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MONTHLY

April 2025, ₹ 250

Registration No.

UP/GBD-68/2024-2026

RNI No. UPENG/2008/25541

No.1 Golf  
Magazine  
in India

## TRAVEL

LAGUNA LANG CO THE  
ULTIMATE GATEWAY  
TO VIETNAM

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## THE MONTH THAT WAS!

**G**olf is a game of skill, strategy, and resilience-qualities that were on full display at this year's Hero Indian Open. As one of Asia's most prestigious tournaments, it continues to be a platform where champions are crowned and Indian golf asserts its growing presence on the global stage. It's always exciting to witness the action unfold, and this year was no exception.

Eugenio Chacarra emerged victorious, delivering a composed and strategic performance to secure a two-stroke victory-becoming the first Spaniard to win the Hero Indian Open. Keita Nakajima, the defending champion, put up a strong fight, finishing at 2-under-par, demonstrating the grit and talent that make this event so competitive. Adding to the excitement, Veer Ahlawat made Indian fans proud with a stellar performance, finishing tied for second place at 13-under-par-the best result by an Indian golfer at this event since 2017. His final-round eagle was a testament to the talent and potential of India's golfing future.

Beyond the Hero Indian Open, Indian golf continues to expand its horizons. The Adani

Invitational Golf Championship 2025, held at Jaypee Greens Golf & Spa Resort was another major milestone. With a ₹1.5 crore prize purse, it brought together top talent and reinforced the Adani Group and PGTI's commitment to growing the sport. Another exciting development is the upcoming Golf Training Academy at Belvedere Golf & Country Club in Ahmedabad, which will play a crucial role in nurturing young talent and making golf more accessible to aspiring players across the country.

With each tournament, Indian golf is gaining momentum. The performances of our homegrown players, the investments in the sport, and the sheer passion of the golfing community are shaping an exciting future. Whether you're a player, a fan, or someone new to the game, I hope this edition offers insight into the remarkable journey of Indian golf and the thrilling moments that define it.

Happy reading!

Editor-in-Chief  
editor@golfplusmonthly.com



**APRIL 2025**  
**Vol.-XVIII, Issue - 4**

**Editor-in-Chief:** Anil Dev

**Contributing Editors:**

Brandon de Souza  
Digraj Singh  
Farzan Heerjee  
Gaurav Bajaj  
Maj. D.N. Dass  
Michael Wilson  
Raja Danish Aman  
Randy Williams

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

**Place of Publication:**

Golf Plus: 436, Sector-37,  
Noida 201301 (U.P.), India  
Tel.: +91-120-4570554

**Marketing Department**

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

**News Desk:**

newsdesk@golfplusmonthly.com

**Subscription:**

subscription@golfplusmonthly.com

**Owner, Printer & Publisher:**

Anil Dev

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April 2025

This month don't miss...



## Feature

### 17 BIG WYNN FOR ORTIZ AFTER HARD-FOUGHT BATTLE WITH REED

Mexico's Carlos Ortiz held off Patrick Reed to claim the International Series Macau presented by Wynn, after a closely fought battle between the LIV Golf stars at Macau Golf and Country Club. Ortiz won the International Series Oman last year and made it win number two on The International Series and Asian Tour after closing with a six-under-par 64 to finish three ahead of Reed on 22-under.

### 24 MIN WOO LEE HOLDS NERVE FOR FIRST PGA TOUR TITLE

Min Woo Lee held off the challenge of a high-class chasing pack to win his first PGA TOUR title at the Texas Children's Houston Open. The Australian entered the final round at Memorial Park Golf Course with a four-shot lead and despite barely putting a foot wrong in making birdies on the third, ninth, 12th and 13th on the final day, he endured a tense finish amid charges from Gary Woodland and Scottie Scheffler.

### 26 JENEATH WONG WINS IN DRAMATIC FASHION AT HOIANA SHORES

They call Hoi An the city of lanterns and it was Jeneath Wong who shone brightest enroute to winning the seventh edition of the Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific (WAAP) championship. With a skilful and courageous display of front-running, the 20-year-old wrote her name into the record books as the first Malaysian winner of the region's pre-eminent women's amateur championship.

## Ladies on the Link

### 41 DE ROEY CLINCHES THIRD LET TITLE

Manon De Roey made a clutch birdie at the 18th hole of the Australian Women's Classic to clinch the title and become a three-time Ladies European Tour (LET) winner.

On a nervy final day, the Belgian kept her cool

late on dialling in an excellent approach to seven-feet at the par-4 18th before sealing the putt for LET victory number three. Signing for a round of 69 (-1), De Roey pipped England's Cara Gainer to the trophy with a winning score of nine-under par.

## Masterclass Instruction

### 33 LOFTY AMBITION

When you're in a bunker you need to hit the shot with an open face. That promotes loft and sole bounce – the rounded rear sole that stops the club digging into the sand. To practise this open face, pile some sand on the face, then put your ball on top of the sand – you'll need to open the face wide to keep it there. Make a slow-mo swing, back and through, keeping the ball and sand on the face. To do this, the face must point to the sky... keeping the face open and the loft and bounce in an ideal position.

### 38 MAKE SURE YOUR NEXT SHOT IS A PUTT

The world's best players rarely make a poor decision because they talk everything through with their caddies. Over the years numerous caddies have told us they could save anyone shots with the right advice, at the right time. While we can't send Joe LaCava, Billy Foster or Fanny Sunesson to join you on a round, we can share the tips and tricks that will make a difference to your game. Here, we take a look at four short game situations.

## Travel

### 51 LAGUNA LANG CO STEPS UP AS HUE TAKES CENTRE STAGE

Laguna Lang Co is positioning itself as the pinnacle of luxury and the ultimate gateway to Hue City's cultural, historical, and natural wonders as the former capital hosts Vietnam's National Tourism Year 2025.

Sandwiched between rainforest-clad mountains and the ocean along the pristine coastline of Lang Co Bay, Laguna Lang Co stands out as one of the country's most expansive and versatile

integrated resorts, offering a blend of opulence and immersion into Vietnam's rich heritage.

## PGTI

### 54 OM PRAKASH CHOUHAN FINISHES JOINT RUNNER- UP AT KOLKATA CHALLENGE 2025

Nineteen-year-old Englishman Joshua Berry capped a dream week with a playoff victory at the US\$300,000 Kolkata Challenge 2025, a HotelPlanner Tour & PGTI joint sanctioned event, played at the revered Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC). Joshua Berry, Norway's Andreas Halvorsen, Austria's Lukas Nemecz and India's Om Prakash Chouhan headed into a playoff where Joshua finally triumphed with a dramatic 19-foot birdie conversion on the second extra hole.

### 60 BREAKING BARRIERS IN INDIAN GOLF

The Kapil Dev - Grant Thornton Invitational returns for its third edition, introducing a groundbreaking mixed format that's set to transform the Indian golf landscape. This prestigious tournament, co-presented by cricket legend Kapil Dev and premium consulting firm Grant Thornton Bharat, has established itself as a key fixture on the Indian golf calendar, driving growth and inclusivity in the sport. Proudly hailed as India's best golf course 2024 by the World Golf Awards, the tournament is set to tee off at Prestige Golfshire in Bengaluru from April 24 to 26, 2025.

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# THE FIVE STATES OF THE MIND

## SADHGURU ISHA FOUNDATION

**Sadhguru:** Your mind can be in five different states. It could be inert. That means it is not activated at all, it is in a rudimentary state. If you energize it, then the mind becomes active but scattered. If you energize it further, it is no longer scattered but it is oscillating. If you energize it further, it becomes one-pointed. If you energize it still further, it will become conscious. If your mind is conscious, it is magic; it is a miracle, it is the bridge to the beyond.

Inert minds are not a problem. Someone who is very simple-minded and whose intellect is still not effervescent has no trouble. He eats well, he sleeps well. It is only people who can think, who cannot sleep. Simple-minded people perform all the activities of the body far better than the so-called intellectual people. There is a certain peace in it because you need some intelligence to cause disturbance and chaos. It is scattered intelligent minds which are disturbed and chaotic within themselves. But an inert mind is closer to animal nature than the possibility of what it means to be human.

So inert minds are one way, but the moment

you pump in some energy, it becomes active but it could be scattered. For a lot of people, after they come to the yoga programs, they become much more disturbed than before. They were sleeping and eating better before they came to yoga. Now their mind is thinking all kinds of things. They were never troubled by such things before because the mind was inert.

Once you start doing spiritual practices, the mind becomes effervescent, and it could become a scattered mind. Those who had a very scattered mind, they have come to a place where the mind is not so scattered, but it is oscillating - one day this way, another day that way. This is a huge improvement over being scattered moment to moment in ten different places.

If the mind was already an oscillating mind, and you energize it further, then slowly the mind becomes one-pointed. That is far better, but the most important thing is, the mind should become a conscious process. If it becomes a conscious process, the most miraculous thing in this existence is the human mind. In terms of instruments, it is


not your computer, car or spacecraft, but the human mind which is the most miraculous thing. This is the most miraculous thing to happen if only you could use it consciously.

The reason why for one person success comes so easy and naturally, while for another it is a struggle is because one person thinks the way he wants to and another thinks against himself. There is a beautiful story in the yogic lore.

A man went for a walk and accidentally walked into paradise. After the long walk he felt a little tired and thought, "I wish I could rest somewhere." He saw a nice beautiful tree beneath which there was wonderful soft grass. So he went and slept on the grass. After a few hours, he woke up well rested. Then he thought, "Oh! I am hungry. I wish I had something to eat." He thought of all the nice things he wanted to eat and all of them just appeared in front of him.

After he had the sumptuous food, the man thought, "Oh! I am thirsty, I wish I had something to drink." He thought of all the drinks he wanted to drink and all of them appeared in front of him.





Once you start doing spiritual practices, the mind becomes effervescent, and it could become a scattered mind.

In yoga, the human mind is referred to as markata or the monkey because of its wandering nature. The word monkey has also become synonymous with imitation. If you say you are monkeying somebody, it means imitating someone - this is the full-time job of your mind.

So an unestablished mind is referred to as a monkey. When this “monkey” became active in the man who went to paradise, he thought, “What the hell is happening here? I asked for food, food came. I asked for drink, drink came. Maybe there are ghosts around.” He looked and there were ghosts. The moment he saw them he got terrified, he said, “Oh there are ghosts around here, maybe they will torture me.” And the ghosts started torturing him, and he started screaming and yelling in pain. He said, “Oh these ghosts are torturing me, they are going to kill me.” And he died.

The problem was he was sitting under a wishing tree or a Kalpavriksha. Whatever he asked for became a reality. You are also constantly sitting under a Kalpavriksha. A well-established human mind is referred to as a Kalpavriksha. In this mind, whatever you ask for becomes a reality. You need to develop the mind to a point where it becomes a Kalpavriksha, not a source of madness.


Once your mind gets organized, the way you think is the way you feel so your emotion will also get organized. Once your thought and emotion are organized, your energies will get organized in the same direction. Once your thought, emotion and energies are organized, your very body will get organized. Once all these four are organized in one direction, your ability to create and manifest what you want is phenomenal.

**Editor’s Note:** Amidst a rising tide of mental

So an unestablished mind is referred to as a monkey. When this “monkey” became active in the man who went to paradise, he thought, “What the hell is happening here? I asked for food, food came. I asked for drink, drink came. Maybe there are ghosts around.”

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The Indian Golf Union  
The governing body for Golf in India

# IGU TAMIL NADU AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 2025

## Coimbatore Golf Club

Scores after Round 4, Friday, March 7 2025

S.No.	State	Player	1 72	2 72	3 72	4 72	Total 288
1	Karnataka	Veer Ganpathy	70	70	73	71	284
2	Uttar Pradesh	Sukhman Singh	71	73	68	73	285
3	Uttar Pradesh	Kanav Chauhan	74	69	72	71	286
4	Gujarat	Ishaan Chawhan	71	66	77	73	287
5	Uttar Pradesh	Vinamra Anand	76	74	70	68	288
6	Karnataka	Siddharth Paruthi	71	76	72	69	288
7	Maharashtra	Arkin Patil	72	72	74	70	288
8	West Bengal	Aryav Shah	72	69	74	73	288
9	Chandigarh	Ayaan Gupta	80	70	70	69	289
10	Chandigarh	Neil Jolly	74	72	68	75	289
11	Delhi	Ranveer Mitroo	72	73	75	70	290
12	Punjab	Danish Verma	69	74	73	74	290
13	Haryana	Rohan Singh Rana	78	77	70	67	292
14	Maharashtra	Vibhu Tyagi	74	74	74	70	292
15	Telangana	Puthuru Raj Kumar	71	78	72	72	293
16	Delhi	Yash Chaudhary	72	73	76	72	293
17	Uttar Pradesh	Arin Ahuja	74	75	69	75	293
18	West Bengal	Sandeep Yadav	73	72	72	76	293
19	Haryana	Karan Mahto	75	75	74	71	295
20	Chandigarh	Vivek Kumar	78	74	72	72	296
21	Delhi	Deepak Yadav	75	76	71	74	296
22	Delhi	Akash Kumar	73	76	72	75	296
23	Punjab	Ranvir Singh Pandher	75	78	71	73	297
24	Uttar Pradesh	Arun Kumar	83	73	74	69	299
25	Karnataka	Shridhar Singh	73	76	79	71	299



## GENTLEMEN MERIT LIST

S. No.	Player	State	Total	Best 9
1	Anant Singh Ahlawat	HARYANA	305	305
2	Rakshit Dahiya	DELHI	281	281
3	Arin Ahuja	UTTAR PRADESH	280	270
4	Sukhman Singh	UTTAR PRADESH	238	236
5	Vinamra Anand	UTTAR PRADESH	173	173
6	Varun Muthappa	KARNATAKA	171	171
7	Jaiveer	KARNATAKA	153	153
8	Kanav Chauhan	UTTAR PRADESH	141	141
9	Ayaan Gupta	CHANDIGARH	126	126
10	Deepak Yadav	DELHI	121	121



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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.

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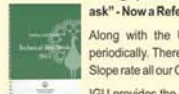


Junior Program at CIAL Cochin

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## FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

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

Initiatives that are to be focused are on:

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

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

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



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

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Hero Indian Open 2025 Champion, Eugenio Chacarra of Spain

# EUGENIO CHACARRA

## BECOMES FIRST SPANISH WINNER OF HERO INDIAN OPEN

**LAST YEAR'S CHAMPION NAKAJIMA FINISHES 2ND; AHLAWAT, BHULLAR, CHOUHAN BEST INDIANS T-17**

**E**ugenio Chacarra of Spain, opened the final day with a double bogey and closed with a bogey-par to emerge as the 2025 Hero Indian Open on the DP World Tour. The 25-year-old, who came into the tournament on a special invite from Hero MotoCorp, became the first Spanish champion of the event, producing three under par rounds over four days.

Chacarra, who registered his first win on the DP World Tour, started the week with a win in the Hero Pro-Am, and went on to shoot 70-70-73-71 for a total 4-under 284 at the DLF Golf and Country Club. He won by two shots over the defending champion, Japan's Keita Nakajima (72).

The winner, Chacarra, who received the glittering and iconic Hero Indian Open trophy from Dr Pawan Munjal, Executive Chairman, Hero MotoCorp, also received



Eugenio Chacarra





Hero Indian Open 2025 Champion, Eugenio Chacarra of Spain, with Dr Pawan Munjal, Executive Chairman, Hero MotoCorp



Keita Nakajima



Ajeetesh Sandhu  
Image courtesy : Gettyimages



Gaganjeet Bhullar

a winner's cheque of US \$ 382,500 while Nakajima received US\$ 247,500.

