

GOLFPLUS

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No.1 Golf Magazine
in India



HIDEKI MATSUYAMA

PUTTS HIS WAY TO FEDEX ST.
JUDE CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

TIPS FROM THE

tour

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GOLF BREAKS!

Every golfer dreams of playing courses beyond his home club and more Golfers from India have now started moving out of their comfort zone and started travelling for Golf in different places.

Golf has evolved differently in different countries influenced by its culture and socio-economic conditions, topography and in some cases historic settings.

Golf is played across continents by people with different cultural influences but ruled by a common constitution and governed by a single set of rules which makes playing in different parts of the world really interesting. While golf is played in more than one hundred countries some countries have gone ahead and created a structured golf tourism offering.

The Golfers in India are suddenly spoiled for choice with the advent of direct flights to a number of South Asian golf cities like Phuket, Phnom Penh, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh.

You can enjoy Golf in Thailand which offers something for everyone to suit individual interest, age and budget. Amazing Thailand has amazing Golf facilities on offer with more than 200 golf courses ideally located throughout the country.

Vietnam is seeing the fastest growth in golf

course construction. Its burgeoning golf scene is powering on with a spate of new openings, each one a Designer course. You can choose Ho Chi Minh, Danang or Hanoi and also experience UNESCO-listed towns like Hoi An & Halong Bay. Golf in Vietnam is getting getting large with most courses with 27 holes and some with 55 Holes!

Another must visit destination would be Cambodia where in you can play some great golf and also visit the World Heritage site of AngkorWat in Siem Reap, replete with Temples, a sight worth a visit at least once in your lifetime.

Whether it is the perfect hospitality in Thailand or playing golf at where it all started in Scotland or enjoying your putt next to the Great Wall of China you must get out of your comfort zone, pack your clubs with you for your next family vacation or create a golfing vacation with your own fourball.

Happy reading!

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September 2024



This month don't miss...



Feature

20 INTERNATIONAL TEAM UNITED BY THE SHIELD AHEAD OF PRESIDENTS CUP SHOWDOWN

In Incheon, Korea nine years ago, the International Team finished one agonizing point shy, losing to the powerhouse U.S. Team. Four years later, in Melbourne, Australia, a 10-8 lead through the team sessions vanished as a Tiger Woods-led American fightback in the singles session on the final day left the International Team two points shy.

26 INDIAN AMERICANS THEEGALA AND BHATIA, AND INDO-BRIT RAI QUALIFY FOR TOUR CHAMPS

Despite modest finishes Indian Americans Sahith Theegala (7k6 and T-48) and Akshay Bhatia (:77 and T-45) qualified for the season-ending Tour Championship. Also making the Top 30 was Indo-British Aaron Rai (74 and T-43).

29 LAGERGREN LANDS SECOND WIN OF THE SEASON ON DRAMATIC DAY

Joakim Lagergren secured his second title with a one-stroke victory on home soil on a dramatic final day of the Indoor Golf Group Challenge. The Swede began the day four shots behind compatriot Mikael Lindberg and was unable to gain ground, trailing by three strokes after a level par front nine. However, he gained momentum with birdies at 11 and 12, and despite a bogey at 14, added two more gains at 15 and 16 – though he remained two shots behind Lindberg heading down the final two holes.

Ladies on the Link

43 LYDIA KO SIGNS OFF SUPERB SUMMER WITH MAJOR WIN AT ST ANDREWS

Lydia Ko finished a final round of 69 (-3) to win the 2024 AIG Women's Open by two strokes

at the Old Course at St Andrews. The 27-year-old rounds off an excellent month at St Andrews having already won the gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games which saw her earn enough points to be inducted into the LPGA Hall of Fame.

45 DIMMOCK CLINCHES PLAYOFF VICTORY

Annabel Dimmock completed her comeback from injury as she won her first Ladies European Tour (LET) title in five years after defeating Pauline Roussin-Bouchard in a playoff at the 2024 KPMG Women's Irish Open. English star Dimmock held a two-shot lead at the 54-hole mark and produced a round of 70 (-3) to be in the playoff alongside the Frenchwoman on the O'Meara Course at Carton House.

Masterclass Instruction

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

36 TIPS FROM THE TOUR - JON RAHM

Depending on the lie and the type of sand he is hitting from, the distance of the shot and the pin position, he has three go-to bunker shots – a standard shot that runs out a little on landing, a spinny shot that flies high and stops quickly and an intentional chunk-and-run that flies a little lower off the face and rolls out a lot on landing. Over the next few pages, leading pro Jon Rahm demonstrates the techniques and strategies you'll need to learn.

38 LESSONS FROM LEGENDS - GARY PLAYER

As he says, you need to play to your strengths to capitalise on risk/reward par 5s. Laying up short on a par 5 may be your best

option for making a birdie or par, but the strategy only works if you have full control over your wedge game.

PGTI

57 SHAURYA BINU SEES IT HOME WITH GALLANT FINAL ROUND 65, LIFTS SECOND TROPHY

Shaurya totalled 23-under 257 to prevail by one shot over Patna's Aman Raj who carded a brilliant 63 in the last round. Binu, who bagged the winning cheque worth INR 15 lakh, thus lifted his second trophy of the season to climb up three spots to fifth place in the TATA Steel PGTI Ranking.

61 JEEV FINISHES TIED THIRD ON LEGENDS TOUR; SWEDE JOAKIM WALKS AWAY WITH THE TITLE


Tournament host Jeev Milkha Singh endured a disappointing final day at the \$500,000 HSBC India Legends Championship to finish in a tie for third place at the Jaypee Greens Golf Course. Joakim Haeggman (65-70-72) posted a last round of even-par 72 to emerge wire-to-wire champion with a two-shot margin at a total of nine-under 207.



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KAILASH MANSAROVAR

JOURNEYING FROM LOGIC TO MAGIC

SADHGURU ISHA FOUNDATION



Sadhguru: The very idea behind a pilgrimage is fundamentally to subdue the sense of who you are. The idea of a trek or a mountaineering feat is always towards a sense of achievement to make yourself bigger than who you are, but the idea of a pilgrimage is to subdue yourself. It is to become nothing in the process of just walking and climbing and subjecting yourself to various arduous processes of nature. So

these places of pilgrimage in the ancient past were always located in such places where a person has to go through a certain amount of physical, mental, and every kind of hardship to get there; so that in the process he becomes less than who he thinks he is right now. Today things have been made much comfortable. We are flying up and then driving down and just walking a little bit...

Physically we are much weaker human beings than what they used to be a thousand years ago. It is not an evolutionary thing; it is something social which has happened to us because somewhere we do not know how to make use of the comforts and conveniences that man's ingenuity has brought into our lives. We have not used the comforts and conveniences of human ingenuity in the

direction of our wellbeing. We have used it to make ourselves weaker, more difficult with ourselves and with our surroundings in which we exist. The planet or what the planet has to offer to us is becoming more and more difficult to human beings simply because of the comforts and conveniences that have been offered. So all the more the fundamental idea of pilgrimage becomes much more relevant to modern societies than it was to the ancient ones. This pilgrimage in terms of the destination, probably is the greatest that one can make.

I am not in an inner state where I need to do any pilgrimage, but still this pilgrimage to Manasarovar and Kailash has been absolutely astounding for me in terms of experience. I never expected it to be this way, because I am made in such a way that I am not surprised by anything. I have seen enough. I have been through so much of life that nothing really surprises me, that is how I am. It doesn't matter what I see; because the strangest of the strange, the weirdest of the weird I have seen in my life. Things that you cannot believe have been a daily reality for me. Things which are like fairytales to people have been a living thing for me all the time, but this Manasarovar was well beyond anything that I have seen till now.

Geologically, Manasarovar is a piece of the ancient Thetis Sea, out of which almost all the civilizations of the world came. Because of these continental plates going into each other, what was at sea level has now risen to some 15,000 feet above the sea level. This is just one piece of the Thetis; the other two pieces recognized as Thetis are the Caspian Sea and the Aral Sea.

'Sarovar' means 'lake;' 'Manas' means 'mind' or 'consciousness.' So Manasarovar is a 'Lake of Consciousness.' Energy-wise, I see a very deep connection between Manasarovar and Kailash. It is the same phenomenon - one is a lake, another is a mountain - but energy-wise, it is the same phenomenon. Kailash is a

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

mountain of knowledge and knowing in Grace - there is nothing like that in Manasarovar. But at the same time, there is a similarity, a sameness, as to how your own energy system responds to this.

Mount Kailash is a tremendous spiritual library for the last few thousand years, generally people say 10,000 to 12,000 years; many people say it is much more than that. As you know, in the Hindu way of life people have been saying Kailash is the Abode of Shiva. When we say it is the Abode of Shiva, it does not mean that he is still sitting up there or dancing or hiding in the snow or something. What it means is because when a person realizes himself and his perception goes far beyond what is normal perception, what he has perceived cannot always be transmitted to people around him; only a small part of it can be transmitted.

It is very, very rare for any Master to find people he can transmit all of himself to. Most of the Masters go without ever being able to transmit what they really want to transmit. I would say even in my life, what I can do in terms of imparting and what I am doing is just 2 % of what I am. If I can increase it by one percentage point before I fall dead that is a great achievement. So where do you leave all this? You do not want this to go lost.


