th.

Veer said, "I came into the tournament high



Manu Gandas - Runner-up

**I came into the tournament high on confidence thanks to my runner-up finish in a strong field at the Indian Open two weeks back.**

on confidence thanks to my runner-up finish in a strong field at the Indian Open two weeks back. I just focused on my game today even while it was close on the back-nine and kept hitting fairways and greens. I wasn't really in danger of dropping a bogey at any point."

The newly-married Ahlawat added, "It was great to have my parents and my wife come out to support me today. My wife has been walking all 18 holes with me in recent events and I feel she has been my good luck charm. My mother saw me win for the first time today, so that was quite an emotional moment for me." **GP**





# M DHARMA CLAIMS LONG-AWAITED VICTORY AT GURGAON OPEN 2024 POWERED BY AMRUTANJAN



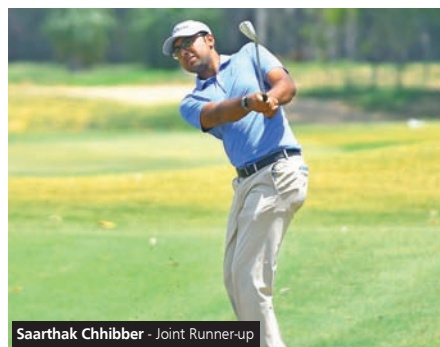
Champion M Dharma receives the trophy & cheque from Mr. Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI (extreme right) and Mr. Rajesh Srivastava, Head, Marketing & Communications, Nissan Motor India (2nd from left). Mr. Keshav Kumar, GM, Classic Golf & Country Club (extreme left), is also seen in the picture.



M Dharma - Winner



Khalin Joshi - Joint Runner-up



Saarthak Chhibber - Joint Runner-up



Yashas Chandra - Joint Runner-up

**M** Dharma of Bengaluru claimed a long-awaited victory after he signed for a final round card of four-under 68 and finished an impressive five strokes ahead of the rest of the field at the INR 1 crore Gurgaon Open 2024 powered by Amrutanjan played at the Classic Golf & Country Club in Nuh, Haryana.

The 38-year-old Dharma (66-69-67-68) totaled 18-under 270 for the week to end his seven-year-long winless streak as he triumphed for the first time since 2017. Dharma's third professional win earned him a cheque worth INR 15 lakh that lifted him from 40th place to seventh position in the TATA Steel PGTI Ranking.

Khalin Joshi (69-71-68-67), another Bengalurean, produced the day's joint lowest round of 67 to clinch tied second place at 13-under 275.

The other two joint runners-up along with Khalin were Delhi's Saarthak Chhibber (71-70-64-70) who registered a career-best finish and Mysuru's Yashas Chandra (69-69-69-68) who secured his third top-10 of the season to rise four spots to sixth position in the TATA Steel PGTI Ranking.

M Dharma, who enjoyed a two-shot lead ahead of the last round, further built on his lead with four birdies till the 12th hole where his good hitting form saw him land the ball within 10 feet consistently.

Sitting with a comfortable four-shot lead after 12 holes on a day characterized by less wind and calm conditions, Dharma dropped two bogeys on the last six holes but also capitalized on the par-5s 14th and 18th with birdies to close out the match with relative ease.

Dharma said, "I've had to wait a long time for this victory so I'm just soaking in the moment. My terrific ball-striking was the best aspect of my game this week. Even though I came close to winning number of times over the last few years, I kept patience, didn't lose heart and stuck to my task by continuing to work on my game. This positive approach finally paid off for me.

"The big change in my game has been that I now don't get angry with myself or lose focus after dropping a bogey or two. I take it in my stride and look to come back stronger."

Going into the mid-season break, Veer Ahlawat leads the TATA Steel PGTI Ranking with season's earnings of INR 86,82,267. Ahlawat enjoys a lead of more than INR 38 lakh over nearest rival Manu Gandas. **GP**





## TATA STEEL PGTI RANKINGS

### Tata Steel PGTI Order of Merit as of GURGAON OPEN 2024 powered by AMRUTANJAN (EVENT - 09)

POS	GOLFER	HOME TOWN	PLAYED	WINS	CUTS	TOP-10s	TOTAL PRIZE
1	VEER AHLAWAT	GURUGRAM	4	1	3	3	₹ 8682267
2	MANU GANDAS	GURUGRAM	9	1	7	3	₹ 4830955
3	RAHIL GANGJEE	BENGALURU	7	0	6	5	₹ 4605657
4	ANGAD CHEEMA	MOHALI	9	0	7	4	₹ 2965650
5	ABHINAV LOHAN	FARIDABAD	9	1	4	4	₹ 2458550
6	YASHAS CHANDRA M S	MYSORE	8	0	5	3	₹ 2380393
7	M DHARMA	BENGALURU	8	1	5	1	₹ 1953050
8	SHAURYA BINU	BENGALURU	9	1	3	2	₹ 1792725
9	AKSHAY SHARMA	CHANDIGARH	7	0	7	1	₹ 1734623
10	GAGANJEET BHULLAR	KAPURTHALA	3	1	2	1	₹ 1732400
11	KARAN PRATAP SINGH	FARIDABAD	9	0	5	2	₹ 1727830
12	SAPTAK TALWAR	DELHI	7	0	6	2	₹ 1515230
13	MANI RAM	MADHUBAN	6	0	4	2	₹ 1486817
14	KARANDEEP KOCHHAR	CHANDIGARH	3	0	2	1	₹ 1485034
15	DHRUV SHEORAN	DELHI	8	0	7	2	₹ 1336900
16	AMAN RAJ	PATNA	8	0	7	1	₹ 1316167
17	MICHELE ORTOLANI	MILAN	6	0	5	3	₹ 1270142
18	SAARTHAK CHHIBBER	DELHI	8	0	5	2	₹ 1226492
19	JAIRAJ SINGH SANDHU	CHANDIGARH	9	0	7	1	₹ 1216410
20	KHALIN H JOSHI	BENGALURU	9	0	4	2	₹ 1192584
21	SACHIN BAISOYA	DELHI	9	0	7	2	₹ 1187127
22	ARJUN PRASAD	DELHI	8	0	6	2	₹ 1173675
23	UDAYAN MANE	PUNE	9	0	7	1	₹ 1080897
24	RASHID KHAN	NOIDA	6	0	6	1	₹ 958287
25	MOHD AZHAR	VIKARABAD	8	0	7	1	₹ 918785



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[www.maitriindia.org](http://www.maitriindia.org)



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