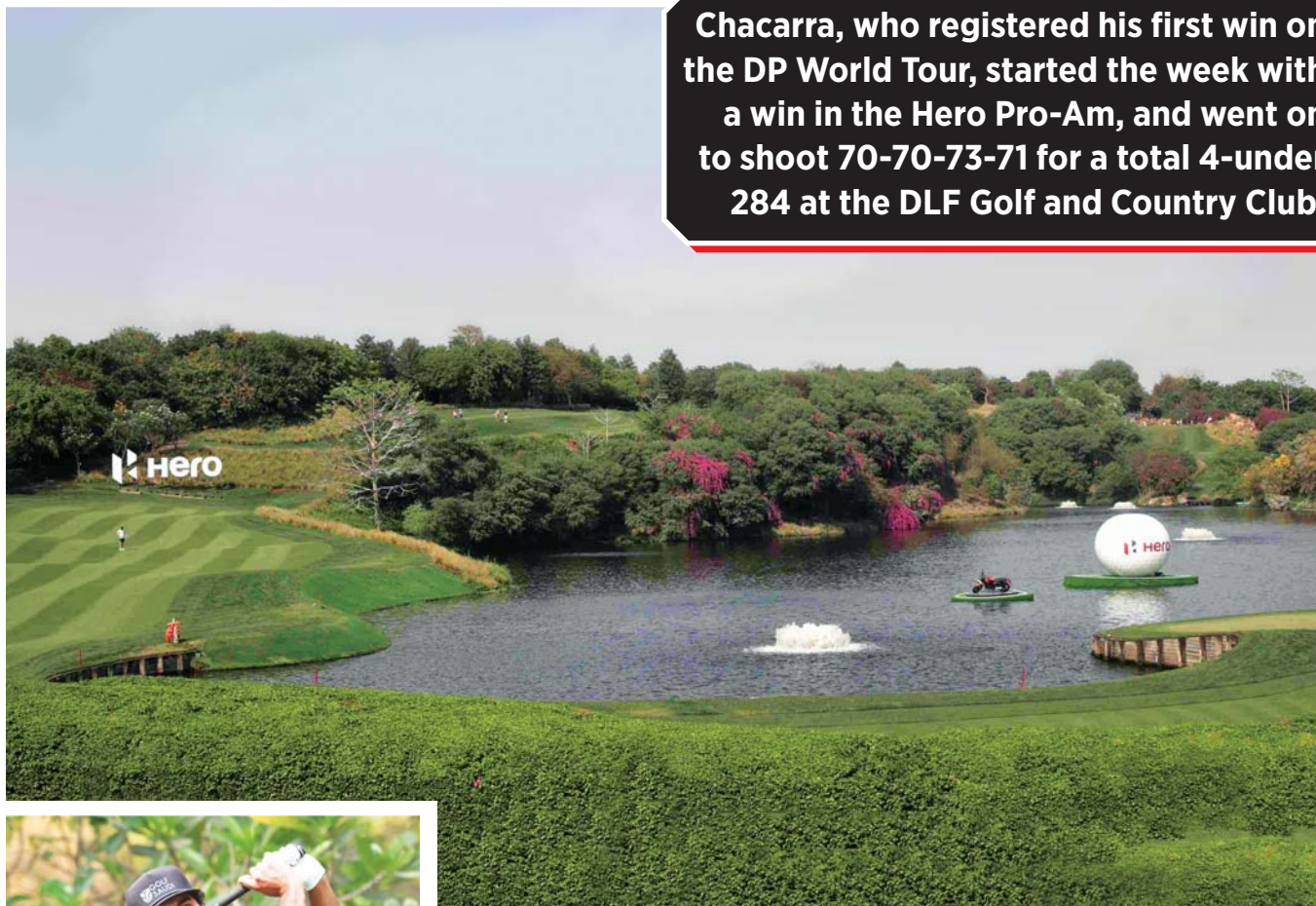
The top Indian was once again Veer Ahlawat (75) alongside Om Prakash Chouhan (71) and Gaganjeet Bhullar (73), who finished with a bogey and a double bogey in the last three holes to drop from T-10 to T-17.

An emotional Chacarra, when asked about his feelings, said, "Obviously, you need to start by thanking Hero MotoCorp and Dr Pawan Munjal for giving me a chance to

**Other Indian finishers were Ajeetesh Sandhu (78) at T-31, Shubhankar Sharma (75) at T-43rd, Shaurya Bhattacharya (79) at T-54 and Shiv Kapur (83) at T-60 alongside Kshitij Naveed Kaul (75).**



**Chacarra, who registered his first win on the DP World Tour, started the week with a win in the Hero Pro-Am, and went on to shoot 70-70-73-71 for a total 4-under 284 at the DLF Golf and Country Club.**



Images Credit : Getty Images



Eugenio Chacarra

**“OBVIOUSLY, YOU NEED TO START BY THANKING HERO MOTOCORP AND DR PAWAN MUNJAL FOR GIVING ME A CHANCE TO COMPETE. VERY GRATEFUL FOR THAT OPPORTUNITY.”**

**- Eugenio Chacarra**

Other Indian finishers were Ajeetesh Sandhu (78) at T-31, Shubhankar Sharma (75) at T-43rd, Shaurya Bhattacharya (79) at T-54 and Shiv Kapur (83) at T-60 alongside Kshitij Naveed Kaul (75).

Chacarra's maiden DP World Tour win came on just his ninth appearance as he bounced back from a disastrous start in the final round as he went 3-over after three holes and lost his overnight lead.

The highlight of Chacarra's round came at the 14th, where his chip, travelling at great speed from a tricky spot in the rough ran straight into the hole for a bonus birdie instead of racing well past.

Chacarra also made a number of crucial par



Keita Nakajima  
Image courtesy : GettyImages

saves to maintain the distance between him and the chasing pack. **GP**

bogeys in the first three holes and then went through 11 pars before finishing birdies on the 15th and 18th for a round of even par 72 to finish runner-up for the second time in as many weeks. He was also the runner-up at the Singapore Classic last week on the DP World Tour.



## BIG WYNN FOR ORTIZ AFTER HARD-FOUGHT BATTLE WITH REED

Mexico's Carlos Ortiz held off Patrick Reed to claim the International Series Macau presented by Wynn, after a closely fought battle between the LIV Golf stars at Macau Golf and Country Club.

Ortiz won the International Series Oman last year and made it win number two on The International Series and Asian Tour after closing with a six-under-par 64 to finish three ahead of Reed on 22-under. Reed, fired a 67, as did fellow-American Jason Kokrak, three back in third. Sergio Garcia finished one stroke behind in fourth, following a 65.

It's the 10th win of Ortiz's career. He's also claimed one title a piece on the LIV Golf League and the PGA Tour. The 33-year-old moves to the top of the Asian Tour Order of Merit and The International Series rankings.

He has played in The Open once before, in 2021, while it will be the 10th time Reed has played in game's oldest Major, and the fifth for Kokrak.

Defending champion John Catlin from the United States returned a 68 to finish in a tie for 26th. **GP**



Carlos Ortiz  
Image courtesy : Paul Lakatos

## CHAN CLINCHES VICTORY IN EPIC LEXUS CHALLENGE FINALE

Aidric Chan of the Philippines clinched his first win on the Asian Development Tour in a spirited contest against countryman Juvic Pagunsan as the pair battled for victory in the final round of the Lexus Challenge in Vietnam.

Disaster almost struck for Chan on the 12th hole when a double bogey threatened to derail his bid but he recovered well with a hole-out eagle two holes later. By that stage, his playing partner Pagunsan had taken the lead, as three dropped shots by the leaders had wiped out their advantage for the day.

Bogeys by Pagunsan on holes 13 and 14 gave Chan a single shot advantage, although he gave that back with a bogey on 15, leaving the pair one stroke behind the leaders as they stepped up to the tee on the par five 16th.

Both birdied the next two holes, leaving them all tied for the lead as they made their way for a total of 205 down the 18th, where Chan clinched their personal battle with a par against Pagunsan's bogey, taking the clubhouse lead on eight under.

Chan's victory pushes him into third in the ADT Order Of Merit, behind Pagunsan in second and leader Tawit Polthai who won the opening event of the season – the PKNS



Selangor Masters – in January. Pakistan's Ahmad Baig, who won on home soil at the

ADT Rumaza Open last month, is in fourth place. **GP**



# TODD ANDERSON INSTRUCTIONAL

# HOW TO ENSURE

# CONSISTENCY

# LIKE XANDER SCHAUFFELE



## INTRODUCTION

American Xander Schauffele is one of the most consistent ballstrikers on the PGA TOUR. Last season, he ranked 10th in Strokes Gained: Off the Tee and 6th in Approach the Green en route to a strong 2024 campaign where he won two major championships. We will examine his golf swing in this month's tutorial and break down the fundamentals that have made Schauffele one of the top players in the world.

### Photo 1

Xander has a balanced set up with the back of

his right arm, front of right knee and middle of right foot vertically aligned. Sets his left hand on the club first, then attaches his right hand to get the right arm below the left and sets his shoulders square.

### Photo 2

His take-away sees his hands, arms, and club creating a wide and powerful arc.

### Photo 3

Here, the club shaft is parallel to the target line and when the shaft is parallel to the ground, it indicates an on-plane takeaway. The club

face matches his spine angle, showing no manipulation with the hands during his takeaway.

### Photo 4

The upper body continues to rotate while he keeps the arms in front of his chest so the hands can have a straight delivery line to the inside of the ball on the down swing.

### Photo 5

His elbows remain close together to provide a solid structure at the top of the swing.





Images Credit : Getty Images

## Photo 6

Xander is fully loaded here, with a full upper body rotation against a stable lower body to produce full coil at the top of his back swing. The left wrist is slightly bowed to match the club face to the left forearm (square club face) which helps create a stable left wrist at impact.

## Photo 7

His lower body starts the downswing to produce an inside out delivery to the ball. Xander maintains the angle between the left arm and club shaft which stores the power for a sequenced release.

## Photo 8

The hips are more open than the upper body here, illustrating proper kinematic sequence (lower body, chest, arms, hands and club). The club face is looking at the ball with the right elbow on the right hip, right arm inside and behind left to keep the club face from over rotating.

## Photo 9

His right elbow drives forward to move his hands and club head through the ball and prevents the club head from passing the left arm too early. The right shoulder stays down

and behind the strike which creates a lot of compression between the club head and the ball.

## Photo 10

You will notice his lower body is fully rotated with right hip and knee rotated up to the ball. His left foot stays down and right heel up which illustrates the weight transfer from the right side to the left during the downswing. Xander maintains his spine angle and releases on plane with the club and right arm bisecting his shoulder plane.

## Photo 11

The momentum of the swing freely extends his arms and club up and around his body. He

watches the ball after impact with his eyes in a vertical plane staying in the shot well after impact.

## Photo 12

Fully releases his lower body, upper body, arms, hands and club into a relaxed balanced finish. His spine angle has decreased as the force of the swing brings the upper body on top of the left leg. Now following the ball with his eyes in a horizontal position.

Spend some time to study these key positions that Xander Schauffele has in his golf swing, and you could be hitting more fairways and greens in your next round of golf. **GP**

**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 the golf swing of Charlie Woods, son of 82-time PGA TOUR winner Tiger Woods, and focuses on four key fundamentals.







Tiger Woods drives on the 18th hole

# MAGIC OF THE MASTERS

by Jim McCabe

➔ For all the layers of brilliance to the annual Masters Tournament, one thing stands out above all others.

More than any other week on the golf tournament, the festivities at Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia cast a magical spell on not only the tens of thousands of patrons who are fortunate enough to attend, but on millions

of fans across the globe who will watch on TV or other digital platforms of choice.

Oh, and those skilled enough to compete in the Masters hold the tournament in high esteem, too.

“It’s a very electric atmosphere out there. This is the Masters. It’s got the beauty, it’s got the colour, it’s got the sound and the breezes.

Everything together makes this place special.”

Those words were spoken by Nick Faldo, who may be long retired not only from his competitive days but also from his TV commentary duties, and how we’ll hear his name tied to the 2025 Masters. That’s because the dynamic Scottie Scheffler is going to attempt to match Masters feats that only a





Hideki Matsuyama and Scottie Scheffler



Jack Nicklaus

handful of the game's greatest names have recorded, Faldo being one of them.

When he embarks upon his sixth Masters (April 10-13), Scheffler will be trying to become just the fourth player to successfully defend his title. He would match Jack Nicklaus (1965-66), Faldo (1989-90), and Tiger Woods (2001-02).

Scheffler is also in position to become just the ninth player in history to win at least three Masters (Nicklaus has six; Woods five; Arnold Palmer four; Jimmy Demaret, Sam Snead, Gary Player, Faldo, and Phil Mickelson all have three). And what could put Scheffler in even more rarified air is this - with Green Jackets in '22, '24 and '25, he would match Nicklaus (1963, '65, '66) as the only winners of three Masters in a four-year window.



Scottie Scheffler



**When he embarks upon his sixth Masters (April 10-13), Scheffler will be trying to become just the fourth player to successfully defend his title. He would match Jack Nicklaus (1965-66), Faldo (1989-90), and Tiger Woods (2001-02).**

Remarkable stuff from the reigning FedExCup champion and World No. 1, and for what will be the most hyped story going into this year's Masters. However, the 28-year-old often sidesteps the focus on his chase for history and explains just what it is about this April showcase that stirs the emotions.

"To be here on property every year is extremely special," said Scheffler, who made his Masters debut in 2020 with a T9 finish. "I mean, it seems like it all stands out. Everything is done so well here. But mostly for me, it's the golf course and the practice facilities and just getting to come out here and compete.

"The crowds always are wonderful and it's just a joy to play this tournament."

That Scheffler's sentiments would likely be echoed by the majority of colleagues who've had the chance to play in the Masters speaks volumes for the aura of the tournament. Players appreciate the specialness of qualifying for the Masters, since the field is generally kept under 100 competitors, and

golf fans who love the Masters would counter with their reasons why.

Start with the fact it's the only professional major that is played on the same stage year after year, going back to 1934. That galvanizes a connection with the fan, who feels a kinship to a course he or she knows very well - from the wild slope of the green at the par-3 sixth to the right-to-left bend at the No. 9 fairway, to the iconic set of shots required at Amen Corner, to the incomparable par 5s on the back nine.

Augusta National isn't the only revered golf course to name its holes, but likely many fans would win some money if challenged to call the par-3 12th by its name. (Golden Bell.) And if you were to quiz Masters patrons about "the shot heard 'round the world" or who won the Green Jacket at the age of 46, chances are solidly in the majority that you'd receive correct answers - Gene Sarazen's "double-eagle (albatross)" in 1935 and Jack Nicklaus in 1986.





Why? Because the tournament not only is dipped in history; it is dipped in history that viewers have studied. Players themselves feel it when they're on the revered golf course. "You get the feeling that Bobby Jones (founder) is standing out there with you," said two-time U.S. Open champion, Lee Janzen.

The charm of the Masters is felt when reports arrive in late winter about what will be new at Augusta National. This year, there were dispatches about wider walking areas for patrons and how efforts were prompt to address tree damage in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

You can also measure intense fan passion for the Masters when they recite how manageable are the prices for concessions, to the severe challenge to two-putt these greens, to how cruel the Golf Gods can be when it comes to this April classic.

Patrons (as the fans as referred to as at the Masters) and players alike will concede that no one is owed anything at the event, no matter how deep the talent runs. That is why Johnny Miller, Lee Trevino and Tom Weiskopf never earned a Green Jacket and why Rory McIlroy, Justin Thomas, and Xander Schauffele are currently a combined 0-for-32.

In other words, ownership of the Masters runs thick with players and patrons, and they are deeply invested in this tournament.

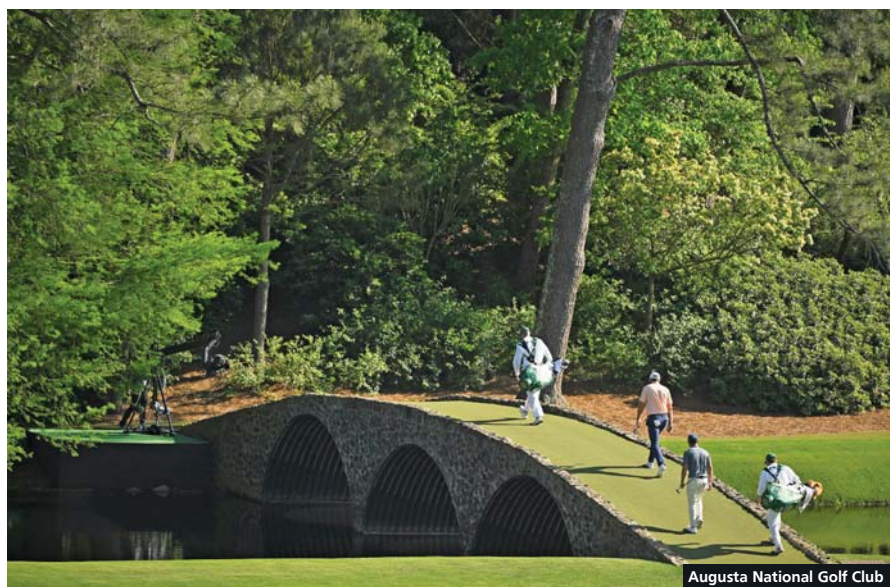
To spread the charm around, the caretakers of the Masters were clairvoyant when they started the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship in 2009 and watched the 2010-11 winner, Hideki Matsuyama, morph into a Masters champion in 2021. So would it surprise anyone that the Latin American Amateur Championship, introduced in 2015, produced a winner - Joaquin Niemann - who could emerge with a Green Jacket? Certainly not.



**"It's a very electric atmosphere out there. This is the Masters. It's got the beauty, it's got the colour, it's got the sound and the breezes. Everything together makes this place special."**



Jordan Spieth and Rickie Fowler with their families during the Par 3 Contest in 2024



Augusta National Golf Club

Images Credit : Getty Images

That is the uncanny awe of the Masters, it connects us to global talents and teaches us that a unique style of play is required at Augusta National. **It also leaves us with a sense of nostalgia for special anniversaries and so we know that key ones that will be celebrated in 2025 include:**

- \* The 50th anniversary of arguably the greatest Masters played (Nicklaus' win in 1975 over Miller and Weiskopf).