So for thousands of years realized beings always traveled to Kailash and deposited their knowledge in a certain way, in a certain energy form. They used this mountain as a basis and created this. It is because of this that it is said - the Buddhists say three of their main Buddhas: Manjushree, Avalokiteshwara, and Sandhyapani, all of them lived there in the mountain. The Jains say Rishabh lives there in the mountain, Hindus say Shiva lives there, and South Indian mysticism always says their greatest yogi, one of the seven direct disciples of Shiva who are known as the Sapta Rishis, it is Agasthiya Muni, who is the basis of South Indian mysticism, lives there in the southern face of Kailash. What it means is not that they are actually living there, but they deposited all their work there because they could not transmit it into the people, because a variety of social situations do not permit you to do that. All the 63 Nayanmars from South India, the 63 major saints from South India, including one of the woman saints, came, because they never had the opportunity to transmit their perception to the people around them, social realities never allowed it. So it is a treasure house of knowledge.

Whatever temples and places and whatever else may be there in the world - and I have been to many truly sacred places, I have been to many truly powerful places, I have seen many powerful beings - when I bow down to

'Sarovar' means 'lake;' 'Manas' means 'mind' or 'consciousness.' So Manasarovar is a 'Lake of Consciousness.' Energy wise, I see a very deep connection between Manasarovar and Kailash.

them I am genuine, but I bow down to them a little less than I would bow down to my Guru, always. It doesn't matter whether it is Kedarnath or Gautam Buddha or whoever comes in front of me; I bow down to them genuinely, but a little bit less than what I would bow down to my Guru, but when I bow down to Kailash, I bow down to it the same way I would bow down to my Guru. Never before I have done that to anything or anybody in my whole life, I always kept a little bit extra; but with this, once when I bowed down I really bowed down as I do to Him.

In terms of inner dimensions, anything that you ever want to know is Kailash. If you know how to perceive it and decipher it, everything that you ever want to know about your own creation, about your making and your existence, and about your liberation, it is all there. Every form of it, every tradition has deposited this knowledge there and it is very much available. If one is willing to raise one's perception to sufficient clarity it is distinctly visible. So Kailash is something we understand and we know how it is done and everything. Manasarovar is something outlandish, totally outlandish.

Above all, just the journey is simply fantastic. Tibet as a land is so amazing in terms of its natural beauty and the way it is; it is unique in its beauty. Every land has its own beauty, but this is something different from what you normally see - very different. The variety of terrain and the way things are is quite incredible. Being born in India you must see Kailash. It is not a question of belief, it is not a question of faith, it is not a question of religion. It is definitely a very enhanced space compared to what you normally live in. 



The Indian Golf Union

The governing body for Golf in India

R & A'S GIRLS AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP



Mannat Brar being presented the Bronze Medal at the 105 year old R&A Girls Amateur Championship at Alwoodley, Leeds, 17 Aug 2024

Mannat Brar, the first Indian to reach the semi-finals

On a day of absorbing competition in West Yorkshire, Krawczynska recovered from a shaky start in her semi-final duel with Mannat Brar of India to win by a 3&2 margin. Torstensson, aiming to become the third Swedish champion after Maria Hjorth in 1991 and Anna Nordqvist in 2005, booked her final berth with a polished 4&3 victory over Kylee Choi of the USA. Krawczynska, who is blazing a trail for her country after becoming the first Pole to reach the final, endured a nervy opening against Brar and a double-bogey on the 1st hole had her on the back foot.

The 18-year-old, who has won three successive Polish Junior Amateur Championships, eased her way into the contest. Mannat kept chipping away valiantly, but Krawczynska kept her rival at arm's length with a classy, considered display and closed out a keenly fought tussle on the 16th green.

"It was the toughest match of the week so far," she said. "I was pretty tired at the start of the semi-final and was trying hard to get myself together. I just had to calm myself down and stay in the moment. In golf, you have to accept

that you'll make mistakes. I just tried to keep doing what I've been doing and it worked out and I found my game again. "Getting to the Final means everything to me. It shows the hard work and the sacrifice has been worth it. Getting to a Final is a reward for all that. "I have received great support back home. I hope this inspires another generation of young players. Golf is not as popular in Poland but we are hoping that it grows. It's a game for everyone. I'm just so happy that I can carry Poland's name into the Final." GP

IGU NORTHERN INDIA AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Noida Golf Course

Top - 8, Final Score - 30th August 2024

			1	2	3	4	TOTAL
S.No.	STATE	PLAYER	72	72	72	72	288
1	Haryana	Rohit	73	70	67	74	284
2	Uttar Pradesh	Vinamra Anand	72	70	72	70	284
3	Karnataka	Jaiveer	72	71	73	69	285
4	Uttar Pradesh	Sukhman Singh	75	75	72	64	286
5	Haryana	Tushar Pannu	69	73	73	71	286
6	Uttar Pradesh	Sachin Chauhan	71	70	78	70	289
7	Delhi	Shat Mishra	71	69	76	73	289
8	Telangana	Vishesh Sharma	79	71	72	68	290
9	Uttar Pradesh	Kanav Chauhan	76	69	75	70	290
10	Chandigarh	Sanju	77	68	73	72	290



Rohit of Haryana - Winner



Jaiveer from Karnataka 2nd Runner



Vinamra Anand from UP Runner



IGU HARYANA STATE JUNIOR BOYS GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP - 2024

Panchkula Golf Club

Top - 12, Final Round - 15th - 16th August 2024

S.No.	STATE	PLAYER	1	2	3	195
Category B Boys						
1	Haryana	Kartik Singh-B	68	68	73	209
2	Haryana	Jaibir Singh Kang-B	72	67	71	210
3	UP	Arshvant Srivastava-B	74	70	69	213
4	Chandigarh	Rannvijay Singh Gill-B	74	69	73	216
5	Punjab	Arjun Veer Shishir-B	70	73	73	216
6	Haryana	Shaurya Dagar-B	71	76	71	218
7	Haryana	Vihaan Jain-B	70	72	77	219
8	Chandigarh	Neil Jolly-B	75	71	74	220
9	Chandigarh	Harjai Milkha Singh-B	71	74	77	222
10	West Bengal	Varish Mohta -B	76	74	74	224
11	Delhi	Anas Khan-B	75	74	75	224
12	Punjab	Danish Verma-B	72	73	79	224
Category A						
1	Delhi	Rakshit Dahiya-A	68	68	70	206
2	Delhi	Ranveer Mitroo-A	72	69	68	209
3	Haryana	Kartik Singh-B	68	68	73	209
4	Karnataka	Angad Singh-A	69	70	71	210
5	Haryana	Jaibir Singh Kang-B	72	67	71	210
6	West Bengal	Anshul Mishra-A	73	70	69	212
7	West Bengal	Ribhav Verma -A	70	72	70	212
8	UP	Arshvant Srivastava-B	74	70	69	213
9	Chandigarh	Krish Chawla-A	67	72	74	213
10	Haryana	Naveen Rathi-A	74	71	69	214
11	Punjab	Gurnavjeet Singh Bhatia-A	72	70	73	215
12	Delhi	Hiransh Singh-A	76	69	71	216
Category C Boys						
1	Delhi	Aditya Misra	71	82	153	
3	Chandigarh	Sohraab Singh Talwar	77	79	156	
2	Chandigarh	Zorawar Sandhu	76	80	156	
4	Telangana	Saatvic Kumar Singh	79	80	159	
5	Delhi	Aditya Tiwari	79	81	160	
6	Delhi	Raajveer Surri	79	81	160	
7	Chandigarh	Dhruv Singh	78	82	160	
8	Delhi	Vidit Aggarwal	79	99	178	
9	Haryana	Vedant Paul	80	86	166	
10	Punjab	Arnav	81	88	169	
11	Haryana	Heydaan Bajaj	81	91	172	
12	Telangana	Vivaan Reddy	85	90	175	



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WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR TEAM?

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

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

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

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

Inspiring Track Record

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



PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR CONTINUOUS PROGRESS



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

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



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



Level 2 Referee School at Hyderabad

Tournament Directors and Rules Instructors are trained and certified accordingly.



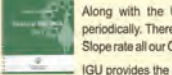
Junior Program at GIAL Cochin

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

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



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

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



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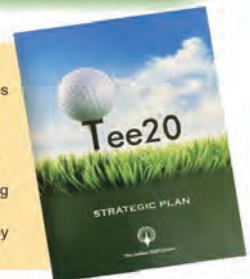
It is important to acknowledge that Clubs and golfers are at the heart of all of these initiatives at every level. We also appreciate that these initiatives require a collaborative network of people and support, to maximise their success.

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Hideki Matsuyama

THE STATS THAT DEFINED THE PGA TOUR IN AUGUST

Scheffler, Bradley, Matsuyama and Rai savour winning moments

By Helen Ross

■ SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER CAPS GLORIOUS SEASON WITH FEDEXCUP TRIUMPH

The third time proved to be the charm for Scottie Scheffler, who completed a magical

2024 season drawing comparisons to Tiger Woods in his prime by winning the FedExCup and the TOUR Championship.

The victory at East Lake Golf Club was the seventh of the season for Scheffler, who also won the Olympic gold medal in Paris. Among

those wins were the Masters, THE PLAYERS Championship and FedExCup - making him the first player to ever notch that trifecta. He's also the first player since Woods in 2007 to post a seven-win season on the PGA TOUR.

Scheffler had held the lead in the FedExCup



Hideki Matsuyama taking a photo with his team at The Genesis Invitational

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA WAS HIS OWN WORST ENEMY ON THE BACK NINE SUNDAY AT THE FEDEX ST. JUDE CHAMPIONSHIP, BUT HE BIRDIED THE FINAL TWO HOLES TO HOLD OFF A PAIR OF FORMER FEDEXCUP CHAMPIONS IN VIKTOR HOVLAND AND XANDER SCHAUFFELE BY TWO STROKES.

for the final 25 weeks of the season - 21 more than the next longest streak to end the year (4 by Vijay Singh in 2008). He's topped the standings for 50 weeks during his career, second only to Woods at 85.

Each of the last two years, Scheffler ranked first in the FedExCup when he came to East Lake although the results were very different. He tied for sixth last year and finished one stroke in arrears to Rory McIlroy in 2022. Scheffler also arrived in Atlanta as the world No. 1, a spot he has held for 68 straight weeks and 103rd overall. He joins Dustin Johnson (2020), Justin Rose (2018) and Woods (2009 and 2007) as No. 1 players going on to win the FedExCup.

KEEGAN BRADLEY DRIVES HOME WITH BMW CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

Keegan Bradley needed a big week, and he got it at Castle Pines Golf Club in mile-high Castle Rock, Colorado. The final qualifier for the top-50 BMW Championship, he made the most of the opportunity, winning the tournament for the second time. No other player in the FedExCup Playoffs era had won a Playoffs event as the last man in.

The 2025 Ryder Cup captain also has another interesting distinction. He's the sixth champion to bogey the 72nd hole when he won his Playoffs event— and Bradley now has done it twice at the BMW Championship. On two different courses, to boot. (He won in 2018 at Aronimink Golf Club.)

Contrast that with the way he played the 17th hole, though. Bradley was 2 under on the par 5 for the week, including Strokes Gained totals of +.75 in Tee-to-Green and

+.58 in Approach-the-Green as well as 16 feet, 2 inches in Proximity to the Hole when going for the green. (All of those totals led the field.) The 17th was also the site of what Bradley called a “shot I’ll remember forever” - a 5-iron from 222 yards (adjusted by 10 percent for altitude) that set up a two-putt birdie and two-shot cushion in the final hole.

On the way to this year's victory on a course that measured 8,130 yards, Bradley gained 5.36 strokes on the field tee-to-green, which was the third-best total of his Playoffs career. But he also was in negative numbers in Strokes Gained: Putting at -2.53 during the final round which is the worst of any FedExCup Playoff event champ.

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA PUTTS HIS WAY TO FEDEX ST. JUDE CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

Hideki Matsuyama was his own worst enemy on the back nine Sunday at the FedEx St. Jude Championship, but he birdied the final two holes to hold off a pair of former FedExCup champions in Viktor Hovland and Xander Schauffele by two strokes.

After seeing a 5-stroke lead at the start of the day evaporate, the 32-year-old from Japan gained 2.36 strokes on the field with those



Hideki Matsuyama lines up his putt on the 18th green at The Riviera Country Club

RAI WAS CLUTCH ON A GRUELING SUNDAY WHICH SAW THE FINISH OF THE SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH ROUNDS AFTER HURRICANE DEBBY FORCED THE FIRST 18 HOLES TO BE DELAYED UNTIL FRIDAY.

two closing birdies to earn his 10th PGA TOUR victory. But his Strokes Gained: Total tally of -1.36 was the worst by a winner in the FedExCup Playoffs since 2007.

Overall, though, there were many positives, particularly on the greens after Matsuyama put a Scotty Cameron Craftsman Squareback Tour Prototype into action for the first time. The Olympic bronze medalist made 435 feet, 5 inches of putts - including that 24-footer for birdie at the 71st hole and another from 6 feet on the 72nd after the second closest approach shot in the final round.

The total distance of putts made was the second best in his TOUR career and tops among the 70 players who made the field at TPC Southwind. He also was +8.20 in Strokes Gained: Putting - quite the turnaround for the

consummate ball-striker who came in ranked 133rd in that category.

■ AARON RAI PICKS UP MAIDEN TITLE AT WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Sedgefield Country Club, a Donald Ross gem, is known as a shot-maker's golf course, and that played to Aaron Rai's strengths during the Wyndham Championship.

The Englishman led the field in distance to the pin with his approach shots and tied for third in greens in regulation (hitting all 18 in the first round) and eighth in fairways hit. He gained 8.75 strokes in Approach-the-Green, which was the highest margin of his career, and was a season-best +4.128 in that category during the fourth round.

Rai was clutch on a grueling Sunday which saw the finish of the second, third and fourth rounds after Hurricane Debby forced the first 18 holes to be delayed until Friday. He closed with a bogey-free 64 that included a birdie as darkness settled on the 72nd hole and enabled him to come from three strokes off the pace to win for the first time on the PGA TOUR.

Interestingly, though, he didn't make a birdie or eagle in the final round on the par-5 15th hole that he had played in 5 under over the first 54 holes. **GP**

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA (T2/65)

- 65 marks his 11th consecutive round of par or better at TPC Southwind, tied for the longest active streak on TOUR with Collin Morikawa (68 in R1)

- Enters the week No. 8 in the FedExCup; has 10 consecutive finishes inside the top 50 in the FedExCup, the longest active streak on TOUR

- T16 at the 2023 FedEx St. Jude Championship to move inside the top 50 (No. 47) after beginning the week outside the top 50 (No. 57)

- T2 at the 2021 World Golf Championships-FedEx St. Jude Invitational at TPC Southwind after falling in a playoff with Sam Burns (T2) and Abraham Ancer (Won)

- First start since winning the bronze medal for Japan at the 2024 Paris Olympics at Le Golf National



Images Credit : Getty Images



Tom Kim

INTERNATIONAL TEAM UNITED BY THE SHIELD AHEAD OF PRESIDENTS CUP SHOWDOWN

By Jim McCabe

Should anyone ponder the notion of momentum in the biennial Presidents Cup, there are indicators. In Incheon, Korea nine years ago, the International Team finished one agonizing point shy, losing 15 ½ to 14 ½ to the powerhouse U.S. Team.

Four years later, in Melbourne, Australia, a 10-8 lead through the team sessions vanished as a Tiger Woods-led American fightback in the singles session on the final day left the International Team two points shy.

Yes, the International Team is continuing to grow and strengthen and is matching up as well as ever against a formidable foe. And, yes, the closest contests in recent years have been on foreign soil. So if critics are wondering how

much stock to put into this team's rallying cry - "The Shield unites us" - the answer is, a lot.

That's because the "rest of the world" talent pool is deeper than it has ever been and it's also because what awaits in late September is another "home" game for the International Team.

Correction, it's really not just another home game; it's a home game in a country that arguably knows how to plug in the electricity to support its own more than any other country. If Laurence Applebaum thought the Nick Taylor's 72-foot eagle putt to win the RBC Canadian Open in the summer of 2023 was "unbelievable for Canadian golf," the Golf Canada CEO might be offering a reassessment should the International Team upset the top-heavy U.S. team at Royal Montreal from September 26-29.



Mike Weir

That's because Canadian golf fans can support and roar, and get behind you so ferociously loud that you cannot hear yourself. Taylor discovered that on every tee box as he chased down Tommy



Jason Day



Adam Scott and Byeong Hun An



Nick Taylor celebrates his win at the 2023 RBC Canadian Open in front of Canadian fans

Images Credit : Getty Images



Fleetwood last year. “The most unbelievable thing I will probably ever experience in my life,” he said.

And Mike Weir felt similarly when he salvaged a big slice of joy out of a team loss in the 2007 edition at Royal Montreal by beating the world’s No. 1 Tiger Woods, 1-up, in a Sunday singles showcase. “For me being from Canada, to have this kind of support, it’s overwhelming, really, and I’m having a tough time putting it into words what it really means to me because it’s so shortly after,” said Weir, moments after he beat Woods in front of a raucous crowd.

“But I need when I look back on my career, this may be something, maybe even more special than the Masters, the support I’ve gotten here.”

Here’s a wild guess, but should Weir, as captain, leads his International Team to a rare win in late September, his singles victory some 16 years ago over Woods will be a distant memory. As the 15th playing of the Presidents Cup approaches, there’s no denying the might of the Americans, who have won this competition nine straight times. Top 10 players and major winners world dot the line-up – Scottie Scheffler, Xander Schauffele, Collin Morikawa, and Wyndham Clark – but there is an indelible spirit that galvanizes the International Team.

“It’s this shield, this shield that we have,” said Weir, who as a Canadian icon was the logical and most compelling pick to be captain of the



International Team pinflag

“We are a culmination of guys coming from all over the world trying to come together for one week.”
 - Mike Weir

2024 International Team. As a captain’s assistant in 2019, Weir was there when captain Ernie Els revealed the team’s new logo, the Shield, and the impact is real.

“We are a culmination of guys coming from all over the world trying to come together for one week,” added the 2003 Masters champion. “We feel like we’re all part of the same team. (The shield) has brought us closer.”

Whether it can close the gap between the two sides and perhaps give the Internationals their first win since 1998 remains to be seen. But not to brush a little disrespect on the shield, which is a valuable motivating tool, the determining factor in the International Team’s pursuit of victory will revolve around the players.

They are the ones who have to hit the shots and make the putts, and that is Golf 101, be it a medal tournament or a team format such as the Presidents Cup. In many past editions of the biennial competition, there was a wide gap in talent. But no more and look no further than Canada.

For years, Weir carried the flag on his back for an entire nation. He was the only Canadian on the 2007 team, courtesy of a captain’s pick from Gary Player. But a quick scan of the pro golf landscape paints a bright picture for Canada - Taylor (four), Corey Connors (two), MacKenzie Hughes (two), Adam Hadwin (one), and Taylor Pendrith (one) combine for 10 PGA TOUR wins in recent years. Pendrith and Taylor own victories this season and as the PGA TOUR schedule sprints toward the 2024 finish line, all

five of those Canadians are inside the Top 50 on the FedExCup standings.

Toss all of that into the recipe and what you get is this: There’s a very strong likelihood that this year’s International Team will feature at least three Canadians and the chances of four being on Captain Weir’s roster is very plausible.