- \* The 20th anniversary of what just might be Woods' most epic shot, the improbable chip from behind the 16th green that fueled his win over Chris DiMarco.

- \* And the 10th anniversary of that stirring win by 21-year-old Jordan Spieth in just his second appearance at Augusta National.

"To join Masters history and put my name on that trophy and to have this jacket forever, it's something that I can't fathom right now," Spieth said the unforgettable April Sunday 10 years ago.

That his emotions have been deflated in years since (the painful T2 in '16 and twice he's been third) is a part of the journey the Masters takes us on. That a great many of us will eagerly await what he does in his 12th Masters start in April is part and parcel of our investment in this tournament. **GP**





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## MIN WOO LEE HOLDS NERVE FOR FIRST PGA TOUR TITLE



Min Woo Lee held off the challenge of a high-class chasing pack to win his first PGA TOUR title at the Texas Children's Houston Open.

The Australian entered the final round at Memorial Park Golf Course with a four-shot lead and despite barely putting a foot wrong in making birdies on the third, ninth, 12th and 13th on the final day, he endured a tense finish amid charges from Gary Woodland and Scottie Scheffler.

The 2019 U.S. Open champion picked up four shots in his final four holes in a course-record equalling 62 and was joined in the clubhouse lead at 19 under by World Number One Scheffler, who made four birdies in a row from the 13th in a 63.

At that point, Lee's lead had been reduced to

**AT THAT POINT, LEE'S LEAD HAD BEEN REDUCED TO ONE AS THE THREE-TIME DP WORLD TOUR WINNER HIT A RAGGED TEE-SHOT ON THE 16TH AND MADE A BOGEY TO RAMP UP THE PRESSURE.**

one as the three-time DP World Tour winner hit a ragged tee-shot on the 16th and made a bogey to ramp up the pressure.

After paring the 17th, he missed the green



at the last but managed to cozy up a putt from 55 feet to eight inches, sparking celebrations before he tapped home to seal a par, a 67 and a narrow victory.

Woodland's tie for second was his best result

since undergoing brain surgery in 2023 and his 62 was matched by Lee's fellow dual member Sami Välimäki, who finished at 17 under. Rory McIlroy was two shots further back in a tie for fifth at 15 under after a 64. **GP**

## VIKTOR HOVLAND CLAIMS SEVENTH PGA TOUR WIN AT VALSPAR CHAMPIONSHIP



Viktor Hovland overcame his recent swing demons with a stunning finish at the Valspar Championship to win his seventh PGA TOUR title. The Norwegian has been candid in recent months about how he has been changing coaches and aspects of his swing in an attempt to improve a game that had already made him a Ryder Cup, Rolex Series and FedEx Cup winner.

To the outsider it appeared at times as if he was moving in the wrong direction and after arriving at Innisbrook Resort off the back of three missed cuts, he admitted he was not even sure if he would tee it up. But play he did and after rounds of 70-67-69, he shared the 54-hole lead in search of a first worldwide victory since the 2023 Tour Championship when he clinched FedEx Cup glory.

He did not have it all his own way on, with

five holes to play he was three behind a surging Justin Thomas.

But he birdied the 14th and then the 16th and 17th on the Copperhead Course's renowned Snake Pit finish, allowing him the luxury of a bogey on the last as Thomas bogeyed the 16th and 18th.

He added: "I just tried to go out there and play my game and I knew I didn't feel super comfortable or confident but I was really patient and just tried to play really smart and I think that's a



Viktor Hovland  
Image courtesy: Reinhold Matay-Imagn Images

credit kind of to myself."

The victory moves Hovland up to eighth in the Official World Golf Ranking and 19th in the European Ryder Cup Rankings. **GP**



# MANSELL SECURES MAIDEN TITLE AT PORSCHE SINGAPORE CLASSIC



Richard Mansell claimed his maiden DP World Tour title after finishing with a brilliant birdie to earn a one-shot victory at the weather-shortened Porsche Singapore Classic. With the tournament reduced to 54 holes following the washout, Mansell went into the third and final round one shot off the lead on ten under par.

The Englishman soon hit the front after following up three opening pars with five birdies in a row from the fourth hole at Laguna National Golf Resort Club, heading to the turn with a two-shot lead. The 29-year-old was joined at the top on the back nine, however Mansell saved his best until last, two-putting from over 100 feet for a birdie at the 18th to sign for a closing 66 and finish the tournament on 16 under par, one ahead of early clubhouse leader Keita Nakajima.

His victory in Singapore comes with a

**HIS VICTORY IN SINGAPORE COMES WITH A NEW CADDIE DAVID KENNY ON THE BAG AS THE ENGLISHMAN MOVES TO THE TOP OF THE ASIAN SWING RANKINGS.**



Richard Mansell  
Photo credit : Getty Images

new caddie David Kenny on the bag as the Englishman moves to the top of the Asian Swing Rankings. Nakajima made seven birdies in a spotless 65 to surge into contention but was denied a play-off by

Mansell's heroics at the last.

The Japanese 24-year-old finished alone in second spot on 15 under, one ahead of Northern Irishman Tom McKibbin and Frenchman Adrien Saddier in a tie for third. **GP**

# CALUM HILL WINS PLAY-OFF TO CLAIM JOBURG OPEN TITLE



Scotland's Calum Hill claimed his second DP World Tour title in style as he beat home favourites Jacques Kruyswijk and Shaun Norris in a play-off to win the Joburg Open after coming from eight shots back to earn a share of the lead after 72 holes. After all three players parred the first play-off hole, a par was good enough for Hill to win it at the second just as lightning arrived in the area, after Norris found the water and Kruyswijk missed his five-foot putt.

The win ended Hill's wait for a second DP World Tour title, having secured his first at the 2021 Cazoo Classic. Hill turned in 31 in his final round after carding five birdies and a bogey on the front nine before following up another birdie at the 11th with a hat-trick from the 13th to storm into contention and join the lead for the first time.

After a bogey on the 16th saw him slip from the summit, Hill birdied the last from five feet, that took him level at the top with Kruyswijk, who had four holes left to complete, while Norris and others were also still in with a chance of hunting down the clubhouse leader,

**THE WIN ENDED HILL'S WAIT FOR A SECOND DP WORLD TOUR TITLE, HAVING SECURED HIS FIRST AT THE 2021 CAZOO CLASSIC.**



with plenty of holes remaining.

A bogey from Kruyswijk at the 15th boosted Hill's chances but Norris birdied the 16th from range to join the group just one shot behind Hill. Kruyswijk moved alongside Hill at the top once more with a five-foot birdie on the 17th before a monster birdie putt from Norris

at the last sparked wild celebrations from the crowd and made it a three-man play-off.

There was nothing to separate the trio at the first extra hole but after watching his 20-foot birdie putt come up agonisingly short at the second, a par proved enough for Hill to clinch victory. **GP**

## JENEATH WONG WINS IN DRAMATIC FASHION AT HOIANA SHORES

**T**hey call Hoi An the city of lanterns and it was Jeneath Wong who shone brightest en route to winning the seventh edition of the Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific (WAAP) championship. With a skilful and courageous display of front-running, the 20-year-old wrote her name into the record books as the first Malaysian winner of the region's pre-eminent women's amateur championship.

After a tense and intriguing battle with Korean playing partners Soomin Oh and Sumin Hong that went right down to the wire, it was the diminutive Malaysian who was walking tallest.

With rounds of 65, 69, 64 and 68 at Hoiana Shores, Wong's 72-hole aggregate of 18-under 266 was the lowest winning total in WAAP history, surpassing the 270 total of Chinese Taipei's Chun-wei Wu in Thailand last year. Over the course of the four days in Vietnam, Wong made 24 birdies against just four bogeys and one double-bogey.

Wong already has considerable top-level experience having competed in the US Women's Open at Pebble Beach and the Augusta National



Jeneath Wong

Women's Amateur in 2023, also reaching the match play stages of the 120th Women's Amateur, US Women's Amateur and US Girls' Junior that year. As well as having won the Women's Australian Master of the Amateurs in

2022 and the Australian Girls' Amateur in both 2021 and 2022, Wong's impressive curriculum vitae includes an individual bronze and team silver medal with Malaysia at the 2022 Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Vietnam. [GP](#)

## THE R&A LAUNCHES JUST SWING, A NEW GLOBAL PARTICIPATION CAMPAIGN

**T**he R&A has introduced 'Just Swing', a new global participation campaign which has been developed to broaden the appeal of golf to new audiences and increase participation in the sport. Specifically, the campaign encourages women, girls and those people who have an active interest in sporting activity to take part in golf by promoting its positive benefits and removing unhelpful barriers and perceptions. It also targets lapsed golfers to persuade them back into playing golf again.

Voiced by Hollywood actress and R&A Global Development Ambassador Kathryn Newton, the campaign features a cast of personalities who have taken up golf recently and will run on digital and social media channels to target audiences who have shown an interest in playing golf when shown its many health and social benefits.

Phil Anderton, Chief Development Officer at The R&A, said: "We want to shift the perception of golf by highlighting that it is a fun and healthy activity that can be enjoyed by everyone regardless of their age, ability or background. 'Just Swing' shows that golf doesn't have to be complicated and that anyone can experience the joy of playing it if they want to.



The campaign was piloted in Spain last year by the Royal Spanish Golf Federation in three local areas with the participating clubs enjoying an increase in interest among women and girls to join beginner programmes being offered at these venues.

Promotional marketing and content will direct

new and existing golfers to golf.

The campaign forms part of The R&A's drive to boost participation by promoting the sport to new audiences and builds upon the launch of the 'Just Swing' game on Roblox, which is designed to attract young people into the sport through the popular, global gaming platform. [GP](#)



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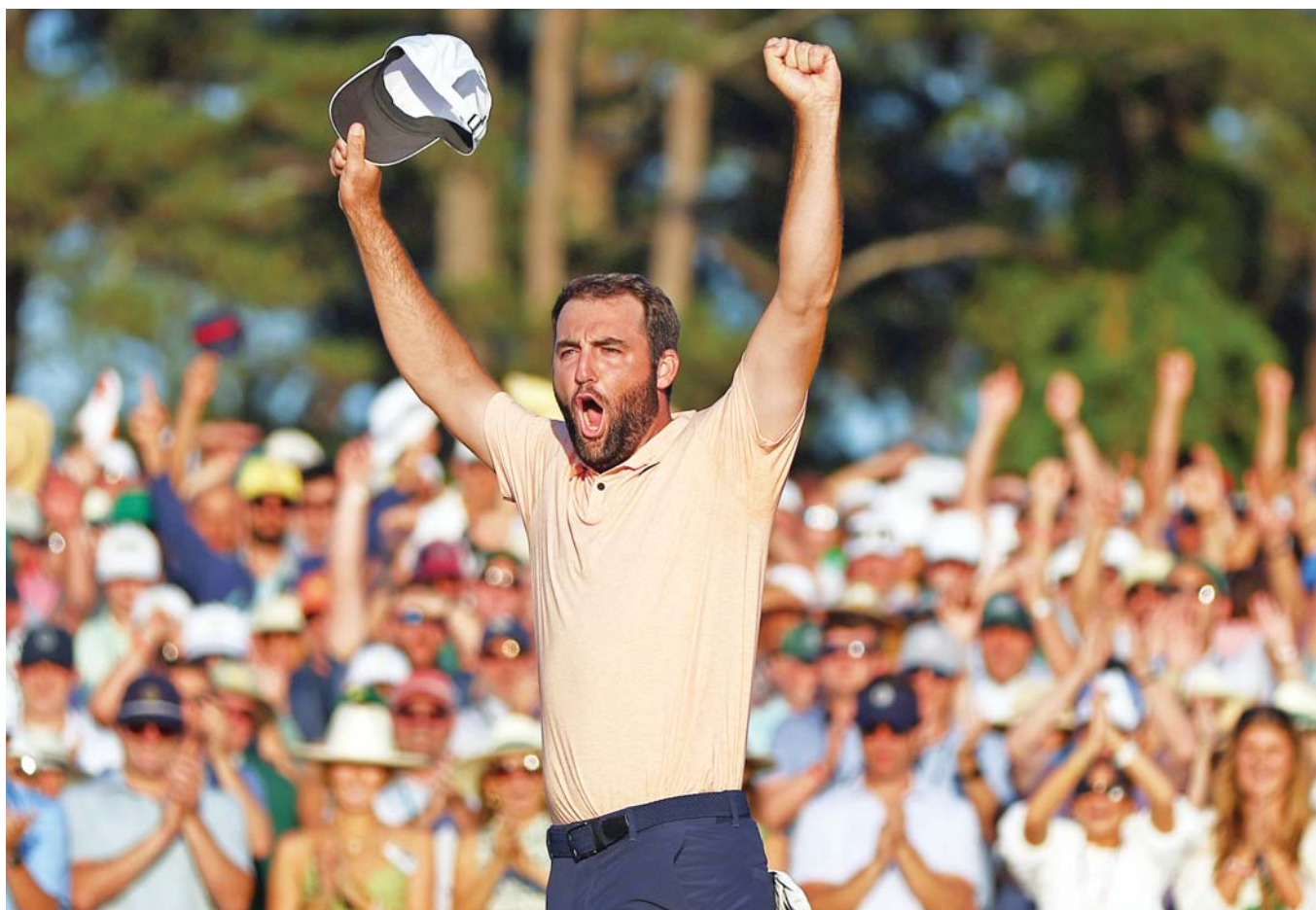


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# THE 2025 MASTERS TOURNAMENT

## Q&A WITH ROLEX TESTIMONEE

# SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER



**T**he Masters Tournament, the first men's major championship of the season, is held annually at the historic Augusta National Golf Club, where the pristine conditions and meticulously designed course reward precision. It is the only one of the four men's majors to be contested by an invitation-only field and played on the same course each year. Through its role as Tournament Partner, Rolex has supported this bastion of tradition and excellence since 1999. Rolex Testimonee Scottie Scheffler returns to defend his title, having claimed the Green Jacket for the second time in three years in April 2024. Should Scheffler succeed in defending his title at the Augusta National Golf Club, he will join fellow Rolex Testimonee Jack Nicklaus as the only players

to have won the prestigious tournament three times in four years.

We bring to you an exclusive Q&A with Scottie Scheffler:

**Rolex is known for its enduring partnerships. How has your relationship with Rolex evolved since you became a Rolex Testimonee in 2022?**

**Scottie Scheffler (SS):** It has been a great partnership so far. I partnered with Rolex on the Sunday before the Masters Tournament in 2022. Having a partnership with Rolex and to be associated with such a brand is extremely special. I grew up watching so many of the tremendous Rolex advertisements, so I still find it a bit weird seeing my face pop up on the





commercials every now and then. I am very proud to be associated with the brand.

### How does it feel to be associated with some of the games greats such as Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods?

**SS:** Anytime that you can be mentioned alongside Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods is very special. I grew up trying to emulate Tiger Woods on the course and watching a little bit of Jack Nicklaus, but more so Tiger because he was more my era. Anytime that I can be seen side by side with him is very special and a real dream come true moment for me.

### Can you describe the emotions of putting on the iconic Green Jacket after your maiden victory at the Masters in 2022 and joining an esteemed group of players to have won the Masters?

**SS:** Putting on the Green Jacket is pretty special! The ceremony itself is beautiful. You are up on top of the hill, looking down over the golf course, the sun is setting and it is the Masters. Everything is perfect - the grass is green and the trees are green. It was very

**Putting on the Green Jacket is pretty special! The ceremony itself is beautiful. You are up on top of the hill, looking down over the golf course, the sun is setting and it is the Masters.**

emotional for me. My whole family was there, my coach was there - basically everyone who had helped guide me along the way for years to get to that moment was there. To put on the Green Jacket was extremely cool. As the previous winner [in 2021], Hideki Matsuyama was able to put the Green Jacket on me which was fun as he is a fellow Rolex Testimonee. Being able to join the long list of Testimonees

to have won the Masters such as Tiger and Jack and being able to go into the Champions Locker Room every year is a really cool experience. As you are putting on the Green Jacket, the emotions flow through you and I was just really grateful to be in that moment.

### How do you reflect on this success in 2024 and can you tell us about the different sources of inspiration or motivation on this continued pursuit of excellence?

**SS:** As far as sources of motivation go, I've always been internally motivated. I'm always trying to get the best out of myself. I'm not focused on the results. I try to focus on the process of getting better. When I talk about the start of 2024 when I was trying to improve my putting, I'm not all of a sudden going to come up with one thing that fixes it. It's a process that takes a lot of time and a lot of work. To be focused on the process of improving and not the results is important. As far as the year went, I was able to capitalize on a lot of the opportunities that I had from playing good golf. I'm not good at reflecting on it, but it was definitely a fun year and I'm very grateful to have had the success that I've had. **GP**



Images Credit : Getty Images



# NUTRITION FOR GOLF PLAYERS: FUELING PERFORMANCE AND RECOVERY



**SM Kadri**  
Consultant Public Health  
India  
kadrism@gmail.com



**Lina Saadeh**  
Public Health Writer  
and Trainer  
Jerusalem

Golf requires physical stamina, mental focus, and sustained energy, particularly during tournaments that can last several hours. Proper nutrition optimizes performance, aids recovery, and promotes overall health. Evidence from Burke and Cox (2010), Jeukendru and Gleeson (2019), and Thomas et al. (2016) emphasizes the importance of strategic nutrition in athletic performance and endurance sports.