But positive signs are elsewhere, starting with the fact that the team’s best player, Hideki Matsuyama won earlier this year and has finished top 10 in the U.S. Open and PLAYERS Championship. Aussies Jason Day and Adam Scott, a team fixture since 2003, have played consistently well in 2024 and not to be overlooked is another Aussie, Cam Davis, who recently won on the PGA TOUR and gained valuable Presidents Cup experience in 2022. There’s also the strong possibility that Min Woo Lee, a swashbuckling golfer nicknamed The Chef, could make his debut.

The eclectic mix of nationalities is not only the flavour of the International Team, it is its strength and it has changed dramatically for the better. In 2007 at Royal Montreal, for instance, the team was dominated by South Africans and Australians. Those nations will still be represented, of course, but with an influx of quality global players from Japan and Korea (Matsuyama, Tom Kim, Sungjae Im, Byeong Hun An) and these wildly popular, and talented Canadians, this gathering at Royal Montreal will likely look markedly different than the one 17 years ago.

Indeed, the shield is united. **GP**



Shigeki Maruyama

MARUYAMA'S HEROICS WILL UNITE ASIAN SPIRIT IN PRESIDENTS CUP QUEST

by Chuah Choo Chiang

7 Twenty six years have passed since Shigeki Maruyama produced a performance for the ages by going a perfect 5-0-0 in his Presidents Cup debut at Royal Melbourne which sparked what has since become the lone International Team victory to date against the United States Team in the biennial competition.

Now 54 years age, the three-time PGA TOUR winner emerged as an unlikely star during that famous 20.5 - 10.5 drubbing over the Americans, who had a prime Tiger Woods in their formidable 12-man squad.

Maruyama often recounts with great fondness of his heroics, which included a famous Foursomes victory with Craig Parry over Woods and Fred

Couples, and with the Presidents Cup being played at Royal Montreal from September 24-29, all eyes will be on the current Asian crop of stars if they can emulate a similar feat to lend to a much-desired International Team victory.

"As I was a rookie and every American player was a superstar, I was not afraid of the matches," recalled Maruyama. "I made up my



Sungjae Im



Byeong Hun An



mind, thinking it wouldn't matter if I lost. So I was not afraid. The only thing in my heart was to defeat the American team," recalled the Japanese veteran, who subsequently earned the nickname, the 'Smiling Assassin' after Royal Melbourne.

He vividly remembers International Team captain, the late Peter Thomson, had kept his players relaxed all week in the team room and functions. "He wanted to make the team atmosphere better. That's why I acted very brightly, and I wasn't so serious and wanted

"He wanted to make the team atmosphere better. That's why I acted very brightly, and I wasn't so serious and wanted to cheer everyone up. I think I was influenced by Peter."

- Shigeki Maruyama

to cheer everyone up. I think I was influenced by Peter. So I would also smile a lot and yell 'wow!' to inspire the team," said Maruyama.

Yet, he never imagined he would go on to produce an unblemished winning record, an achievement matched by only five other players - Mark O'Meara, Woods, Jim Furyk, Branden Grace and Jordan Spieth - in Presidents Cup history.

"After the event was over, I felt like 'Ah, how wonderful'. But I didn't think about it at all during the week. I worked very hard and at the end of the week, everyone said to me, 'This is five wins!' and I wondered, 'Oh? Was I so good?'"

"I didn't feel I did very well until I was congratulated by everyone. My seniors, Greg (Norman), Nick (Price), Steve (Elkington) and the others started saying: 'You're amazing!' Then I thought it would be nice to show off. I remember putting the Cup on my head and shouted happily. I have a character like a comedian!"

The responsibility to carry Japan's hopes and the International Team's challenge at Royal Montreal may well fall on Maruyama's compatriot, Hideki Matsuyama who will make his sixth straight appearance for the team. The 31-year-old Matsuyama, who is the first Japanese male major winner, has since become Asia's most successful golfer on the PGA TOUR following a ninth career PGA TOUR



The winning 1998 International Team



victory at the Genesis Invitational in February, and recently became the first Japanese male golfer to win an Olympic medal with a recent bronze showing in Paris this summer.

With a career 7-10-5 (Win-Loss-Tie) record, he will be fired up at Royal Montreal once more especially when he was disappointed with his Singles showings over the last two editions where he gave up leads over Tony Finau and Sam Burns in 2019 and 2022 respectively to settle for ties.

“Looking back, I wish my putting went in a little more. My putting was horrific and I wasn’t able to add points. I’m pretty disappointed. I was really hoping to get a full point. I feel I struggled to contribute to my team,” said Matsuyama two years ago, where he led 2-up over Burns at the turn.

“In 2019, I had the lead (against Finau) going into those last few holes and let him back in which was really disappointing. We came so close to getting win. It still frustrates me to think back at how close we came to getting it done.”

The spotlight will also be on golf’s newest star, Tom Kim who enjoyed a spectacular debut at Quail Hollow following his rapid rise onto the PGA TOUR. The 22-year-old Korean, who is already a three-time PGA TOUR winner, emerged as the team’s surprise talisman at Quail Hollow with some gutsy play and youthful exuberance where captain Trevor Immelman, who will be one of Mike Weir’s assistants this time around, hailed him as the next global golf superstar.

Immelman said: “He (Tom) has an ability to be a global superstar. I know he has the game. We’ve seen he has the game. But what I’ve learned about his personality and his heart and what he stands for this week, man, I am a huge fan.”

Two particular golf shots in quick succession that won Immelman over came during Saturday afternoon’s Fourball session came when Tom and Si Woo Kim partnered to beat Patrick Cantlay and Xander Schauffele in the last match on the golf course, and on the final green. With 233 yards to the pin, Tom brilliantly rifled a glorious 2-iron approach to set up his team’s winning birdie, which he duly buried and exploded in a massive celebration with Si Woo and other teammates.

“He’s been such a tremendous gift to our sport,” said Immelman. “He’s about 240 yards out.



Tom Kim and Si Woo Kim

“He (Tom) has an ability to be a global superstar. I know he has the game. We’ve seen he has the game. But what I’ve learned about his personality and his heart and what he stands for this week, man, I am a huge fan.”

- Trevor Immelman



Tom Kim celebrates in front of the International Team in 2022

Images Credit : Getty Images

He’s probably 60 yards behind his opponents. I look back and I see the who’s who of American golf in golf carts behind him. I see Thomas, I see Spieth, I see Finau, I see Homa, I see Morikawa, all of them sitting on carts 15 yards from him. And this kid pures a 2-iron to 10 feet and makes the putt. To me, that’s impressive stuff, shows some guts. That made my heart warm right there. So extremely proud of him. He went out. He did his job. He earned two

points. And that is fantastic.”

Korea’s Byeong Hun An, who made a strong debut in 2019 with two points, will be back for his second appearance while Sungjae Im, who contributed 3.5 points in 2019, will make his third appearance as a united International Team seeks only its second victory over what will be another powerful U.S. Team led by World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler and two-time major winner Xander Schauffele. **GP**



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INDIAN AMERICANS THEEGALA AND BHATIA, AND INDO-BRIT RAI QUALIFY FOR TOUR CHAMPS

Despite modest finishes Indian Americans Sahith Theegala (7k6 and T-48) and Akshay Bhatia (:77 and T-45) qualified for the season-ending Tour Championship. Also making the Top 30 was Indo-British Aaron Rai (74 and T-43).

Theegala is seeded 11th, Bhatia is 13th and Rai is 26th for the Tour Championships where Scottie Scheffler is the top seed and starts with a score of 10⁺-under. Theegala will be 3-under, Bhatia will be 2-under and Rai even par.

Korea's Si Woo Kim fell just short in his bid to join compatriots Sungjae Im and Byeong Hun An in the FedExCup Playoffs finale, the TOUR Championship, despite finishing a season-best tied fifth at the BMW Championship.

Im and An carded matching 71s to end their week in tied 11th and equal 13th positions respectively and safely advanced to the TOUR Championship at East Lake in Atlanta where the FedExCup winner will be crowned.

The 26-year-old Im, with seven top-10s this season, will make his sixth straight appearance at East Lake, and will start the TOUR Championship on 3-under and seven shots back of Scottie Scheffler in the staggered-scoring format based on FedExCup positions entering the Playoffs finale. He ranked 11th after the BMW Championship.

It will be An's debut appearance in the TOUR Championship, thanks largely to five



Sahith Theegala



Akshay Bhatia

top-10s and six other top-25s. Japan's Hideki Matsuyama will be the highest ranked Asian golfer starting at East Lake after finishing third on the points list, behind top-ranked Scottie Scheffler and Xander Schauffele in second place. When Sungjae Im bought a house in Atlanta at the end of 2020, it was simply to set up a U.S. base due to the ease of flights connectivity and an array of Korean restaurants in his new neighbourhood.

It has now become a big motivation to ensure he retains his Top-30 status each year to qualify for the FedExCup Playoffs finale, the TOUR Championship, which is played at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta, and a 30-minute

drive from Im's home.

The 26-year-old Korean star will make his sixth successive appearance in the TOUR Championship this week to extend a proud streak, which began from his rookie season in 2019. The impressive run no doubt cements his stature amongst the game's elite.

With seven top-10s and over US\$6 million in earnings this year, Im ranked 11th on the FedExCup points list following the BMW Championship in Colorado last weekend, and will start the final week at historical East Lake on 3-under and seven strokes behind leader Scottie Scheffler in the staggered-scoring format. **GP**

KOREA'S IM FINISHES AS TOP ASIAN AT TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP AS SCHEFFLER FINALLY CLAIMS FEDEXCUP

Korea's Sungjae Im emerged as the top Asian in the FedExCup Playoffs finale, the TOUR Championship, after a closing 7-under 64 led to a solo seventh finish on Sunday as American Scottie Scheffler wrapped up a dominant season by lifting the prestigious FedExCup.

Im, who started the week on 3-under in the staggered scoring format, made a glorious eagle, six birdies and one bogey at East Lake Golf Club to finish the week on 18-under for his second top-10 in the storied tournament.

Japan's Hideki Matsuyama shared ninth position on 16-under following a final round 67 after starting his week in third place in the 30-man field while Korea's Byeong Hun An, who was making his debut, took tied 21st place after signing for a 69. It was Matsuyama's fourth top-10 in the TOUR Championship.

World No. 1 Scheffler put the bow on a magical year with a four-stroke victory over Collin Morikawa where a closing 67 earned

him a seventh PGA TOUR title in 2024. He was also the gold medalist at the Paris Olympic Games, and bagged a cool US\$62.2 million in official money and bonus money this year.

Im enjoyed several big moments during his final round, including holing a monstrous 64-foot birdie conversion at the second hole and driving the green on the par-4 eighth hole which he drained a 26-footer for his eagle. He made another 21-foot birdie on the 17th hole to end his week on a high note.

Scheffler was never quite threatened as he claimed his first FedExCup which made up for losing the opportunity lift the TOUR's ultimate prize over the past two years where he entered the TOUR Championship as the top-seed.

"It's a lot of fun. We've put in a lot of work to get to this point, and it's been a long week. Right now I'm just pretty tired, so don't really know how to put this into words. But it's a pretty special feeling to be finally holding the trophy," said Scheffler. **GP**



Sungjae Im



Scottie Scheffler

Images Credit : Getty Images

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER FINISHES NO. 1 IN COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP 10 TO CLAIM \$8 MILLION BONUS

Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10 highlights season-long performance, shares \$40 million bonus among the top-10 finishers



The 2024 FedExCup Regular Season concluded this weekend at the Wyndham Championship, with Scottie Scheffler claiming the No. 1 position in the Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10 and earning an \$8 million bonus. The Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10 emphasizes player performance by rewarding the top players in the FedExCup standings at the end of the FedExCup Regular Season.

“It’s been an incredible year for me both on and off the course, so to finish up the regular season by earning the top spot in the Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10 is an honor,” Scheffler said. “Every year I try to perform and compete to the best of my abilities, so this award really represents the hard work put in throughout the course of the season with the support of my family and team.”

Scheffler put together an historic season to claim the top spot in the Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10 for the second time in three years. The 28-year-old won six tournaments during the 2024 PGA TOUR season, including four Signature Events and a second career major championship at the Masters Tournament. Scheffler is the fourth player (ninth instance) with six or more wins in a season since 1983 and first since Tiger Woods in 2009.

His first win of the year came at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, which began a dominant run with four wins in five starts. Following his triumph at Bay Hill Club & Lodge, Scheffler overcame a five-stroke deficit to win THE PLAYERS Championship with a final-round 64, becoming the first back-to-back winner in the tournament’s 50th playing. After a runner-up finish at the Texas Children’s Houston Open, Scheffler was back in the winner’s circle again at Augusta National, claiming his second Masters Tournament victory in three years with a four-stroke win.

Scheffler added his fifth win of the season a week later at the RBC Heritage on Hilton Head Island, where he became the first player to win the Masters Tournament and the RBC Heritage in the same year since Bernhard Langer in 1985. At the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday, Scheffler secured his fifth win on the season before the U.S. Open, the first to achieve the feat since Tom Watson in 1980. His final win during the 2024 Regular Season came at the Travelers Championship, where he outlasted Tom Kim in a playoff to claim four of the eight Signature Events on the season. In 16 starts during the 2024 FedExCup Regular Season, Scheffler totaled six wins, two runners-up, 14 top-10s and 15

top-25 finishes.

After wrapping up a standout Regular Season, Scheffler added one more accolade by capturing the gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics at Le Golf National with a final-round 62.

“Scottie Scheffler’s season has been nothing short of incredible – including a historic back-to-back win at THE PLAYERS Championship and now winning the Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10! We’re excited to see him on top of the Leaderboard again along with all the elite athletes who earned their positions this year,” said Eileen Diskin, Chief Marketing Officer, Comcast Business. “This marks the fourth year of the Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10 and our first year as a Proud Partner of THE PLAYERS Championship, we are thrilled to see our work with the PGA TOUR continue to grow and look forward to the start of another great season soon.”

Earning a top-10 spot in the standings entering the FedExCup Playoffs is an important goal for players looking to position themselves for a run at the FedExCup trophy. As part of the Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10, a \$40 million bonus is shared among the top-10 finishers in the FedExCup Regular Season standings. [GP](#)

Final 2024 Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10 Bonus

Pos.	Player	FedExCup Pts	Wins	Top-10s	Bonus
1	Scottie Scheffler	5,993	6	14	\$8 million
2	Xander Schauffele	4,057	2	12	\$6 million
3	Rory McIlroy	2,545	2	6	\$4.8 million
4	Collin Morikawa	2,456	0	7	\$4.4 million
5	Wyndham Clark	2,154	1	6	\$4 million
6	Ludvig Åberg	2,092	0	7	\$3.4 million
7	Sahith Theegala	2,037	0	7	\$2.8 million
8	Hideki Matsuyama	1,899	1	5	\$2.4 million
9	Sungjae Im	1,896	0	7	\$2.2 million
10	Shane Lowry	1,867	1	6	\$2 million

LAGERGREN EAGLES 72ND HOLE TO WIN AT THE K CLUB

Joakim Lagergren holed out from the bunker to make eagle on the 72nd hole and seal a one-stroke victory at the Irish Challenge at The K Club.

The Swede entered the final round one-shot off the lead but after carding a four under par round of 68, he climbed to the top of the leaderboard on 16 under and finished one ahead of Frenchman Sébastien Gros in second place.

The 32-year-old made a single bogey on the front nine to make the turn at one under, before two birdies, a bogey and a closing eagle coming in saw him triumph in County Kildare, ten years after his first Challenge Tour victory at the Northern Ireland Open.

“It feels unbelievable right now,” he said. “It’s so tough to win golf tournaments and I came close last week when I was runner-up so to get it done here feels amazing.

“It was a pretty tough bunker shot playing downwind, but I managed to execute it perfectly. To see it drop in was special. This win means a lot to me because I’ve been playing on the DP World Tour for 12 years and I lost my card last year after a lot of injuries. I really want to get back to the DP World Tour and to get promoted at the end of the season would mean the world to me. The crowd is amazing



“IT WAS A PRETTY TOUGH BUNKER SHOT PLAYING DOWNWIND, BUT I MANAGED TO EXECUTE IT PERFECTLY.”

in Ireland. I love coming back to this country and the fans love their golf and I really enjoy being here. I’m looking forward to celebrating tonight.”

Englishman Brandon Robinson Thompson finished third on 13 under par, while Scotland’s Ryan Lumsden was a shot further back in

fourth. Swede Björn Åkesson finished in fifth position on ten under, one-shot ahead of England’s Jack Senior and South African Wilco Nienaber in sixth.

Lagergren catapults 24 places into sixth position on the Road to Mallorca Rankings on 662 points, while Denmark’s Rasmus Neergaard-Petersen remains in pole position on 1,077 points. **GP**

NØRGAARD KEEPS HIS COOL TO WIN BETFRED BRITISH MASTERS

Niklas Nørgaard held his nerve to clinch his maiden DP World Tour title by two shots at the Betfred British Masters hosted by Sir Nick Faldo. The Dane posted a closing level par round of 72 to clinch his maiden victory on 16 under par, two shots clear of Thriston Lawrence, who halved the overnight deficit but could not catch Nørgaard at The Belfry.

The 32-year-old started the day four strokes clear of the South African but was forced to fight for his breakthrough victory on a dramatic final day in England.

He cancelled out a bogey at the second with a birdie at the very next hole, but three-putted the par four eighth as he made the turn at one over par but still in control at the top of the leaderboard.

Nørgaard birdied both of the back nine’s par threes to re-open a four-stroke advantage, but the charge towards his maiden title threatened to spiral away from him at the 15th.

He missed the green with his second shot into the par five, before seeing his pitch from 23 yards come up short of the green. He then took another three attempts to reach the green with his ball buried in the thick greenside rough,



before eventually going down for a double bogey seven.

However, he showed nerves of steel at the next hole, holing an eight-footer for par to steady the ship before going on to birdie the 17th and ensure he would take a two-stroke lead down the Brabazon’s iconic 18th hole.

As it transpired, the hole that has witnessed everything in the game etched another memorable moment into its storied tapestry, with Nørgaard’s par enough to see him become the third Danish winner of the Betfred British Masters, joining Thomas Bjørn and Thorbjørn Olesen on the list of champions. **GP**

LACROIX LANDS MAIDEN DP WORLD TOUR TITLE



Frederic Lacroix overturned a four stroke final round deficit as he won his maiden DP World Tour title at the Danish Golf Championship.

The 29-year-old carded a bogey-free six under par 65 to win by four strokes at Lübker Golf Resort as he made it back-to-back winners for France in consecutive seasons on the DP World Tour after Antoine Rozner and Victor Perez in 2023, following on from David Ravetto's victory at last week's D+D REAL Czech Masters.

Starting the day four strokes behind 54-hole leader Lucas Bjerregaard, he quickly made ground after a birdie at the first and then moved into a share of the lead on 11 under par after birdies on the fifth and seventh holes.

Lacroix then raced three shots ahead of the chasing pack shortly after the turn, making further gains on the tenth and 12th. A sixth birdie of the day on the par three 15th saw

LACROIX THEN RACED THREE SHOTS AHEAD OF THE CHASING PACK SHORTLY AFTER THE TURN, MAKING FURTHER GAINS ON THE TENTH AND 12TH.



him move four strokes clear with three to play, securing his first DP World Tour title on his 57th start as he closed out his round with successive pars.