## KEY NUTRITIONAL NEEDS FOR GOLFERS

### > Carbohydrates for Sustained Energy

Carbohydrates are the primary energy source for sustained focus and endurance during a round of golf. Complex carbs, such as whole grains, oats, and quinoa, should be a dietary foundation. Simple carbs, like fruits, can be consumed during play for quick energy boosts. As Burke and Cox (2010) highlight, maintaining glycogen stores through adequate carbohydrate intake is critical for prolonged performance.

### > Protein for Muscle Recovery

Protein is essential for muscle repair and

recovery, especially for golfers engaging in strength training. Sources like lean meats, fish, eggs, and plant-based proteins such as tofu and lentils are ideal. Jeukendrup and Gleeson (2019) recommend consuming 20–30 grams of high-quality protein within two hours' post-exercise to maximize recovery.

### > Healthy Fats for Sustained Energy

Healthy fats, such as those found in avocados, nuts, seeds, and olive oil, provide long-lasting energy and support brain function. These fats are particularly valuable for golfers who require sustained mental focus during extended games (Jeukendrup & Gleeson, 2019).

### > Hydration and Electrolyte Balance

Maintaining proper hydration is vital

to prevent fatigue and ensure optimal performance. Water is essential, but during prolonged games, electrolyte-rich drinks can help replenish sodium, potassium, and other electrolytes lost through sweat. Burke and Cox (2010) caution that even mild dehydration can impair both physical and cognitive performance.

### > Micronutrients for Overall Health

Vitamins and minerals like magnesium, potassium, and B vitamins play key roles in energy metabolism and muscle function. These can be obtained through a diet rich in vegetables, fruits, nuts, and whole grains (Thomas et al., 2016).

## Conclusion

Golfers can enhance their performance and recovery by adopting a well-balanced diet tailored to their energy demands. Regular meals, adequate hydration, and strategic snacking ensure sustained focus and endurance. As Jeukendrup and Gleeson (2019) emphasize, nutrition is a cornerstone of success in competitive sports. [GP](#)

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### Pre-Game Nutrition

A balanced meal 2–3 hours before a game is ideal and should include:

- Complex carbohydrates (e.g., oatmeal or whole-grain toast)
- Lean protein (e.g., eggs or yogurt)
- Healthy fats (e.g., avocado or nuts)
- Hydration (e.g., water or herbal tea)

A light snack, such as a banana or an energy bar, 30–60 minutes before tee-off provides an extra energy boost (Thomas et al., 2016).

### On Course Nutrition

To maintain energy levels, golfers should consume portable snacks such as :

- Mixed nuts or trail mix
- Fresh or dried fruits
- Protein bars or small sandwiches

Hydration should be maintained by sipping water or sports drinks regularly during the game (Jeukendrup & Gleeson, 2019).

### Post-Game Recovery Nutrition

Golfers should prioritize recovery by consuming a meal or snack within 30 minutes of finishing their game.

This meal should include carbohydrates to replenish glycogen and protein to aid muscle repair.

For example, grilled chicken with quinoa and steamed vegetables or a smoothie with protein powder, fruit, and almond milk are effective options (Burke & Cox, 2010).



# BLS INTERNATIONAL ELEVATING GOLFING ADVENTURES WITH SEAMLESS TRAVEL

Luxury travel is not just about the destination; it is about the journey that takes you there. For golf enthusiasts, where every swing matters, seamless travel is key to an exceptional experience.

Sharing his insights for passionate golfers who value both precision on the course and ease off it, **Shikhar Aggarwal, Joint Managing Director at BLS International**-a global leader in visa facilitation services-explores how the right travel support can transform a trip into a stress-free, luxurious adventure. From tee times to travel timelines, he underscores the importance of simplifying logistics so the focus remains on the game and the moments that matter.



## The Driving Force Behind Your Golfing Journeys:

Crossing borders to play on iconic golf courses should be an exciting adventure, not a logistical hurdle. BLS International specializes in visa facilitation, offering efficient documentation and support to help you focus solely on your game. Whether you are planning to tee off in the sunlit courses of Spain or the lush greens of Morocco, BLS International ensures that visa processing is smooth and stress-free.

## Precision and Reliability Every Step of the Way:

Just as a perfect swing demands precision, international travel requires meticulous



planning. BLS International reflects this standard by delivering consistent and reliable visa services, ensuring that your travel plans remain uninterrupted. With extensive experience and a commitment to excellence, BLS International handles the complexities so that you can experience the joy of golf without distractions.

## Unlocking Iconic Courses with Ease:

Every golf course has its own unique charm, from Scotland's historic greens to Iceland's snow-dusted fairways. BLS International ensures these experiences are within reach by handling cross-border visa requirements with efficiency and care. They turn the prospect of international golf travel from a challenge into a seamless reality, so you can focus on creating unforgettable memories on the fairway.


## An Inclusive Approach to Golf Travel:

Golf is more than a sport; it is a journey of camaraderie and exploration that brings the people together. BLS International reflects this

spirit of inclusivity by making international travel accessible to golfers of all skill levels. Whether it's a family golf vacation or an amateur tournament, BLS International provides tailored visa solutions that cater to diverse needs, making it easier for everyone to chase their passion.

## BLS International: Your Trusted Visa Partner:

At BLS International, time is the ultimate luxury. Their commitment to seamless visa facilitation ensures your travel journey is smooth and hassle-free. Whether you're traveling solo or with a group, BLS International prioritizes efficient processing so you can focus on the game and the memories you create along the way.

With doorstep mobile biometrics services, BLS brings the visa process to you - wherever you are. Whether it's family or group travel, convenience is at the heart of their service. Let BLS International handle the formalities while you enjoy the journey - because in golf and travel, it's not just about the destination; it's about the experiences that stay with you forever. 



**World No. 1 and reigning FedExCup champion Scottie Scheffler rewrote golf history by becoming the first player to successfully defend THE PLAYERS Championship last year after closing with a stunning 8-under 64 at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass. He reflects on a memorable triumph ahead of his hat-trick attempt from March 13-16, 2025.**

**I**t was pretty special to win back-to-back PLAYERS titles. That's something you never really get the opportunity to do very often. It's tough enough to win one PLAYERS, and I was thankful to become the first player to repeat as champion in our flagship event.

I remember putting up a good fight for four days. My caddie Ted Scott was instrumental in the win as he kept me in a good head space the whole week as I was battling a neck injury which flared up during the second round.

It became quite painful especially when I was putting, but I'm a pretty competitive guy, and



**Scottie Scheffler**  
Photo credit : Getty Images

I didn't want to give up in the tournament. I did what I could to hang around until my neck got better which it did by the weekend due to some great work by my physio.

When you get an acute injury like that, if you can wake up the next day feeling a little bit better or the exact same, it's a win. Usually, the morning after is worse and when I woke up on Saturday, it felt a little bit better and I was able to hit some shots, and then on Sunday, I woke up feeling fairly close to normal and went out there and had a good round of golf.

I headed into the final round with the intention to get off to a good start on the front nine. I felt like if I could shoot a low front nine to put myself back into the tournament, that was really my goal. I was aiming for some early birdies, and I parred the first three holes, and then the hole-out for eagle on No. 4 really got me going. On the back nine, I remember hitting a lot of good shots and made some nice putts to close out my round.

It was really fun to be able to secure the win with a closing 64 and I think that's why we put in all the work to be able to finish off tournaments and to play well at the right time. It's nice coming

out on top for sure and it's a great feeling.

Competing for wins on the PGA TOUR, it's a real test both mentally and physically. I think mentally it can be very taxing but it's also a lot of fun being in the final groups, although it can take a toll on your body and mind. The week at THE PLAYERS was certainly a physical test, with how my neck was for a couple of days. So I had put a lot into trying to win the golf tournament and at the end of it, it was very satisfying to walk away with the trophy.

To me, being in contention is the most fun you can have on a golf course. We come out here to compete and try to win tournaments against the best players in the world and being in that environment, being in the arena, is a ton of fun.

It was truly a battle at THE PLAYERS last year, and a hard-fought week in every sense as a lot of guys played some really good golf and a few of them finished at 19-under; and I happened to finish at 20. That's some really good golf around The Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass.

Fans can watch Scottie Scheffler and the stars of the PGA TOUR compete in THE PLAYERS Championship on Fancode. [GP](#)



**Scottie Scheffler receiving treatment for his neck injury**  
Photo credit : Getty Images



HERE  
TO HELP  
YOU **SAVE**  
SHOTS

# PLAY BETTER

MORE TIPS! ► MORE TEACHERS! ► MORE USEFUL!



## QUICK FIX

### LOFTY AMBITION



When you're in a bunker you need to hit the shot with an open face. That promotes loft and sole bounce – the rounded rear sole that stops the club digging into the sand. To practise this open face, pile some sand on the face, then put your ball on top of the sand – you'll need to open the face wide to keep it there. Make a slow-mo swing, back and through, keeping the ball and sand on the face. To do this, the face must point to the sky... keeping the face open and the loft and bounce in an ideal position. **GF**

#### YOUR COACH



**GARETH JOHNSTON**  
PGA Professional and  
Director of Golf at Calcot  
Park, Berkshire

**p34** The Basics   **p36** DIY Diagnosis   **p37** TG Challenge  
**p38** Caddie On Your Shoulder   **p40** Learn A New Shot

## THE BASICS

# NAIL YOUR POSTURE EVERY TIME



Get your posture right and you give yourself your best chance of playing well. Get it wrong, and you're going to have a miserable day.

The world's best players are always checking the fundamentals, especially their posture, and one of the best you can copy is Adam Scott's. He says: "A good posture enables you to make an athletic and controlled movement. You want to get into a comfortable position where you feel confident about hitting the ball.

"I like to get my back fairly straight with my knees flexed just enough to engage my quads and my butt sticking out comfortably. My arms hang naturally down to the grip, with the butt of the club around a hand's width from my thigh. It's a routine I use for every swing I make, whether I'm on the range at home or competing in a PGA Tour event."

Here is a simple four-step process to develop a posture like Scott's - and a couple of checkpoints at the end to make sure you're on the right track. **GP**



1

Stand upright, your feet shoulder-width apart. Take a mid-iron and place the butt against your belt buckle, the shaft horizontal. Grip a few inches on to the metal with your lead hand only.

2

Tilt forward with your upper body. Keep the butt of the club against the belt buckle as you go down, preserving that triangle between your torso, lead arm and the top half of the club.



3

Keep tilting forward until you reach a natural stop. Your legs will now feel straight, your weight out into your toes. Take the tension out by softening the knees; feel the kneecaps are over your shoelaces.



4

Without changing the posture you have created, drop the club against your leg and let your arms hang down from your shoulders. This guides you to where your hands should be when you grip the club.

## YOUR COACH



CHRIS RYAN

Founder of the HIT Golf Academy, based at Forest of Arden. [chrisryangolf.com](http://chrisryangolf.com)



**'A good posture  
enables you to make  
an athletic and  
controlled movement'**

**ADAM SCOTT**



**End up like this!**

Run through those first four steps a few times until you feel you have got on top of the process. Then, once you are happy with the address position you have created, assess your position against these two checks...

## CHECKPOINTS

**Forward bend check**

Use either an alignment stick or clubshaft to drop a plumbline down from the back of your trail shoulder. With good posture, the line should fall just forward of your knees and run down to the toe caps of both shoes. This shows you have created enough forward bend in the upper body to swing the club freely on a good plane.



**Squat check**

Keeping your body angles intact, move the club around behind you and place the toe of the clubhead against the back of your heel. Set vertically upward, the shaft should run up to the back of your backside. Having your backside stick out around a club-length past your heels is a good guide for setting the pelvis in position, and making sure you are not too upright or too squatted.



## YOUR COACH



**ADRIAN FRYER**  
solidgolf.co.uk  
Fellow of the PGA based at  
Liverpool Golf Centre,  
liverpoolgolfcentre.co.uk




## DIY DIAGNOSIS

# SWING PATH CHECKER

**A launch monitor will set you back around £20,000. A shoe box comes free with a pair of shoes. Either can tell you a lot about your swing path**

**1 Set your lines**  
Place a shoe box on its side at the range, parallel to your ball-to-target line. Now put a ball close enough to the box so that there's only a golf ball's width between the box and the toe of your club. We'd recommend using a mid-iron for this drill.

**2 Miss the box**  
Because we stand to the side of the ball, the swing path works from inside to inside the ball-target line. Impact will ideally take place on the point of the arc where the club briefly swings along the target line. Achieve this neutral path and the toe of the club never gets closer to the box.

**3 Collision course**  
If you swing across the target line through the impact zone, the iron will hit the box. It will hit the back of the box if your swing path is too much out-to-in, and it will hit the front of the box if your swing path is too in-to-out. Use a box like this every two weeks to check your path remains in good shape. 

## THE DOWNLOAD


## Build better rhythm and tempo into your swing

### The Metronome Free on the app store



For most of us, the metronome is a device used by musicians to keep a beat. But in recent years, creative coaches have asked why golfers shouldn't use the same device to a similar end. Swinging to an external, regular beep, they argue, can assist with developing consistent tempo.

Though there are one or two bespoke golf metronome devices out there, the quickest and easiest way to try this is to download a free metronome app onto your smart phone. Most apps allow you to adjust the beeps or tones per minute – TG coach Gareth Johnston recommends around 60bpm as a good place to start. If other golfers are practising close to you, either adjust the volume or listen through headphones. From here, aim to start the swing on one beat and strike the ball on the next. If 60bpm feels too fast or slow, adjust to your own preferred speed. Once your tempo is set, try to copy it each time.

Note that this can be used on any golf shot, from full swing to short putt. 





## TG CHALLENGE

# FLIGHT CONTROL



Every short game needs a variety of shots, especially high and low ones. That means controlling your ball flight – and here's a brilliant way to do it. All you need is your bag, a shaft or alignment cane and a wedge... though as you get used to the game, change clubs. Go as high as a lob wedge and as low as an 8-iron. Master this challenge by hitting five consecutive shots above and below the bar. If you can do that, you've added valuable versatility to your short game.

### Hit it under

Your goal is to chip the ball under the bar. Depending on the wedge you have chosen, this might prove easy or difficult. To help keep the ball down, experiment with moving the ball further back in your stance, creating more lean in the clubshaft and adding some extra weight to your lead side.



### Hit it over

Now, with the same club and from the same position, hit balls over the bar. As before, the wedge you have chosen will make this the simpler or tougher of the two shots. But if you're struggling for height, play around with ball position (further forward), weight distribution (more 50-50) and clubface loft (more open). **GP**

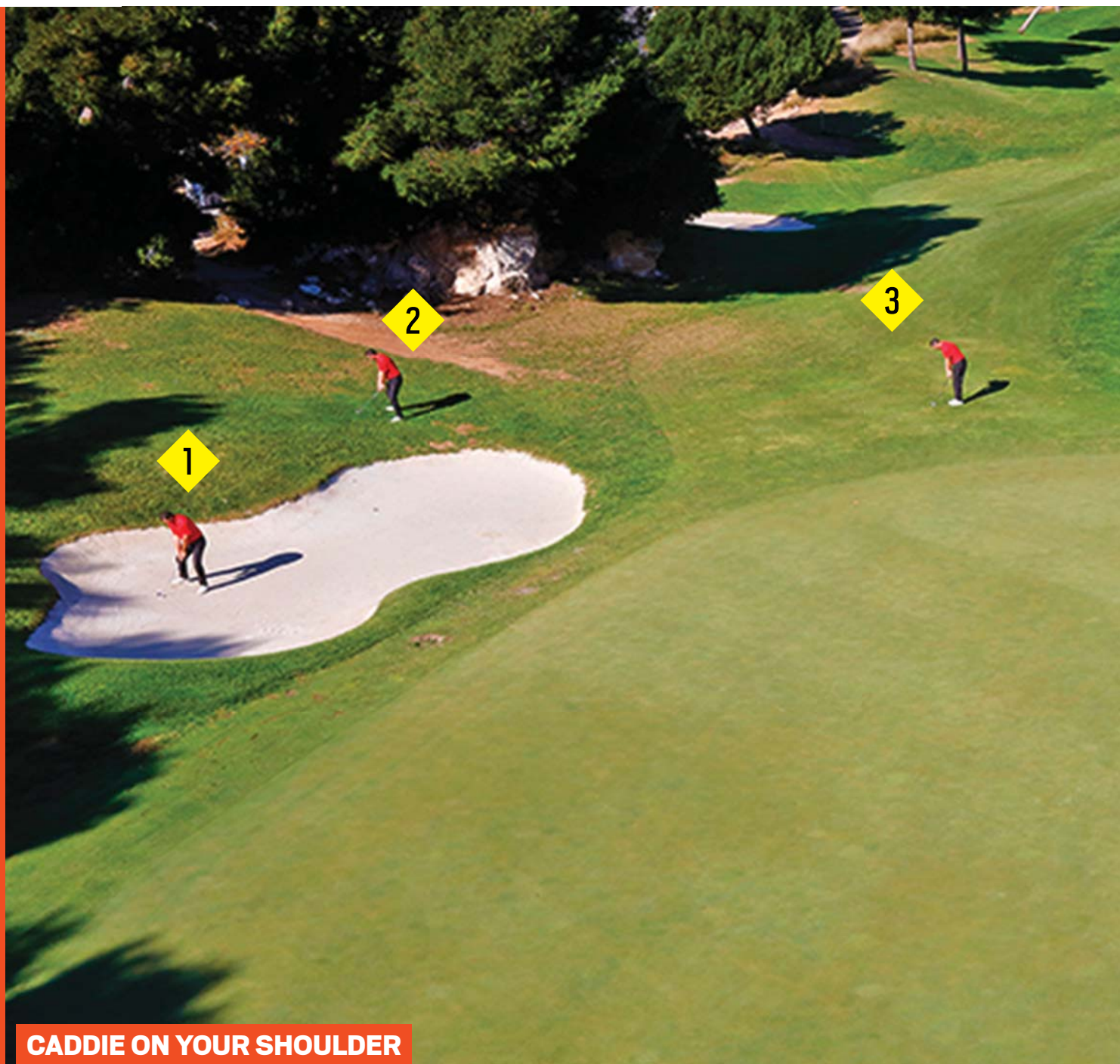


### YOUR COACH



**ANDREW MURRAY**  
andrewmurraygolf.com Former European Open Champion who specialises in one-on-one or group coaching and corporate golf events.