Countryman Romain Langasque and

home-favourite Bjerregaard were unable to mount late charges as they finished on ten under par, sharing second place. Langasque carded a final round level par 71, while Bjerregaard finished two over on the day. **GP**

LAGERGREN LANDS SECOND WIN OF THE SEASON ON DRAMATIC FINAL DAY



Joakim Lagergren secured his second title on the 2024 Road to Mallorca with a one-stroke victory on home soil on a dramatic final day of the Indoor Golf Group Challenge.

The Swede began the day four shots behind compatriot Mikael Lindberg and was unable to gain ground, trailing by three strokes after a level par front nine. However, he gained momentum with birdies at 11 and 12, and despite a bogey at 14, added two more gains at 15 and 16 – though he remained two shots behind Lindberg heading down the final two holes.

Stood on the 18th tee Lindberg was one stroke ahead on 13 under after dropping a shot on the par three 17th hole. The 54-hole leader then found the rough off the tee and carded a triple bogey eight to hand Lagergren, who parred the last, the victory in front of packed crowds at Vesterby Links.

“It feels amazing. To win on home soil is just a dream come true,” said the 32-year-old. “I had huge support out there. My fans been having my back for my whole career when I’ve been playing my home. Every time I’m in Sweden they’re supporting me, and



pushing me through, so I love them – they mean a lot to me.”

Lagergren's victory lifts him to third place on the Road to Mallorca Rankings with 982

points, while Lindberg rises one spot to sixth after his third-place finish. Dane Rasmus Neergaard-Petersen remains in pole position, with Englishman John Parry in second. **GP**

HAEGGMAN STAYS COOL IN HOT CONDITIONS & BEATS HOST JEEV



Joakim Haeggman



A call to his son, Felix, who turns 15 next week was the first emotion Joakim Haeggman displayed after his wire-to-wire win at the inaugural HSBC India Legends Championship.

Haeggman's final round at the Jaypee Greens Golf Course was an even par 72 but it had its share of tense moments before he won his second Legends Tour title.

The Swede finished where he had begun the day at 9-under and coasted to a two-shot win over England's Andrew Marshall (73-71-65), who had the best final round of the day at 7-under 209. Jeev (68-68-76) was tied third with Germany's Thomas Gogele (74-70-68) at 4-under.

It was a good week for India as behind Jeev's T-3 was Jyoti Randhawa (68-72-74) in tied ninth place on 2-under 214. Mukesh Kumar

was T-15 and Amandeep Johl was T-22.

Jeev was very gracious and said, "I would like to congratulate Joakim Haeggman, whom I call Haggy. I have known him for years. Well done to him, he played beautifully today. Honestly, as the host of the first Legends Tour tournament in India, I think all the players are very happy and they're going to take back good memories. I think I've done a good job with that."

Haeggman, the first Swede to play the Ryder Cup in 1993, said, "It's been a fantastic week for me, brilliant. I've been driving the ball well, which is sometimes my Achilles, not being a perfect driver of the golf ball. I've been able to hit a lot of fairways. I've been able to hit a lot of greens."

Haeggman's drive on the first hole showed some nerves and the resultant bogey brought him level with Jeev. However, over the next

four holes, the Swede played superbly with birdies on second, fourth and the fifth to get back into the saddle.

Jeev meanwhile had his struggles with the heat and the weight of expectations and bogeyed three times in the first nine against just one birdie. The overnight lead of one had swelled to five in favour of the Swede, who turned in 2-under and Jeev turned in 2-over.


The door however did open as Haeggman bogeyed 14 and then came a two-shot swing. Haeggman bogeyed the Par-5 15 and Jeev birdied the hole. The gap had suddenly shrunk and the Indian seemed to be back in the frame.

However Haeggman did not falter further and Jeev was unable to get birdies on either 16 or 17 and the gap stayed at two when the duo came to the 18th tee.

On the final hole Haeggman played a steady par, while Jeev went into the water and got on to the green only in five and closed with a two-putt for a triple bogey seven.

Talking of the last few holes, Haeggman said, "In the end, it got really exciting, more exciting than it needed to be. Having had a nice five-shot lead, Andrew Marshall posted a score, I could see that."

He also said, "My son has been following my progress at 4 am in the morning each day. He was never interested in golf and has only started playing over the last couple of years and is now down to six (handicap). So I am sure he is very happy with this (Trophy).

Haeggman, on his first visit to India, added, "The experience in India has been fantastic. I mean the treatment we've had, we stayed in a fantastic hotel, the food's been great. We have all been really, really happy with everything. It's been fantastic. And I will be back." 



Mukesh Kumar



Jeev Milkha Singh



Jyoti Randhawa

POPERT AND GILKS WIN INAUGURAL G4D TOUR NATIONS CUP

➔ Kipp Popert and Heather Gilks secured a four-shot win to take the G4D Tour Nations Cup @ Betfred British Masters for Team England at The Belfry. The pair started their second round two shots off the lead, but navigated tough conditions to post a seven over round of 79 to get to six over par, ahead of Irish duo Brendan Lawlor and Fiona Gray in second place on ten over.

Team Ireland were in pole position but double bogeys on the sixth, ninth, tenth and 14th seemed to put paid to any chances of Lawlor and Gray securing the title.

After a six over front nine, a steady back nine which included birdies on the 15th and 17th was enough to secure the inaugural G4D Tour Nations Cup for Popert and Gilks.

"IT HAS BEEN SO SPECIAL PLAYING WITH KIPP. I THINK IT WAS A REALLY GOOD SHOWCASE AND A RANGE OF GOLF TALENT AND IT (GOLF FOR THE DISABLED) IS DEFINITELY TAKING STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION."

- Heather Gilks



Heather Gilks and Kipp Popert

G4D Tour, said: "I have had a few victories, and I think today is bigger than just myself

playing and I am so chuffed for Heather to experience winning, it is good fun. **GP**

AYORA KEEPS CALM TO SEAL MAIDEN CHALLENGE TOUR TITLE

➔ Angel Ayora held his nerve on the final day of the Rosa Challenge Tour to secure a memorable maiden Challenge Tour title in Poland. The Spaniard, who led by two strokes going into the final day, recorded a level par round of 70 to end the week on 13 under par and win by three shots from Northern Irishman Dermot McElroy.

The 19-year-old climbs to ninth in the Road to Mallorca Rankings following his win to move closer to securing promotion to the DP World Tour in his first year as a professional.

Ayora, who has recorded three top ten finishes this season prior to victory, was delighted to join the winner's circle in Konopiska.

"This is my first year as pro, so to have a win is very special," he said. "To give myself a chance to get onto the DP World Tour makes me very happy. It's my dream to play on the DP World Tour, that's all I can say. This is so good for me and for my team. I'm very proud of all the work we've put in to do this."

Ayora started the day two shots clear and extended that to three with a birdie at the par five third. Despite a dropped shot on the following hole, he responded with three birdies in four holes around the turn to move six shots ahead of



the chasing pack. The Spaniard remained clear of the chasing pack despite dropping three shots coming home, and will follow victory by teeing it up in Switzerland next week in the Omega European Open on the DP World Tour.

Sweden's Jens Fahrbring and Christofer Rahm

finished four shots off the lead on nine under par in third, with six players one shot further back in fifth including Italian duo Gregorio de Leo and Aron Ziemer, Frenchman Benjamin Hébert, Dane John Axelsen, Finn Oliver Lindell and German Nicolai von Dellingshausen. **GP**

WALLACE PREVAILS IN PLAY-OFF TO CLAIM VICTORY



Matt Wallace had to battle hard to earn his first DP World Tour title in six years after needing a play-off to defeat Alfredo Garcia-Heredia at the 2024 Omega European Masters.

The Englishman showed his class at Crans-sur-Sierre Golf Club by being the only player to be blemish-free after the first two rounds to lead by four heading into the weekend.

Brutal winds on Moving Day meant only three players in the field carded under par rounds, but Wallace negotiated the elements to maintain his four-shot advantage despite a three-over 73.

The 34-year-old endured a nervy final round, coming home in level par, while his Spanish playing partner produced a brilliant approach to birdie the last and force the sixth play-off of the campaign after both players finished at 11 under.

They found the fairway to start the extra hole before landing on the green with their second shots.

Garcia-Heredia pushed his lengthy birdie putt left of the cup while Wallace had eight feet, which he drained with confidence to get back in the winner's circle.

It is the fifth DP World Tour crown of his career,

THE ENGLISHMAN SHOWED HIS CLASS AT CRANS-SUR-SIERRE GOLF CLUB BY BEING THE ONLY PLAYER TO BE BLEMISH-FREE AFTER THE FIRST TWO ROUNDS TO LEAD BY FOUR HEADING INTO THE WEEKEND.



but his first victory since the 2018 Made In Denmark which came six

years and six days ago, and he moves to the top of the European Ryder Cup Team Qualification List.

Andrew Johnston was in sole third at ten under, while Cedric Gugler delighted the home fans

with a share of fourth after bouncing back from a bogey at the second with an eagle and two birdies to join Jason Scrivener at eight under.

Alex Fitzpatrick and Dutchman Joost Luiten were one shot further back, while Sweden's Henrik Norlander, South African Casey Jarvis, Japan's Rikuya Hoshino and Italian Guido Migliozzi finished at six under. **GP**

NEERGAARD-PETERSEN EARNS VICTORY IN GERMANY



Rasmus Neergaard-Petersen secured automatic promotion to the DP World Tour following his third victory of the season at the Big Green Egg German Challenge.