## CADDIE ON YOUR SHOULDER

# MAKE SURE YOUR NEXT SHOT IS A PUTT

📌 The world's best players rarely make a poor decision because they talk everything through with their caddies. Over the years numerous caddies have told us they could save anyone shots with the right advice, at the right time. While we can't send Joe LaCava, Billy Foster or Fanny Sunesson to join you on a round, we can share the tips and tricks that will make a difference to your game. Here, we take a look at four short game situations.

## 1 Greenside bunker splash

**THE SITUATION** The ball is lying pretty well in the sand but there's water lurking long.

**HOW TO PLAY IT** Position the ball just forward of centre, widen your stance, flex your knees a little more than normal and dig your feet into the sand to give yourself a stable base. Open your sand wedge a little to engage the bounce and add loft and hit aggressively into the sand about two inches behind the ball. With water long and a bit of green to work with, you're better off taking a little too much sand than too little as the chunk and release is safer.

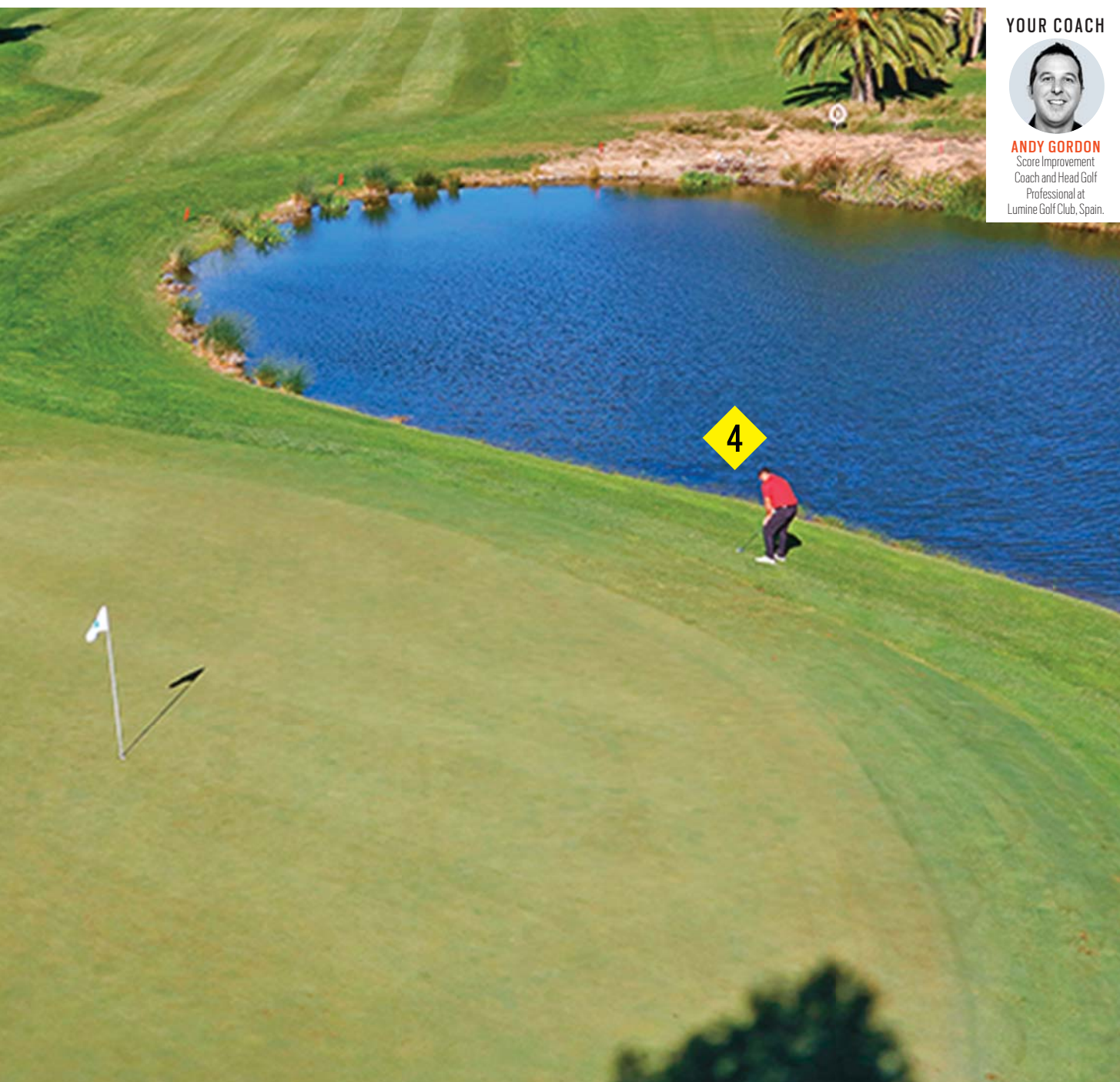


## YOUR COACH



### ANDY GORDON

Score Improvement  
Coach and Head Golf  
Professional at  
Lumine Golf Club, Spain.



## 2 Flop it over the hazard

**THE SITUATION** A short pitch from a downhill lie in the rough with a bunker between you and the hole.

**HOW TO PLAY IT** Set up so your body matches the slope and open up your most lofted wedge to give yourself as much loft as you are comfortable using. Create a shallow attack angle so the clubhead glides under the ball — but beware the club doesn't slide under the ball completely if it's sat up in the rough! Pick a landing spot about halfway to the hole so you don't go in the bunker if you under-hit it or don't get the contact you desire.

## 3 Chip and run from short grass

**THE SITUATION** A relatively simple chip from a good lie and with plenty of green to work with.

**HOW TO PLAY IT** You want to get the ball running like a putt as quickly as possible, so take the club that will carry the ball about a yard onto the green and release it the required distance to the pin — anything from 7-iron to PW. Keep your feet quite narrow and make sure your heels are square to your start line. Stand a little closer to the ball in the middle of your stance, choke down on the grip and rock your shoulders like a putt with minimal wrist hinge.

## 4 Chip from the rough

**THE SITUATION** The ball is sitting down, the green is slightly above you and you're short-sided.

**HOW TO PLAY IT** You need to pop the ball out a little higher to carry it to the green and help it stop a little quicker than a normal chip. Take a more lofted club like a SW and move the ball an inch further back in your stance to encourage a slightly steeper attack angle. Keep a simple swing from rocking the shoulders, but you can introduce a little wrist hinge to add some clubhead speed. Be aggressive through the ball.



## LEARN A NEW SHOT

## GET HOT UNDER THE COLLAR



A ball trickling off the back of the green can cause problems when it nestles snugly against the first cut. While the putting surface might only be a foot in front of you, longer grass means you can't really putt it, or get the bottom of the club to the back of the ball. Here's a solution, and with just a little practice it can become a really useful shot to have in the bag...

## HOW TO PLAY IT

**Hover it, just a little bit**

Use the leading edge of your wedge. Such a thin surface won't snag in the longer grass. Strike the middle of the ball and it will run like a putt. A strike slightly above the equator can also work, adding topspin to help the ball roll.

**Level angle of attack**

The key to executing this shot is attack angle. Anything downwards will tend to send the leading edge below the ball's equator. A level attack from a hovered clubhead will help your contact. Promote this with a mid-stance ball position.

**Hit it like a putt**

For the best results, use a wrist-free putting-style stroke. Wrist action creates angles that can lead to a damaging descending blow; with a shoulder-led, wrist-free stroke you can sweep the wedge low to the ground. **GP**

## YOUR COACH

**STEVE ASTLE**

Advanced PGA Professional at Morley Hayes, Derby and Head of Coaching at East Midlands Golf Academy





## DE ROEY CLINCHES THIRD LET TITLE AT AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S CLASSIC

**7** Manon De Roey made a clutch birdie at the 18th hole of the Australian Women's Classic to clinch the title and become a three-time Ladies European Tour (LET) winner.

On a nervy final day, the Belgian kept her cool late on dialling in an excellent approach to seven-feet at the par-4 18th before sealing the putt for LET victory number three.

Signing for a round of 69 (-1), De Roey pipped England's Cara Gainer to the trophy with a winning score of nine-under par.

De Roey responded with a birdie at the 7th to level things up leaving things wide open

**DE ROEY RESPONDED WITH A BIRDIE AT THE 7TH TO LEVEL THINGS UP LEAVING THINGS WIDE OPEN HEADING INTO THE BACK-NINE.**

heading into the back-nine.

With Gainer in the clubhouse lead on eight-under par after a pair of excellent birdies at the 17th and 18th, it all came down to the final hole. De Roey would rip her drive down the middle before dialling in an excellent



Manon De Roey  
Image courtesy: Tristan Jones LET

54-degree wedge to seven-feet. Under pressure she then rolled in the birdie to clinch the title.

The victory is De Roey's third on the LET after she won the 2022 Aramco Team

Series - Bangkok title and 2024 Investec SA Women's Open.

In the 2025 LET Order of Merit, De Roey collects 500 points and jumps into second spot 325.14 points behind Gainer. **GP**

## RHODES KEEPS HER COOL TO WIN FORD WOMEN'S NSW OPEN

**7** Mimi Rhodes produced a composed final day display at Wollongong Golf Club to win the Ford Women's NSW Open by two shots and earn a maiden Ladies European Tour (LET) victory.

The 23-year-old rookie went bogey-free on Sunday carding a round of 69 (-2) to end the week on 17-under par.

On a tense final day, Rhodes – competing in only her fourth event as a full LET member - showed maturity way beyond her years carding 14 straight pars after birdies at the 2nd and 4th. This came two days after she fired the course record 62 (-9) at Wollongong Golf Club.

The 23-year-old adds the maiden LET title to her impressive catalogue of amateur wins - a resume which includes a Curtis Cup, US Kids European Championship, Justin Rose Telegraph Junior Golf Championship and NCAA Division I Women's Golf Championship. The victory also comes one year after Rhodes won the Lavaux Ladies Open.

In the LET Order of Merit, Rhodes collects



Mimi Rhodes  
Image courtesy: Tristan Jones LET

**IN THE LET ORDER OF MERIT, RHODES COLLECTS 500 POINTS AND JUMPS INTO THIRD POSITION ON 536.50 POINTS.**

500 points and jumps into third position on 536.50 points. England's Cara Gainer remains

in top spot on 870.18 points. Belgium's Manon De Roey is in second on 577.50 points having fired a final round 65 (-6) in Australia to finish T9. The result comes a week after she won the Australian Women's Classic at Coff's Harbour. **GP**



## HYO JOO KIM RALLIES WITH 64 AND BEATS LILIA VU IN AN LPGA PLAYOFF IN ARIZONA

**7** Hyo Joo Kim rallied from a four-shot deficit with an 8-under 64 to force a playoff, defeating Lilia Vu on the first extra hole with a 6-foot birdie putt in the Ford Championship.

Kim won for the seventh time on the LPGA and emerged from a long and wild day in the desert at Whirlwind Golf Club with 10 birdies in the 19 holes she played.

Vu hit a splendid bunker shot on the par-5 17th to set up a short birdie to tie Kim. Her approach on the 18th bounded across the firm green, she chipped to 7 feet and holed the par putt for a 68 to send the tournament into extra holes. Vu missed a birdie putt from about 15 feet, setting up Kim for the win.

**"THE FEELING WAS GREAT TODAY AND I JUST THOUGHT ONE HOLE AT A TIME, ONE BIRDIE AT A TIME,"**

"The feeling was great today and I just thought one hole at a time, one birdie at a time," Kim said through her interpreter. She was at her best in the playoff, especially with the combination of wind and bouncy



Hyo Joo Kim  
Image courtesy: Getty Images

greens making it difficult to figure out where to land shots on the green. Kim's approach in the playoff rolled out perfectly. Kim won \$337,500, sending her over \$10 million for

her career on the LPGA Tour.

Defending champion Nelly Korda fell out of the mix on Saturday and shot a 69 on Sunday to finish in a tie for 22nd. **GP**

## SAGSTROM WINS T-MOBILE MATCH PLAY OVER COUGHLIN TO EARN FIRST TITLE IN NEARLY 1,900 DAYS

**7** After playing her fourth 18-plus hole match of the week on at Shadow Creek Golf Course, it was ultimately Madelene Sagstrom who came out on top in Las Vegas, winning 1-up over Lauren Coughlin to capture her second career victory on the LPGA Tour.

The Championship Match saw Sagstrom take an early 1-up lead on the second hole of the round, an advantage she extended to two after winning the par-5 4th hole. The Swede then won holes five and six to move four ahead with 12 holes to play in Sin City, but Coughlin immediately started chipping away at that deficit and fought her way back to 1 up after winning seven, eight and nine.

The T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards is Sagstrom's first Tour title since she became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the Gainbridge LPGA at Boca Rio back in 2020, and it was a hard-earned victory, considering the Swede is the first player in the history of this event to amass a 7-0-0 record.

Coughlin was disappointed to fall just short of earning her third career LPGA Tour title on Sunday afternoon, particularly considering how hard she grinded throughout the entirety of the T-Mobile Match Play, playing a whopping



seven matches of at least 18 holes over the past five days. But she is looking on the bright side as much as she can in this moment and will carry a lot of confidence forward from this performance even though she didn't feel like she had her strongest stuff, as it reinforced Coughlin's self-identity as a fighter.

Having lost in the semifinal matches, Jutanugarn and Yin will each be awarded a T3 finish as the consolation match has been eliminated from the format at the T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards. Sagstrom earns \$300,000 and 500 Race to the CME Globe points as part of her victory. **GP**





## LETH-NISSEN SECURES FIRST PROFESSIONAL VICTORY AT THE TERRE BLANCHE LADIES OPEN

➤ Overnight leader Amalie Leth-Nissen produced a composed final day display to win the Terre Blanche Ladies Open by three shots and earn a maiden Ladies European Tour Access Series (LETAS) victory.

The Dane got off to a shaky start with a bogey on the first before an amazing eagle on the sixth allowed her some breathing room. A double bogey on hole seven followed by a bogey on hole nine threatened her lead yet Leth-Nissen brought it back on the back nine with birdies on 10 and 18.

It was a family affair for the Leth Nissens' with Mum caddying for sister Cecilie who finished tied 18th and her father Christian caddying for Amalie. The last couple of years have been a struggle for the Dane, who after earning her LET playing rights at the 2022 Q School found the transition to professional life difficult and failed to keep them for the following year.

The 20-year-old adds the maiden LETAS title to her impressive catalogue of amateur records— a resume which includes a PING Junior Solheim Cup win, a European Girls' Team Championship and the 2019 Junior Vagliano Trophy.



Amalie Leth-Nissen  
Image courtesy: Philippe Millereau

French amateur Sara Brentcheneff finished runner-up for the second year in a row on seven-under-par and whilst she may have not won the tournament she won the crowd's heart. Swiss

amateur Natalie Armbruster finished solo third on six-under-par whilst Finland's Elina Saks and Czechia's Patricie Mackova finished tied fourth one shot back. [GP](#)

## ROOKIE RHODES SECURES BACK-TO-BACK WINS

➤ England's Mimi Rhodes claimed her second Ladies European Tour (LET) title at the Joburg Ladies Open, achieving back-to-back victories in her rookie season. This remarkable feat marks a significant milestone for the 23-year-old, setting an impressive tone for the 2025 season, after her recent triumph at the Ford Women's NSW Open in Australia just weeks earlier.