The Dane entered the final round six shots off the lead but carded a brilliant eight under par round of 64 to reach 15 under and move to the top of the leaderboard at Wittelsbacher Golf club, one clear of countryman John Axelsen and Scotland's Daniel Young who shared second place.

The 25-year-old becomes the first player to win three times during a regular Challenge Tour season since England's Aaron Rai in 2017, and he was delighted to add this week's victory to his Kolkata Challenge and UAE Challenge titles earlier this year.

"I really can't explain how I am feeling right now," he said. "It all clicked today and I never thought it would be possible to shoot eight under par on this course. My round was as perfect as a golf round could be. I did a good job at staying in the present on each hole and the way I responded to my only bogey at 14 was really impressive. Anything is possible in this



game and I'm so happy.

Neergaard-Petersen credited the Challenge Tour for his remarkable development this year and he is looking forward to teeing it up on the DP World Tour for the remainder of the campaign.

Neergaard-Petersen moves to 1,442 points and

extends his lead at the summit of the Road to Mallorca Rankings, while Young climbs 19 places into 26th following his runner up finish in Germany. England's John Parry and Swede Joakim Lagregren remain in second and third respectively. **GP**

MATSUYAMA MAKES REDEMPTION, BRINGS HOME THE BRONZE MEDAL

➤ Matsuyama erased the heartbreak of missing out on a podium finish on home soil three years ago when he clinched the bronze medal at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games with a final round six-under-par 65.

The world No. 12 finished two shots behind American Scottie Scheffler, who fired a course record-equalling 62 to storm up the leaderboard and clinch the gold medal at Le Golf National. Great Britain's Tommy Fleetwood closed with a 66 to secure the silver medal.

Starting the round in a share of fourth place, Matsuyama charged out of the blocks quickly with four birdies on holes two, four, five and six to reach the turn in 32. He birdied holes 10 and 12 before making five straight pars to end his week with a four-day total of 17-under-par 267.

"I missed a medal in Tokyo, so I'm glad I got one," Matsuyama said. "But I still have mixed feelings because the gold medalist was next to me on the podium."

"No spectators were allowed in Tokyo due to the coronavirus pandemic, so it was sad. I really enjoyed playing here this week in front of an enthusiastic gallery."

Meanwhile, Scheffler showed why he is the best male golfer in the world as he continued a remarkable season of dominance by winning the gold medal.



L-R Tommy Fleetwood of Great Britain with the Silver Medal, Scottie Scheffler of the United States with the Gold Medal and Japan's Hideki Matsuyama with the Bronze Medal

The World No. 1 fired nine birdies, including four in his last five holes, to claim victory with his 265 total.

"It's emotional sitting there on the podium and hearing your national anthem, it really is. It's

been a long week. It's been a challenging week. I played some great golf today," said Scheffler.

Keita Nakajima ended his Olympics campaign in tied-49th place after signing with a 74 for a 287 total. **GP**

HIRATA DECLARED WINNER AS FUJISANKEI CLASSIC SHORTENS TO 36-HOLES CONTEST

➤ Kensei Hirata was declared the winner of the Fujisankei Classic as persistent unfavourable weather conditions forced the tournament to be shortened to 36 holes.

Hirata's two-day total of nine-under-par 131 after rounds of 68 and 63 saw him take home the winner's prize purse of ¥11,000,000 which was reduced by 50% and also his fourth JGTO title.

"I felt nervous all morning due to the uncertainty of play. But I'm genuinely happy now. I woke up around 6 a.m. and was worrying about the weather. It was one of the most nerve-wracking experiences ever.

"When I teed off for my second round yesterday, I knew I had to extend my lead in this tournament as much as possible since it was becoming so unpredictable. The birdie putt on the last hole yesterday was significant and I'm so glad it went in," said Hirata.

Meanwhile, South Africa's Shaun Norris took second place after returning with a one-under-par 69 on Saturday, finishing two shots back of Hirata while Yusaku Hosono secured third place with his 134 total at the Fujizakura Country Club.



This is the second time in the tournament's history - after the 2011 edition - that has been reduced to 36 holes, following the 2011

tournament. It is also the ninth time in the history of JGTO that a tournament has been contested over 36 holes. **GP**

SANSAN KBC AUGUSTA REWIND: SONG ENDS SEVEN-YEAR WINLESS STREAK IN JAPAN

7 Against a star-studded JGTO field at Keya Golf Club last year, South Korea's Song Young-han became only the third international player to win on Japanese soil at the Sansan KBC Augusta.

With his win, Song also ended his frustrating wait for a second triumph - his last being the SMBC Singapore Open in 2016 where he defeated then-world No. 1, Jordan Spieth of the United States by one shot.

This year, 138 players including six amateurs will be battling for top honours at the ¥100,000,000 event. Song will begin his title defence by playing alongside Ryo Ishikawa and Yuta Sugiura in the opening round.

As the 33-year-old South Korean, who already has three top-10 JGTO finishes this season, readies himself for another shot at glory, we look back at the final day drama where Song survived a late hole wobble to win by one.

Reflections of 2023 final round

Song started the day by sharing the lead with Yusaku Miyazato and Masanori Kobayashi. He pulled ahead of the chasing pack after snaring birdies on the third, fifth, sixth, and eighth holes at the Keya Golf Club.

The South Korean picked up two more shots on the 11th and 13th holes, moving him to 20-under and establishing a five-shot lead at that stage. Although Song dropped his first shot with a bogey at the par-four 16th, it was hardly seen as a threat to his title charge then.

Even though Song held a three-shot advantage as he stepped onto the par-five 18th tee, he would encounter a very late scare where he carded a double-bogey. But crucially, it was still enough for him to win by one shot from second-placed Ryutaro Nagano.

Song carded a three-under-par 69 in the final round for a 17-under-par 271 winning total.

Song recalled: "My tee shot went to the right, and the ball landed in a really bad spot. I had a duffed shot once, then laid up. When I checked the score, I realised I had some leeway, so I hit my fourth shot straight on. I might have been nervous. When I was putting, I didn't have much of a feel for it.

"I really did great up until the 15th hole. My mood didn't shift, but in the latter half, the speed of my group slowed down, and it became quite hectic.



"TODAY, I WANTED TO PLAY IN A WAY WHERE I DON'T LOSE TO MYSELF, WHERE I COULD CONQUER MY OWN CHALLENGES. I'M HAPPY, BUT THERE ARE STILL MANY THINGS TO LEARN FROM TODAY. I'M GLAD I WON, BUT IT TRULY WAS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE."

"Today, I wanted to play in a way where I don't lose to myself, where I could conquer my own challenges. I'm happy, but there are still many things to learn from today. I'm glad

I won, but it truly was a learning experience." Nagano advanced one position from his overnight standing, carding six birdies against three bogeys to finish with a 69. **GP**



Shinhan Donghae Open Champion... Kensei Hirata

HIRATA CLINCHES BACK-TO-BACK VICTORIES

Kensei Hirata extended his winning form by capturing the Shinhan Donghae Open with a one-shot victory over Australia's Travis Smyth at the tri-sanctioned event by the JGTO, Asian Tour and KPGA.

After winning the weather-shortened Fujisankei Classic last week, Hirata was back in the winner's circle for the fifth time after posting a six-under-par 66, for a winning total of 22-under-par 266.



Kensei Hirata

Kosuke Suzuki, who started the day sharing the lead with Hirata, fired a 70, to take third place, three behind Smyth while South Korea's Minkyu Kim carded a 68, for fourth place, one shot back.

Smyth had threatened to spoil Hirata's party after he fired a stunning 64, where he marked his card with eight birdies and one par in the outward-nine.

"Early on in the round I did not think I would win, so this is a surprise and honour," said Hirata, who became the fourth player from Japan to win this event. I have just won; it has not sunk in yet. I tried to play my own game. Even if I had looked at the leaderboard and seen Travis playing well, I would have focused on myself. I shot 62 yesterday, it's hard to follow that up, but to be honest I did not think about that round. This now gives me a huge chance to play on the global stage with cards now in Japan, Korea and Asia. I have only played in Japan."

Hirata began the day three ahead, along with Suzuki, and was tied at the turn with Smyth, playing in the group ahead.

Smyth had caught him thanks to an amazing front-nine where he made seven successive birdies, a par on eight, and another birdie on nine.

I HAVE JUST WON; IT HAS NOT SUNK IN YET. I TRIED TO PLAY MY OWN GAME. EVEN IF I HAD LOOKED AT THE LEADERBOARD AND SEEN TRAVIS PLAYING WELL, I WOULD HAVE FOCUSED ON MYSELF.

Hirata, however, kept pace by making an eagle, and three birdies, and also not dropping a shot. He then pulled away after the turn with a birdie on 11 before extending his advantage to three with birdies on 13 and 15.

Despite dropping two shots on 16 and 18, it was Hirata who would eventually prevail over Smyth after the Australian had to endure a different back-nine where he made nine straight pars and was unable to close the gap on the Japanese leader. **GP**

TIPS FROM THE

TOUR



JON RAHM

**‘Master
one simple
splash shot’**

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



1

Get wide and get low at address

For a standard or spinning shot, I play the ball forward in my stance and set as much weight as possible on my front foot. I set my hands back a little so they're almost behind the ball. That creates more angle in my left wrist, which adds loft to the clubface, which means more height and a softer landing.