Leading by three shots heading into the final round, Rhodes started the day ahead of South Africa's Casandra Alexander and Ireland's Lauren Walsh who were both in T2.

The rising star produced a composed final day at Modderfontein Golf Club, carding three birdies, and posting a round of 71 (-2) to end the week on 14-under par. Despite weather conditions being tough this week due to heavy rainfall, the 23-year-old has shown great



Mimi Rhodes  
Image courtesy: Tristan Jones LET

composure the whole week.

Despite hitting it slightly long on the 18th, which nearly saw a playoff on the cards, she was able to keep her cool and still take par.

Only one-shot back was South Africa's Casandra Alexander, who only dropped a

shot on the 7th, to finish 13-under par.

The tournament had a revised format and was reduced to 54 holes, announced on Friday, following heavy rainfall and a flooded course.

In the LET Order of Merit, Rhodes now leads the standings following her second win with 1,036.50 to her name. England's Cara Gainer is now in second place on 870.18, followed by Belgian's Manon De Roey on 577.50 points.

After five tournaments played, the young star leads the Rookie of the Year standings, with Arwefjall in second place, following her strong start to the season. [GP](#)

**IN THE LET ORDER OF MERIT, RHODES NOW LEADS THE STANDINGS FOLLOWING HER SECOND WIN WITH 1,036.50 TO HER NAME.**



## ANGELA STANFORD NAMED CAPTAIN FOR 2026 U.S. SOLHEIM CUP TEAM

➤ After three turns as an assistant captain, Angela Stanford will take the helm of her first U.S. Solheim Cup Team in 2026. Stanford, a six-time veteran of the American squad, will captain the top 12 American female golfers as they represent their country at Bernardus Golf in the Netherlands, from Sept. 11-13, 2026.

Stanford retired in 2024 after a 23-year LPGA Tour career. She has seven LPGA Tour victories, earning her first major title at the 2018 Amundi Evian Championship in her 18th season on Tour. Stanford has also won the 2023 and 2024 Senior LPGA Championships.

She competed in 98 consecutive major championships from 2002 to 2024, second only to Jack Nicklaus for consecutive majors played in professional golf.

Stanford has competed in six Solheim Cups, representing the USA in 2003, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015. In 2015, Stanford earned the winning point for the U.S. Team with her 2-and-1 victory over Suzann Pettersen. She then served as an assistant captain in 2021 under Captain Pat Hurst, and again in 2023 and 2024 under Captain Stacy Lewis.



Angela Stanford  
Image courtesy: Getty Images

Prior to joining the LPGA Tour, Stanford was a four-year All-American at Texas Christian University, where she won nine collegiate tournaments. She is a 2000 TCU graduate with a degree in Speech Communications and is enshrined in the Texas Golf Hall of Fame and the TCU Athletics Hall of Fame.

Off the course, Stanford runs the Angela Stanford Foundation, which provides scholarships to kids in her native Texas whose families have fallen victim to breast cancer. Stanford works in honour of her mother, Nan, who battled the disease for 13 years before her death in 2022. [GP](#)

## LPGA ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL UPDATE TO NEW PACE OF PLAY POLICY

➤ The Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) confirmed an additional change to the updated Pace of Play Policy that was previously announced. The LPGA and Epson Tours will add a season-long tracking element for holes timed as part of a continuous effort to improve pace of play. Players who have 40 or more holes timed during the remaining scheduled events on



**“LOOKING AT THE DATA, WE CONCLUDED THAT IF A PLAYER HAD 40 OR MORE HOLES TIMED OVER THE SEASON, THAT PLAYER CONTRIBUTED TO A SLOWER PACE OF PLAY.”**

LPGA PLAYER PRESIDENT VICKI-GOETZE ACKERMAN

the LPGA Tour (excluding the T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards, U.S. Women's Open, Dow Championship and AIG Women's Open) will receive a fine. This addition will also go into effect on March 27 at the Ford Championship presented by Wild Horse Pass, along with the previously announced changes.

Players who have 20 or more holes timed

for the remainder of the 2025 Epson Tour season will also receive a fine, which will go into effect starting April 25 at the IOA Championship presented by Morongo Casino Resort and Spa.

“Looking at the data, we concluded that if a player had 40 or more holes timed over the season, that player contributed to a slower

pace of play,” said LPGA Player President Vicki-Goetze Ackerman. “We believe that this addition to the policy, along with penalty strokes being issued for plus times of +6 or greater, will increase the number of players who heed the initial warnings, leading to fewer players out of position and therefore timings.” [GP](#)



# QUTAB GOLF LEAGUE – ALAG HAI!



**The Qutab Golf League (QGL) brought a transformative wave to the golfing landscape in the National Capital Region, marking its inaugural edition with ground-breaking features and a unique structure.**

**P**layed in a Team Championship format, the League attracted 160 players, divided into 10 teams, each consisting of 16 members. A noteworthy aspect was the auction of 40 uncapped players, giving regular club golfers the rare chance to compete alongside top amateur golfers in a high-stakes environment.

The first edition of the League, held at the par-70 Qutab Golf Course, saw Team 'Swinging Shers' emerge victorious. With an impressive final round tally of 410 Stableford points, they claimed the Championship with a total of 1041 points. Team 'Casual Gurus' followed closely in second place, securing 1013 points, while 'Skullcandy Icons' took third with 995 points. The winning team, 'Swinging Shers,' earned Rs 12 lakhs in prize money. The runner's-up got to take home Rs 8 lakhs for their effort.

During the Final round, there were several Individual category prizes which were fiercely contested as well, with Yuvraj Sodhi of 'Casual Gurus' clinching the top spot in the Individual category with 40 Stableford points.



In the 'Ladies' category, Sunaina Gera of 'Victorious Choice' emerged the winner with 37 points, while Aryaveer Khoda of 'Mighty Pathans' annexed the crown in the 'Junior' category with 40 points. AS Pasricha of 'Golf Spartans', with 34 points won in the 'Senior' category. Gaurav Chaturvedi of 'Swinging Shers' with 37 points and Pushpinder Rathore of 'Golf Spartans' with 39 points won in the 'Armed Forces' and 'Government' categories respectively.

Sponsors who came forth to support the league were MG Motors, Shudhee, Asia Spa

Resort, Talisman, The Amber Vermont Estate, Chimmys, Wild Vitamin Drink, Kairali, Styzen, Miam and Golf Plus as the official Golf Magazine.

In a glittering Prize Distribution ceremony during which the Legendary Band "Indian Ocean" performed, the Championship Trophy for the Winning Team was given away by Chief Guest, VC DDA, Mr. Vijay Kumar Singh. The other Prize Presenters included Principal Commissioner DDA Mr. Chitaranjan Dash, Commissioner Sports DDA, Mr. Kishore Kshirsagar Lakshman and other sponsors. **GP**





# THE FICCI GOLF LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2025

The FICCI Golf Leadership Summit 2025 was a distinguished two-day event dedicated to driving the growth and development of the golf industry in India.

**D**ay 1 featured an insightful conference, bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, and experts to explore opportunities and strategies for promoting golf as a sport and business. With a strong emphasis on inclusivity, accessibility, and tourism, the summit reinforced the need for collaborative efforts to position India as a

global golfing destination.

Speaking at the summit, Mr. PKSV Sagar, Chairman, FICCI Sports Committee & President, GMR Sports, emphasized the need to reshape the perception of golf in India.

Dr. Jyotsna Suri, Past President, FICCI & CMD, The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group, highlighted the critical role of golf in high-value tourism

and economic growth.

Mr. Suman Billa IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, underscored the significance of golf tourism as a high-impact sector. To facilitate this, he stressed the need for an inter-ministerial task force to integrate golf development with tourism initiatives.

The session was moderated by Mr. Rajan Sehgal, Chairman, FICCI Golf Task Force & President, India Golf Tourism Association, who reiterated the importance of a long-term vision to position India as a premier golfing hub.

Day 2 hosted an exclusive, invite-only golf tournament, providing a unique platform for networking and collaboration on the greens. This transformative experience played a crucial role in shaping the future of the sport! **GP**





# FOR THE FUTURE: NURTURING THE NEXT WAVE OF GOLF TALENT

## THE LEELA ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT – 3rd Edition

**F**ollowing the resounding success of the first two editions, The Leela Palace Bengaluru hosted their third shotgun tournament at the Karnataka Golf Association. The third edition is in collaboration with the Junior Golf Development Program and Karnataka Golf Association.

What truly made this tournament stand out was its exceptional mix of rising stars and young talent, aged between 8 and 18, showcasing the full spectrum of golfing talent. The tournament has always been centered around children, with the main aim of inspiring the younger generation and promoting the development of their careers. This year, the tournament saw over 40 children in participation aged between with 70% playing for the second time. They were supported by 80 adults, comprising corporate professionals & key personalities from various industries, who joined in supporting the cause.

The emerging golf talent in India is showing exceptional promise, with numerous accolades highlighting their potential. Recent achievements of players who participated include victories in prestigious events such as the U.S. Kids Indian Championship, U.S. Kids World Juniors and U.S. Kids Singapore and Malaysian Championships, alongside top finishes in the at IGU South Zone (India) and Epic WRX All India Tour. With multiple first-place finishes at events like the Karnataka Golf Association, these golfers are demonstrating remarkable skill and determination, positioning themselves as future stars of the sport.

The shotgun tee-off was by none other than the President of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), widely regarded as one of the greatest all-rounders in the history of the sport - Sh. Kapil Dev. Known as an avid golfer, he has participated in various golf tournaments. On the occasion, Sh. Kapil Dev said, "The beauty of our country is that we can give children the space to play and dream. You never know which child will shine and make us proud. I'm glad to see Leela stepping in to promote sports and provide young talent with the platform they deserve. Give them the opportunity, and the rest will come through their talent and hard work."

Madhav Sehgal, Area Vice President - South India, The Leela Palaces Hotels & Resorts said, "This year, the tournament reached new heights with young golfers who have earned global recognition. The Leela remains committed to inspiring budding talent, providing a platform where camaraderie and competition blend harmoniously to shape the



### Winners of The Leela Annual Golf Tournament:

#### Kapil Dev Longest Drive

Rachana Bahadur

#### Straightest Drive

Ganesh Basavaraj, Managing Director, Machaan Resorts

#### Closest to the pin par 3

Ajay Kanwal

#### Handicap 0-18

**Winner** - Ajay Vij, Senior Country Managing Director, Accenture

**Runner up** - John Abraham

#### Handicap 19-24

**Winner** - Rachna Bahadur, SVP, Country Head - India, Synchrony

**Runner up** - Dr. Sanjay Rao

#### Kids winner and runners up

**14-18 years :** **Winner** - Ayaan Jung

**Runner up** - Manoj M

**12-14 years :** **Winner** - Aida Thimmaiah

**Runner up** - Prem Muniyappa

**9 - 11 years :** **Winner** - Suryaansh Reddy

**Runner up** - Dharma

**8 and below :** **Winner** - Shanshank Sudhakar

**Runner up** - Pramati Veera

champions of tomorrow."

Beyond the honour of triumph, the winners

received stay and dining vouchers across The Leela Palaces Hotels and Resorts. [GP](#)



# FIA JCB GOLF TOURNAMENT



JCB India Ltd., the country's leading manufacturer of earthmoving and construction equipment held the 16th edition of the FIA-JCB Golf Tournament at the prestigious Aravalli Golf Club. Over the years, this tournament has grown into a much-anticipated annual event in the industrial

town bringing together golf enthusiasts from across the Delhi NCR region.

This year's tournament saw over 70 players competing across various categories. Adding to the thrill, several new prize categories were introduced, including special awards for seniors above 70, youngest and oldest players, and those

competing in the 9-hole format. A separate category for Professional/Amateur players also brought a competitive edge to the event. Participants teed off with enthusiasm, vying for the prestigious FIA-JCB Rolling Trophy and other coveted prizes. The winner of the Tournament was Ravinder Singh Vaswan with a Score of 78. **GP**



(L-R) Jasmeet Singh, VP Sales & Marketing JCB India Ltd., Sunil Khurana, Chief Operating Officer, JCB India Ltd with Winner Ravinder Singh Vaswan and Dr. Navdeep Chawla



## RESULT

Winner Closest to the Pin - Hole No.4	Sahil Ratra
Winner Longest Drive - Hole No.9	Sahil Ratra
Winner Nearest to the Centerline - Hole No.14	Hardik Mehendiratta & Shiv Khanna
Winner Crooked Line Hole No.2	Prateek Chawla & Harshit Gupta
Spirit of the Game Award for Seniors (60 years and above) for gentlemanly conduct during the round	Iqbal Singh Bhatti
Winner Ladies	Roshni Negi
Winner Oldest Player	Rishi Agrawal
Winner Seniors Above 70 Years	S C Sharad
Winner Youngest Player	Meher Marya
Runner Up Senior (60 years & above)	Anand Sharma
Winner Senior (60 years & above)	Abhay Gupta
Winner 9 Holes Player	Jasmeet Singh
Winner Pro	Lakhan Singh
Runner Up Nett	Sahil Ratra
Winner Nett	Harish Gupta
Runner Up Gross	Shiv Khanna
Winner Gross	Ravinder Singh Vaswan



# PAR FOR THE STARS

## HDFC BANK AND BIRDIESCONNECT™ REDEFINE WOMEN'S GOLF



→ The fairways of Gurgaon were alive with enthusiasm, camaraderie, and newfound ambitions, as HDFC Bank and BirdiesConnect™ hosted “Par for the Stars,” a bespoke golf experience celebrating International Women’s Day. This wasn’t merely a sporting event—it was an elegantly orchestrated statement about inclusion, empowerment, and the boundless potential of women.

Golf has historically felt exclusive, a space often intimidating for newcomers—especially women stepping onto the greens for the first time. “Par for the Stars” deliberately turned this notion on its head. From corporate leaders and entrepreneurs to professionals from varied industries, each participant arrived with curiosity and left with confidence.

Ankita from Citi Solutions Center encapsulated the day’s spirit, “I am delighted to be a part of this event. It’s so well-organized, with such a refreshing and different theme. Seeing so many women here with incredible enthusiasm is inspiring.”

Participants enjoyed expert-led instruction that simplified the complexities of golf into accessible, engaging lessons. For many, like Swetha of HDFC Retail Banking, this event marked their first-ever encounter with golf. “It was a wonderful surprise. I’d never played golf before. It’s such a beautiful game, and I’m absolutely coming back for more,” she said, her enthusiasm infectious.

BirdiesConnect™, founded on the mission to dismantle barriers around women’s



golf, provided an environment defined by encouragement rather than competition. Janani from Citi Solutions Center reflected this sentiment: “I made the ‘judgment-free’ statement earlier—and it genuinely was. Golf often feels distant, but today, I had the opportunity to connect with it closely. This is where my journey begins.”

The partnership with HDFC Bank was a natural alignment. Known for pioneering initiatives that promote women’s leadership and inclusivity across India, the bank recognized sport as a powerful vehicle for confidence and community building. This sentiment resonated clearly throughout the day. Rashmi from KPMG felt a genuine sense of transformation: “It was such a wonderful experience, and I believe from now on, I can truly take golf forward in my life.”

Beyond the technical instruction, the day seamlessly transitioned into an evening of



networking and celebration. Participants bonded over shared experiences and newfound friendships, proving once again the power of sport in bridging gaps, opening doors, and creating community.

“Par for the Stars” did more than introduce women to golf—it provided a glimpse of what is possible when barriers are purposefully removed. Through thoughtful partnership and genuine inclusivity, HDFC Bank and BirdiesConnect™ have not only invited women onto the golf course but have also invited them into a space where they can confidently claim their spot, forge connections, and inspire each other.

As the sun set over Gurgaon, the sentiment was unanimous—this was not the end, but just the beginning. These women arrived as individuals curious about golf and left as ambassadors of empowerment, ready to break more barriers, one swing at a time. **GP**



# DEWAN KABIR NATH WINS PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

**H**urricane Junior Tour India held its 2nd event of 2025 at Tarudhan Valley Golf Resort.

A small field turned up, but did not disappoint us as far as the game was concerned. The conditions were breezy and shot was made tough because of the windy conditions. **GP**

## The age division top position holders were:

<b>Dewan Kabir Nath</b>	: Boys 16-18
<b>Sidhak S. Handa</b>	: Boys 14-15
<b>Shivai Saigol</b>	: Boys 11-13
<b>Keeon Agarwal</b>	: Boys 10 & under
<b>Rishaan Ahuja</b>	: Boys 10 & under
<b>Brisha Singh</b>	: Girls 13 & under



# THE GULLI JUNEJA MEMORIAL CUP

**T**ournament was held on 27th March in memory of Mr. I.V.S (Gulli) Juneja who was a keen golfer and was the President of Indian Golf Union, President of Delhi Golf Club and MD of Golden Greens Golf Club.

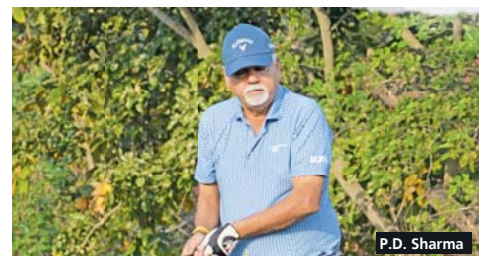
The event had three categories Gross, Nett and Stableford and each category was keenly contested. To make it more interesting there was a rule of One player One prize. **GP**

## RESULTS:

<b>Winner Gross</b>	: Anil Raao
<b>Winner Nett</b>	: P.D. Sharma
<b>Winner Stableford</b>	: Debobroto Chakraborty



Anil Raao



P.D. Sharma



Debobroto Chakraborty



# LAGUNA LANG CO

## STEPS UP AS HUE TAKES CENTRE STAGE

The Sir Nick Faldo Signature Design at Laguna Golf Lang Co is one of Vietnam's most admired layouts

**Integrated resort positions itself as a gateway of choice in province during National Tourism Year.**



Laguna Lang Co is positioning itself as the pinnacle of luxury and the ultimate gateway to Hue City's cultural, historical, and natural wonders as the former capital hosts Vietnam's National Tourism Year 2025.

Sandwiched between rainforest-clad mountains and the ocean along the pristine coastline of Lang Co Bay, Laguna Lang Co stands out as one of the country's most expansive and versatile integrated resorts, offering a blend of opulence and immersion into Vietnam's rich heritage.

The resort's award-winning hotels, Banyan Tree Lang Co and Angsana Lang Co, are sanctuaries of elegance and comfort, with accommodations ranging from luxurious suites to showstopping villa residences like the recently launched three-bedroom Banyan Tree Seaview Pool Villas. Indeed, private living spaces in those villas feature subtle exterior and interior design influenced by the traditional architecture of Hue.

The acclaimed Sir Nick Faldo Signature golf course-regarded as one of Vietnam's finest-adds to Laguna Lang Co's reputation



Accommodation options at Laguna Lang Co include the sumptuous Banyan Tree Hill Villas

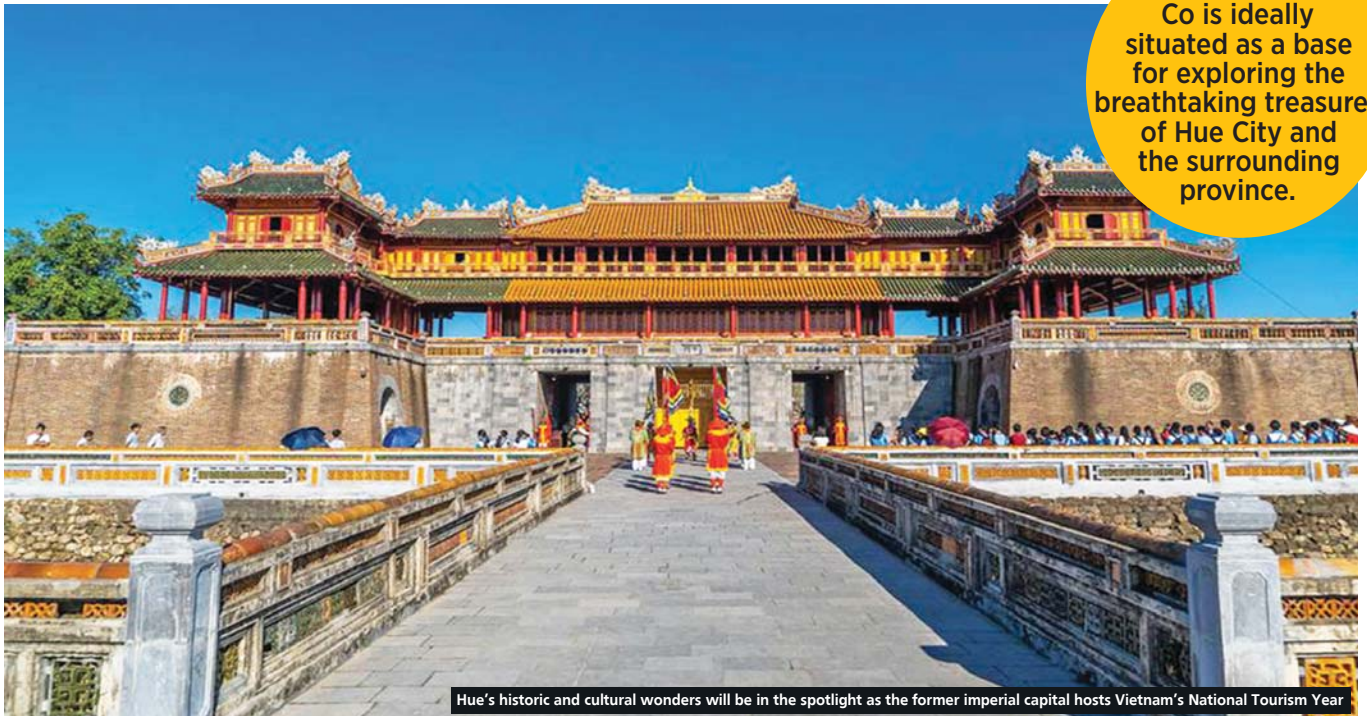
as a world-class destination. Guests can also indulge in a myriad of leisure attractions, including rejuvenating spa treatments and an eclectic array of dining experiences that span Thai, Vietnamese, Italian, and beachside cuisine.

Laguna Lang Co is ideally situated as a base

for exploring the breathtaking treasures of Hue City and the surrounding province. Visitors can journey to nearby landmarks such as the majestic imperial tombs of history-rich Hue, Vietnam's former imperial capital with its breathtaking royal tombs and impressive citadel, the pristine beaches of Lang Co Bay,



Laguna Lang Co is ideally situated as a base for exploring the breathtaking treasures of Hue City and the surrounding province.



Hue's historic and cultural wonders will be in the spotlight as the former imperial capital hosts Vietnam's National Tourism Year



The natural beauty of Hue can be sampled to full effect at Laguna Lang Co

**Laguna Lang Co's sales and marketing strategy for 2025 is focused on positioning Hue and the resort as premier travel destinations.**

and the scenic trails of Bach Ma National Park. This positioning underscores the resort's commitment to steering attention toward the province's unique offerings.

"2025 presents an incredible opportunity for Hue to showcase its rich heritage, cultural vibrancy, and stunning natural beauty," said Gavin Herholdt, managing director of Laguna Lang Co. "At Laguna Lang Co, we are committed to enhancing the guest experience through investments in infrastructure, services, and human resources. Our focus is on creating unforgettable moments that reflect the warmth and culture of Hue while meeting the growing demand from domestic and international visitors."


In preparation for the National Tourism Year, Laguna Lang Co is undergoing significant

enhancements. Accommodation upgrades, new dining concepts, and expanded facilities are just some of the developments aimed at elevating the guest experience. The resort is also investing in comprehensive training programs to ensure its team delivers world-class hospitality while embodying the spirit of Hue.

The resort's initiatives extend beyond its property lines. Strengthening partnerships with local communities, Laguna Lang Co emphasises sustainable tourism practices that benefit both visitors and residents. From eco-friendly tours to artisan workshops, the resort fosters experiences connecting travellers to the heart of Hue's story.

Laguna Lang Co's sales and marketing strategy for 2025 is focused on positioning

Hue and the resort as premier travel destinations. International campaigns will target key markets such as Australia, South Korea, and Europe, leveraging digital channels, collaborations with influencers, and participation in major travel fairs. Domestically, the resort will highlight family-friendly packages, private villas, and wellness retreats that cater to diverse traveller needs.

"We're focused on privacy, sustainability, and experience-driven travel," added Herholdt. "For international travellers, Laguna Lang Co offers exclusive access to cultural landmarks and high-end experiences that blend luxury with authenticity. For the domestic market, we're showcasing family getaways, group retreats, and seasonal packages that create meaningful connections." 





# N THANGARAJA COASTS TO GRAND FIVE-SHOT WIN AFTER CLINICAL FINAL ROUND PERFORMANCE AT AHMEDABAD OPEN 2025 PRESENTED BY INDUSIND BANK



Champion N Thangaraja (2nd from left) receives the trophy and cheque from Mr. Rakesh Mehta, Zonal Head West, IndusInd Bank (3rd from right). The other dignitaries seen in the picture are Mr. Amandeep Johl, CEO, PGTI (extreme left), Mr. Sampath Chari, Tournament Director, PGTI (3rd from left), Mr. Shrey Sinha representing Kensville Golf & Country Club (2nd from right) and Mr. Lokinder Malik, GM, Kensville Golf & Country Club (extreme right)



N Thangaraja - Winner

**"I made a solid start and when the gap between myself and the rest continued to widen, I realized that I didn't need to do anything fancy."**

**S**ri Lankan golfer N Thangaraja coasted to a grand five-shot win after a clinical final round performance of one-over 73 at the INR 1 crore Ahmedabad Open 2025 presented by IndusInd Bank played at the Kensville Golf & Country Club near Ahmedabad.

The 43-year-old Thangaraja (65-73-69-73), the third-round leader by five shots, capitalized on his comfortable overnight advantage with a clinical 73 as he totaled eight-under 280 for the week. Thanga thus secured his fifth PGTI title and first win since 2023.

Mysuru's Yashas Chandra (72-70-70-73) also struck a last round of 73 to end the week as runner-up at a total of three-under 285.

N Thangaraja, who set the bar in round one before regaining his lead once again in round

three, had a relatively quiet fourth day as he knocked in one birdie and conceded two bogeys. Thanga made his only birdie of the day on the Par-5 sixth hole where he landed his chip within four feet of the pin.

The Colombo resident played a steady round as he didn't seem in any kind of trouble for most part of the day. Thanga dropped shots only towards the end on the 16th and 17th when he had already taken a daunting eight-shot lead and his victory was a foregone conclusion.

Thanga said, "I made a solid start and when the gap between myself and the rest continued to widen, I realized that I didn't need to do anything fancy. I then looked to play regulation golf trying to hit most fairways and greens. After the front-nine, I was quite confident of victory."

"I think my mastery over the low shot really helped me in the windy conditions this week."

Even though it was not windy in round four, the performances of the first three rounds which featured a lot of low shots helped me lay the foundation for this win. It's good to have a win early in the season as it gives me momentum for the rest of the year." **GP**



Yashas Chandra - Runner-up

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





# INDIA'S OM PRAKASH CHOUHAN FINISHES JOINT RUNNER-UP AT KOLKATA CHALLENGE 2025

## ENGLAND'S JOSHUA BERRY CAPS DREAM WEEK WITH PLAYOFF VICTORY

**N**ineteen-year-old Englishman Joshua Berry capped a dream week with a playoff victory at the US\$300,000 Kolkata Challenge 2025, a HotelPlanner Tour & PGTI joint sanctioned event, played at the revered Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC).

Joshua Berry (72-62-70-73), who set the course record of 10-under 62 earlier in round two, returned a one-over 73 in regulation play on the last day to total 11-under 277 along with three other players, Norway's Andreas Halvorsen (69-66-71-71), Austria's Lukas Nemezc (67-70-68-72) and India's Om Prakash Chouhan (66-68-73-70).

The four players headed into a playoff where Joshua finally triumphed with a dramatic 19-foot birdie conversion on the second extra hole.

The trio of Halvorsen, Nemezc and Chouhan thus finished joint runners-up. While Chouhan, who struggled with his short putts all day, bowed out after missing a three-footer for par on the first playoff hole, Halvorsen and Nemezc lost out to Berry on the second playoff hole.

Thirty-eight-year-old Om Prakash Chouhan, who was tied fifth and three off the lead after



Champion Joshua Berry (2nd from left) receives the cheque from (L - R) Mr. Amandeep Johl, CEO, PGTI, Mr. Gaurav Ghosh, Captain, RCGC and Mr. Jamie Hodges, HotelPlanner Tour Director



Om Prakash Chouhan - Joint Runner-up

round three, couldn't get his putting rhythm going in round four as he missed short putts to drop two bogeys on the front-nine in exchange for just one birdie.

Om Prakash, a former winner on the HotelPlanner Tour and at the RCGC in 2023,

**"I once again struck the ball well, landing it within five feet for three of my birdies today. But the rhythm of my putting stroke continued to elude me."**

Om Prakash Chouhan

had a far better back-nine where he scored three birdies to move into contention.

Chouhan, who was the sole leader for a few holes on the back-nine, then missed a golden opportunity for victory on the 18th where his 15-foot putt for birdie lipped-out.

On the first playoff hole, Chouhan missed out on another short putt conversion from three feet that cost him a bogey and put him out of contention.

Chouhan said, "I once again struck the ball well, landing it within five feet for three of my birdies today. But the rhythm of my putting stroke continued to elude me. That resulted in a few missed short putts which turned out to be decisive. It was one of those days when things didn't go as per plan." **GP**





## SPANIARD QUIM VIDAL WINS PULSATING PLAYOFF AGAINST ENGLISHMAN JOSHUA BERRY AT DELHI CHALLENGE 2025, ARJUN PRASAD FINISHES AS BEST INDIAN IN TIED SIXTH

➤ Spaniard Quim Vidal won a pulsating playoff encounter against Englishman Joshua Berry to triumph at the US\$ 300,000 Delhi Challenge 2025, a HotelPlanner Tour & PGTI joint sanctioned event, played at the Classic Golf & Country Club.

Vidal (65-68-66-71) and Berry (69-66-67-68),



Arjun Prasad finished as the best Indian

the winner at the Kolkata Challenge the previous week, headed into a playoff after they were tied at the top of the leaderboard with identical totals of 18-under 270 after the regulation 72 holes. While Quim made a bogey on the front-nine and a crucial 30-foot eagle putt on the 18th to register a steady 71 and make it into the playoff in dramatic fashion on the last day, Joshua mixed six birdies with two bogeys for his 68 on the last day.

Vidal finally sealed victory with a two-putt for birdie from 20 feet on the third playoff hole even as Berry missed birdie there.

Arjun Prasad (68-68-70-67) made six birdies



Champion Quim Vidal (2nd from left) receives the cheque from (L - R) Mr. Rishi Mattu, Head, Classic Golf & Country Club, Mr. Ed Johnson, Tournament Director, HotelPlanner Tour & Mr. Amandeep Johl, CEO, PGTI

and a bogey in his fourth round of 67 to gain four spots and finish as the highest-placed Indian in tied sixth position at 15-under 273. **GP**

## AHLAWAT, BHULLAR, CHOUHAN BEST INDIANS AT TIED 17TH AT HERO INDIAN OPEN EUGENIO CHACARRA BECOMES FIRST SPANISH WINNER

➤ Overnight leader Eugenio Chacarra of Spain shot a final round of one-under 71 to emerge as the 2025 Hero Indian Open winner on the DP World Tour. The 25-year-old became the first Spanish champion of the event, producing three under-par rounds over four days.

Chacarra, who registered his first win on the DP World Tour, started the week with a win in the Pro-Am, and went on to shoot



Eugenio Chacarra - Winner



(L-R) Om Prakash Chouhan, Gaganjeet Bhullar and Veer Ahlawat finished as the best Indians

70-70-73-71 for a total four-under 284 at the DLF Golf & Country Club. He won by two shots over the defending champion, Japan's Keita Nakajima (72).

The top Indians were Veer Ahlawat (75), Om Prakash Chouhan (71) and Gaganjeet Bhullar (73), all of whom finished tied 17th at a total of eight-over 296. **GP**



## ROOKIE RAJESH KUMAR GAUTAM REGISTERS WIN AFTER STEADY FINAL ROUND 72 AT PGTI NEXGEN GURUGRAM

➤ Lucknow's Rajesh Kumar Gautam, a rookie on the PGTI who is currently serving in the Indian Army, came up with a steady final round performance of even-par 72 to register a two-shot win at a total of nine-under 207 at the INR 20 lakh PGTI NEXGEN Gurugram 2025, the NEXGEN season-opener, played at the Golden Greens Golf & Polo Club in Gurugram.

The 35-year-old Rajesh (69-66-72), the overnight leader by three shots, made five birdies and five bogeys on the last day to



Rajesh Kumar Gautam - Winner

hang on to his lead and record his first professional win.

Chandigarh's Rajiv Kumar Jatiwal (65-73-71) posted a 71 in the third round to finish runner-up at seven-under 209.

Rajesh Kumar Gautam produced four birdies and three bogeys on the front-nine on day four which included a great chip from the bunker on the ninth that set up a tap-in birdie. On the back-nine Rajesh added another birdie and two bogeys. He landed it within three to four feet of the flag throughout the day.

Rajesh said, "Even though I was not in good driving form and couldn't execute my plans of



Champion Rajesh Kumar Gautam receives the trophy from (L - R) Mr. Vikas Bhoot, Senior Vice President, IndusInd Bank, Mr. Rahul Mehta, Owner, Victorious Choice, Mr. Ravi Grover, COO & Director, Golden Greens Golf & Polo Club and Mr. Amandeep Johl, CEO, PGTI

hitting maximum regulations today, I managed to stay ahead thanks to some accurate iron shots and putting. I was regularly landing my shots close to the flags. It's great to win in only my second start after turning professional. This gives me a lot of confidence going ahead." GP

## BRIJESH KUMAR SAVES BEST FOR LAST, PRODUCES FINAL ROUND OF 67 TO POST INCREDIBLE COME-FROM-BEHIND VICTORY AT PGTI NEXGEN KAPURTHALA 2025

➤ Panchkula's Brijesh Kumar saved his best for the last as he produced the final day's best score of five-under 67 to post an incredible come-from-behind victory at the PGTI NEXGEN Kapurthala 2025 played at the RCF Golf Course in Kapurthala.

Twenty-five-year-old Brijesh Kumar (68-70-67), who was overnight tied fourth and four shots off the lead, finished with a winning total of 11-under 205 to triumph with a two-shot margin.

Delhi's Ajay Baisoya (67-67-73), the overnight leader by three shots, returned a 73 on day three to end the week as runner-up at nine-under 207.

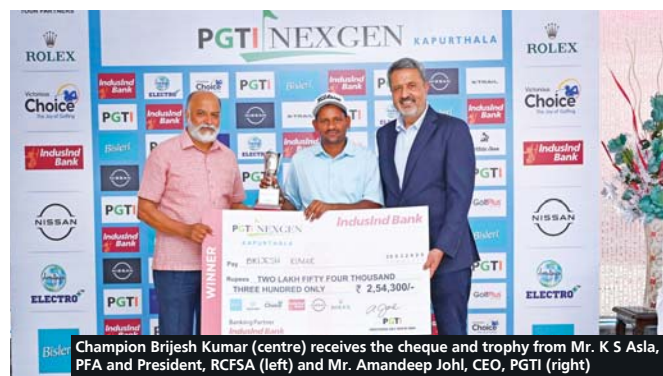
Brijesh Kumar, playing his third season as a professional, had a strong front-nine in round three where he scored three birdies which included two



Brijesh Kumar - Winner



Ajay Baisoya - Runner-up



Champion Brijesh Kumar (centre) receives the cheque and trophy from Mr. K S Asla, PFA and President, RCFS (left) and Mr. Amandeep Johl, CEO, PGTI (right)

outstanding recovery shots from the bunkers. Brijesh then worked some magic with his chipping and putting that earned him birdies on the 11th, 14th, 17th and saw him march to victory.

Brijesh said, "Interestingly, my roommate this week was Ajay Baisoya and both of us kept encouraging each other to win when we spoke in the evening after the rounds. The fact that I performed well at the PGTI Q School this year to earn an 'A' card and then got off to a decent start on the main tour, gave me a lot of confidence coming into the NEXGEN events." GP

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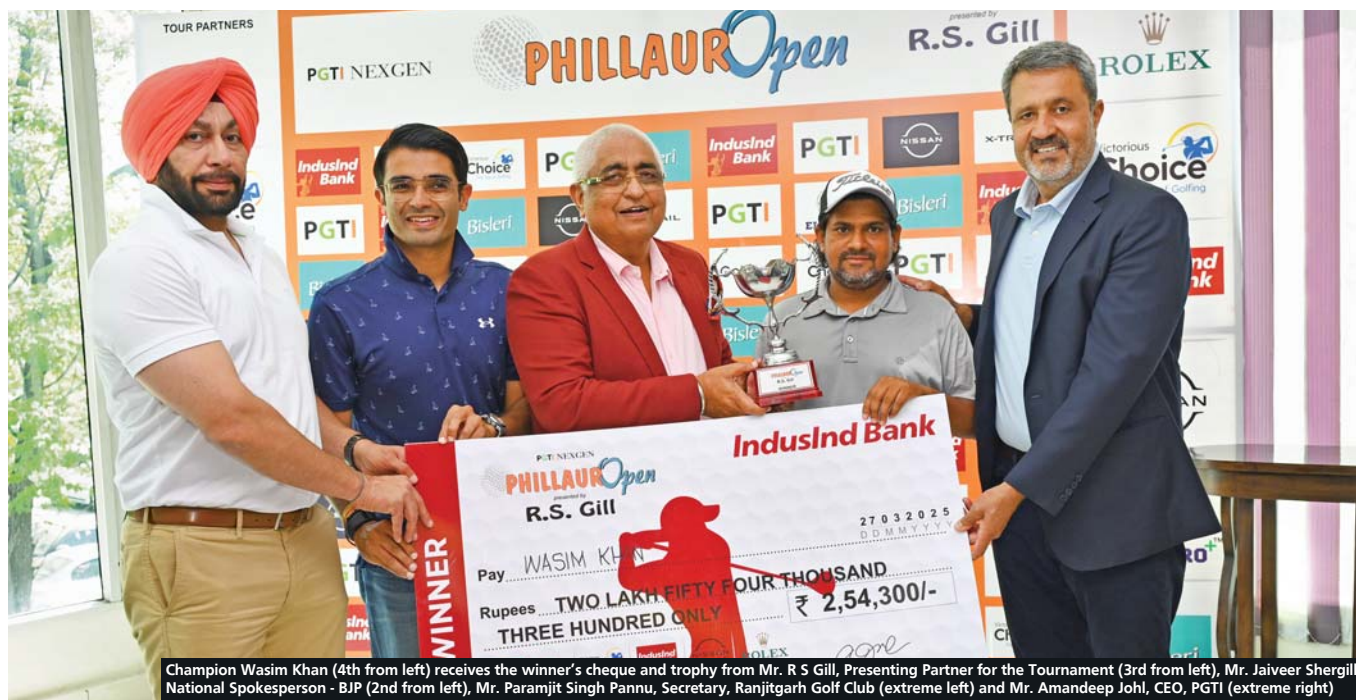
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# WASIM KHAN WINS MAIDEN TITLE AT PGTI NEXGEN'S PHILLAUR OPEN PRESENTED BY R S GILL



Champion Wasim Khan (4th from left) receives the winner's cheque and trophy from Mr. R S Gill, Presenting Partner for the Tournament (3rd from left), Mr. Jaiveer Shergill, National Spokesperson - BJP (2nd from left), Mr. Paramjit Singh Pannu, Secretary, Ranjitgarh Golf Club (extreme left) and Mr. Amandeep Johl, CEO, PGTI (extreme right)

**W**asim Khan of Delhi shot a final round score of four-under 67 to move his total to 10-under 203 for the week and thus win his maiden title at the PGTI NEXGEN's Phillaur Open presented by R S Gill played at the Ranjitgarh Golf Club in Phillaur, Punjab.

Lucknow's Rajesh Kumar Gautam (68) and Chandimandir's Chandarjeet Yadav (69) finished joint runners-up at a total of eight-under 205.

Thirty-four-year-old Wasim Khan (67-69-67), who was overnight tied third and one off the lead, outperformed the rest of the field on the final day as he mixed seven birdies with a bogey and a double-bogey during his round of 67.

Wasim's iron-play was the highlight of his round on day three as he landed it within three feet of the flag to set up three of his birdies. He was also consistent with the putter as he sank three birdies from a range of 10 to 12 feet. Wasim closed it out well with a birdie on the 17th and a crucial par on the 18th.

Khan picked up the winning cheque worth INR 2,54,300 to climb from 11th place to second



position in the 2025 PGTI NEXGEN Order of Merit. Wasim's total earnings for the season now read INR 3,54,600.

Rajesh Kumar Gautam, the winner in Gurugram and runner-up in Phillaur, now tops the NEXGEN Order of Merit with season's earnings of INR 4,29,600 at the end of the first three events of the season.

Wasim said, "I'm delighted to register my first professional win. I came close to winning

earlier as I had two runner-up finishes on the PGTI Feeder Tour in 2019. I'm glad that I could close out the match this time around.

"My game has been in good shape since last week's event in Kapurthala. So, I just decided to continue with the same game-plan this week and play percentage golf by trying to hit maximum fairways and greens. The advice from my mentor and senior professional Shamim Khan helped me a great deal." **GP**

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# ADANI AND PGTI LAUNCH INVITATIONAL GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Adani Group and Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) announce the Adani Invitational Golf Championship 2025

A ₹1.5 Crore prize event at Jaypee Greens Golf & Spa Resort, Greater Noida, 1-4 April 2025

Adani-PGTI to jointly set up a Golf training academy at Belvedere Golf & Country Club, Ahmedabad

The enhanced accessibility of the sport to produce the next generation of global champions from India



The Adani Group is set to enter Indian professional golf with the launch of 'Adani Invitational Golf Championship 2025', in partnership with the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), the official sanctioning body of men's professional golf in India. This Adani Group initiative intends to promote and broaden golf's accessibility and elevate its status as a mainstream sport, and also to cultivate the next generation of global champions from India.

The inaugural tournament, offering a ₹1.5 crore prize, will be held at Jaypee Greens Golf & Spa Resort, Greater Noida, from April 1 - 4, 2025, marking PGTI's return to the venue after 11 years.

"We are delighted to join hands with Kapil Dev Ji and the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) to contribute to the growth of Indian professional golf," said **Mr. Pranav Adani, Director, Adani Enterprises Limited**. "Our goal is to cultivate Indian global champions in golf. We are committed to enhancing accessibility to golf, promoting greater participation and offering world-class training and playing opportunities," he added.

**Mr. Kapil Dev, President of the PGTI**, thanked the Adani Group for extending support to professional golf in India with the launch of the Adani Invitational Golf Championship 2025. "The backing of the Adani Group, one of the world's biggest business houses, will help



the PGTI produce more champion golfers from India who will make the country proud on the







Mr. Kapil Dev seen practicing at the driving range of the Belvedere Golf & Country Club



Mr. Kapil Dev signed caps for children who attended the golf clinic at the curtain-raiser event



Mr. Pranav Adani and Mr. Kapil Dev discussed the role of the partnership between the Adani Group and PGTI in further raising the stature of Indian professional golf



Leading Indian professionals seen conducting the golf clinic with children from The Adani International School

**The inaugural tournament, offering a ₹ 1.5 crore prize, will be held at Jaypee Greens Golf & Spa Resort, Greater Noida.**

international stage. I expect to see golf fans in big numbers following their favourite players on the course during the tournament," he said.

Terming the Adani Invitational Golf Championship 2025 as a watershed moment for the PGTI, **Mr. Amandeep Johl, CEO, PGTI**, said, "This association will raise the stature of the Tour. We thank the Adani Group, our title sponsors, for sharing PGTI's vision of creating more playing opportunities for Indian professionals. With an attractive prize purse, outstanding playing conditions at the Jaypee Greens Golf & Spa Resort and a top-notch field vying for the title, one can expect a spectacular week of golfing action at the eagerly awaited



Mr. Kapil Dev addressed the media with leading Indian professional golfers (L - R) Amardeep Malik, Aryan Roopa Anand, Jay Pandya, Ankur Chadha and Saarthak Chhibber, in attendance

Adani Invitational Golf Championship 2025."

A pre-tournament curtain-raiser event was held on 29th March 2025 at the Belvedere Golf & Country Club, Ahmedabad. At this event, five leading Indian professionals (Amardeep Malik, Ankur Chadha, Aryan Roopa Anand, Jay Pandya and Saarthak Chhibber) conducted a golf clinic with children from The Adani International School in the presence of Mr. Pranav Adani, Director, Adani Enterprises Limited and Mr. Kapil Dev, President, PGTI.

This event highlighted the shared vision of the Adani Group and the PGTI to develop golfing talent and advance Indian golf.

The partnership extends to the establishment of a joint Adani-PGTI golf training academy at Belvedere Golf & Country Club in Ahmedabad.

This initiative aligns with Adani's commitment to grassroots development and supports India's 2036 Olympic bid, reflecting the group's aim to resonate with the aspirations of a broad Indian audience. **GP**







# BREAKING BARRIERS IN INDIAN GOLF: KAPIL DEV-GRANT THORNTON INVITATIONAL RETURNS IN 2025 WITH A MIXED FORMAT



(L - R) Leading Indian male professional & defending champion Karan Pratap Singh, Mr. Vishesh C Chandiok (CEO, Grant Thornton Bharat), leading Indian lady professional Tvesa Malik, Mr. Kapil Dev (PGTI President) & Mr. Amandeep Johl (CEO, PGTI) pose with the trophy at the Press Conference

The Kapil Dev - Grant Thornton Invitational returns for its third edition, introducing a groundbreaking mixed format that's set to transform the Indian golf landscape.

**T**his prestigious tournament, co-presented by cricket legend Kapil Dev and premium consulting firm Grant Thornton Bharat, has established itself as a key fixture on the Indian golf calendar, driving growth and inclusivity in the sport. Proudly hailed as India's best golf course 2024 by the World Golf Awards, the tournament is set to tee off at Prestige Golfshire in Bengaluru from April 24 to 26, 2025. This pioneering event is India's first professional golf tournament to be co-sanctioned by the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) and the Women's Golf Association of India (WGAI). It features India's top male and female professionals

competing together, vying for the same prize purse of INR 2 crores.

**Vishesh C. Chandiok, CEO, Grant Thornton Bharat, said,** "The Kapil Dev - Grant Thornton Invitational 2025 is more than just a golf tournament-it's a defining event for Indian sport and business. As the first professional golf event in India to be co-sanctioned by both the PGTI and the WGAI, it brings men and women professionals together on the same stage, competing for the same prize purse, and paired with amateur celebrities from cricket, business, government, arts and fashion. Our vision is to build an ecosystem that fosters a more inclusive and accessible

India. By breaking barriers and setting a new precedent for inclusivity in sports, we are not just growing golf-we are reshaping the future of Indian sports into one that is diverse, accessible, and truly equal."

The tournament combines the Professional Championship with a thrilling Pro-Am component, bringing together professionals and amateurs in a dynamic and engaging way. Kickstarting with a practice round on April 23, followed by a three-day, 54-hole championship from April 24 to 26, where 60 men and 12 women professionals will compete for the same prize purse. The event will also feature three Pro-Am rounds in a rotational







Mr. Vishesh Chandiok & Mr. Kapil Dev pose with the trophy

## THE KAPIL DEV - GRANT THORNTON INVITATIONAL HAS TRANSCENDED ITS ROLE AS A GOLF TOURNAMENT, EMERGING AS A CATALYST FOR INCLUSIVITY, COLLABORATION, AND TRANSFORMATION.

format, with 48 professionals teeing off in the morning, while the remaining 24 pair up with 72 amateurs in the afternoon session. Each Pro-Am team will comprise one professional and three amateurs, with scores combining the pro's stroke play and the amateurs' scramble format. Prize money will be awarded to the top three professionals in the Pro-Am standings, making this tournament a thrilling blend of high-stakes competition and camaraderie.

**PGTI President and Indian Cricket Legend Kapil Dev said,** "With the third edition of the Kapil Dev - Grant Thornton Invitational, we're poised to raise the bar even higher, making this year's event the most

unforgettable yet. I extend my gratitude to Grant Thornton Bharat for their unwavering support in promoting golf in India and I also thank the venue Prestige Golfshire Bengaluru. Golf holds immense importance in India, fostering inclusivity, diversity, and excellence. Through this tournament, we aim to inspire a broader audience, create a larger community of enthusiasts, and most importantly, nurture the next generation of golfers, making the sport more accessible and inclusive for all. I'm grateful to all our partners for their

commitment to shaping a vibrant and inclusive sporting culture in India. Let's make this edition another milestone in golf's exciting journey in our country."

**Mr. Amandeep Johl, CEO, PGTI, said,** "After the extremely successful first two editions, the eagerly awaited Kapil Dev - Grant Thornton Invitational makes a welcome return to the PGTI. We thank our President Mr.

Kapil Dev and Mr. Vishesh Chandiok, CEO, Grant Thornton Bharat, for their joint initiative in getting the event back on the PGTI calendar. We also thank Grant Thornton Bharat, Prestige Golfshire Club and all other event partners for partnering with PGTI in making the event possible. The participation of the leading Indian lady professionals, a result of our partnership with the Women's Golf Association of India (WGAI), adds a new dimension and more excitement to the

event and stresses on the theme of inclusivity in sport. This year's tournament with its new format, new venue and the presence of top Indian lady professionals, is thus set to offer a unique and memorable experience to the professionals and golf fans alike."

The Kapil Dev - Grant Thornton Invitational has transcended its role as a golf tournament, emerging as a catalyst for inclusivity, collaboration, and transformation. As #GTBharat continues to shape #VibrantBharat, this pioneering event showcases the profound impact of sports on society. With its unique, trailblazing format, the tournament is ushering in a new era of diversity and inclusion in Indian sports, inspiring future generations and nurturing talent. By fostering a culture of excellence and accessibility, we're building a brighter future for golf in India and contributing to a more unified, diverse, and forward-thinking nation. [GT](#)





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