2

Maintain the width in your takeaway

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



3

Set the clubshaft as vertical as you can

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



4

Let right wrist work underneath at impact

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



GARY PLAYER

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

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

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

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

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

Manage your 'miss'

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

Inside 100 yards, get specific with your yardage

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

Plan your tee shot

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



LESSONS FROM LEGENDS

Five quick pro tips on the mental game

1 Go to the movies

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

2 Make a decision

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

3 Find your own 'zone'

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

4 Give it a week

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

5 Stay patient

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

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

Scoring zone

PARALLEL LINES

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

PHOTO FINISH

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

SHAFT AND SPINE MATCH

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

BETTER TOGETHER

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





FAULT DECODER

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



POSITION 1: SHAFT HELD 'OUTSIDE' YOUR SPINE ANGLE

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



HANDLE TOO FAR AHEAD

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



POSITION 2: SHAFT FLIPPED PAST THE SPINE ANGLE

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



CLUBHEAD TOO FAR AHEAD

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



Picture this...

ATTACK ANGLE

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

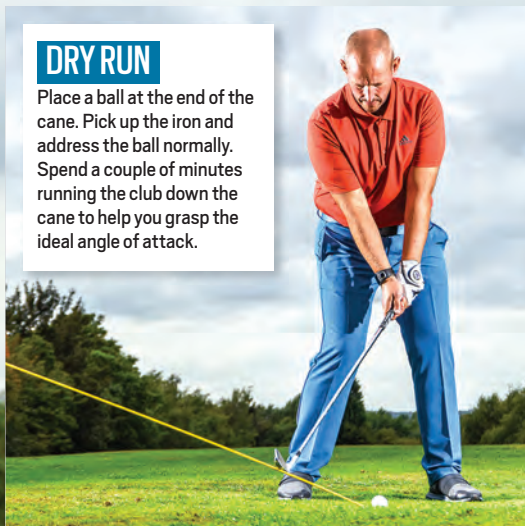
STAND ON THE FACE

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



DRY RUN

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



HIT DOWN THE LINE

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





LYDIA KO SIGNS OFF SUPERB SUMMER WITH MAJOR WIN AT ST ANDREWS

7 Lydia Ko fired a final round of 69 (-3) to win the 2024 AIG Women's Open by two strokes at the Old Course at St Andrews.

It is a third major championship for Ko, who won the 2015 Amundi Evian Championship and 2016 Chevron Championship, and the first time a New Zealander has ever won the AIG Women's Open.

The 27-year-old rounds off an excellent month at St Andrews having already won the gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games which saw her earn enough points to be inducted into the LPGA Hall of Fame.

"It's been a crazy past few weeks," said Ko. "Something that was too good to be true happened, and I honestly didn't think it could be any better and here I am as the AIG Women's Open Champion this week.

"Being here at the Old Course at St Andrews, it makes it so much more special. I just loved being out there this week. I had a lot of family members here with me. I played here when I was 16 in 2013.

"I don't think I got to really enjoy and realise what an amazing place this is, and now that I'm a little older and hopefully a little wiser, I just got to realise what an historic and special

place this golf course is, and it's honestly been such a fairy tale. I'm on cloud nine."

It was a difficult final day with players battling the wet and windy conditions as Ko began the day four shots behind 54-hole leader Jiyai Shin.

The Olympic champion rolled in her first birdie of the day on the fourth hole before adding more on 10 and 14.

She dropped a shot on the 15th but finished in style making a birdie at the last to the applause of the crowd to set the clubhouse lead of seven-under-par which ended up being the winning total.

"On 16 was when I first knew that I was tied," explained Ko. "Then my goal was to make par on 17 and then make birdie on 18 because I just wanted to make birdie on 18, period, this week.

"Just before my second shot on 18, I realised that I was tied for the lead, and I knew I felt like the girls coming in would also birdie the 18th. I wanted to make sure that I birdied and just give myself a chance at it, no matter if I go in a playoff or end up not winning, that was kind of beside the fact there.

"I accomplished and did all the small goals, and I think that made me a little bit more focused on what was right in front of me instead of



Lydia Ko
Pic Credit - Tristan Jones/LET

thinking, oh am I going to win or not.

"It's no lie that sometimes when you're about to win, you start thinking about what you're going to say in this speech and all that, but there was no time for that. I was just so focused on what was in front of me, and that just made it a little easier."

Four players ended the week in a share of second place with Korea's Jiyai Shin, Americans Lilia Vu and Nelly Korda, and China's Ruoning Yin all on five-under-par. **GP**

MAZARINO WINS 2024 LADIES SLOVAK GOLF OPEN

7 Tina Mazarino won her maiden LET Access Series (LETAS) title as she secured a three-stroke victory at the Ladies Slovak Golf Open.

The 24-year-old was two shots behind overnight leader Wenying Keh of New Zealand heading into the final day at Tale Ski Golf & Hotel Resort.

Mazarino began her day with a birdie on the first before making back-to-back bogeys on holes eight and nine.

The Norwegian began her back nine with another birdie before dropping a shot on 12, but she finished strong with birdies on 16, 17 and 18 to finish with a total of six-under-par.

"I guess two-under is my favourite number from now on! I am speechless, I am in shock," said Mazarino.

"Right now, I'm going to try and catch my flight home, and we have another tournament coming up next week. I'm sure I will celebrate at home with a good meal and with my two dogs - I'm looking forward to seeing them.

"It was great conditions. The greens are really tricky but the conditions were really good. The ball rolls really well. It reminds me of home



Tina Mazarino
Pic Credit - Filip Majercik

because I'm from Norway and there's a lot of woods and the hills. It was a good charm!"

Slovakia's Michaela Vavrova and New Zealand's Keh finished in a share of second

place on three-under-par.

It was a great final day for Vavrova, who produced a stunning 67 (-5), to record her best-ever result on LETAS. **GP**



COUGHLIN WINS 2024 ISPS HANDA WOMEN'S SCOTTISH OPEN

7 Lauren Coughlin secured her second LPGA Tour victory in three starts after winning the 2024 ISPS HANDA Women's Scottish Open at Dundonald Links.

The American, who won the CPKC Women's Open at the end of last month, came into the final day leading by one stroke in Scotland.

A round of 69 (-3), which included five birdies and two bogeys, was enough for Coughlin to secure her second win on the LPGA Tour and her first on the Ladies European Tour (LET).

"It's unbelievable," said Coughlin. "Two wins in three events is pretty crazy, but I just stuck in there, tried to stay as present as I could, and got some putts to drop at the end.

"If you would have told me, let alone beginning of this year, but beginning of last year, I wouldn't believe this is what I've done and it's incredible. It's just how hard I've worked to get here, and it's amazing."

Coughlin didn't get off to the best of starts with bogeys on the second and fourth holes, but soon bounced back with birdies on five and seven. With Germany's Esther Henseleit closing the gap, the 31-year-old rolled in back-to-back birdies on 14 and 15 to extend her advantage and give herself a three-stroke lead. Down the stretch, the American made a great

par-save on 16 before rolling in her birdie putt on 18 to clinch a four-stroke victory.

"I felt like I just hit a couple of bad three-putts there," she continued. "And then I was just unlucky getting in that bunker on two, but other than that, I played super solid all four days.

"I just tried to let the wind do what it did and try to not fight it too much and I was able to just hit the ball where I was trying to most of the time and good distance and then make some putts.

"The birdies are always like really good momentum and to keep the momentum going. Especially the one on 15 was huge. As soon as I hit the tee shot on 16, I was like, man, that really needs to sit, and then again just kind of unlucky where it ended up, but I hit a great pitch shot and was able to keep it going with the par-save.

"I really struggled in the wind up until last year when I came to this event, and it's something that I've struggled with, but I've started to get figured out. A lot of it is just trying to not fight it too much and let the wind do what it needs to do and trust it as much as you can."

Germany's Henseleit continued her excellent form with a second-place finish in Scotland after a final round of 70 (-2).



Lauren Coughlin
Pic Credit - Tristan Jones/LET

The two-time LET winner had a steady front nine before making back-to-back birdies on 10 and 11 to narrow Coughlin's advantage.

Henseleit dropped a shot on the 13th before rolling in another birdie on the 14th and finished in outright second place on 11-under-par.

"It was fun today," said the Olympic silver medalist. "I was playing really solid. I had a little go on the back nine, but Lauren [Coughlin] played amazing. Even when she was in trouble, she got out of it really quickly. She played well today." **GP**

CLEWS DEFENDS TITLE WITH WIRE-TO-WIRE VICTORY

7 England's Gemma Clews came back to Smorum Golf Club with one mission; to defend her title and Clews did it.

On a partially suspended final day, the Manchester-based player kept her cool to card a final round of one-under-par (69).

It was a hot start with the putter for Clews who birdied holes two and three before a double bogey occurred on the difficult hole four.

Clews kept playing steadily and finished with a fantastic birdie on hole 18 to take victory at Smorum for the second time.

"It's amazing to come back and try and defend. Obviously, it's a tough ask, I was really looking forward to coming back and then to come back and defend and go wire-to-wire as well. It feels fantastic."

Staying calm was Clews' mantra in the tough conditions on final day and she excelled, so much in fact she didn't know if she had won on the 18th.

"I had no idea I had won, I just stuck to my game plan today and took control of what I could do and just stuck to my processes."

Clews, who graduated from LETAS back in



2023, will play the rest of the season on the LET, except for the Rose Ladies Open in September.

"This win gives me a lot of confidence for the rest of the season, I really struggled at the start of this year.

"At the last couple of events my game has just been getting better and better and hopefully I can take this win into the next couple of months."

Swedish duo Andrea Lignell and Anna Magnusson both had fantastic final rounds to finish joint second on seven-under-par. **GP**



DENNIS ACCOMPLISHES FAIRYTALE ENDING WITH WIN AT HOME

7 England's Megan Dennis cherishes this day forever as she clinches her first professional win at the inaugural Get Golfing Women's Golf Championship.

It's a full circle moment for the 25-year-old, who first learnt to play golf at the Club at Mill Green, the venue for this week.

It was a shaky start for the Woburn based golfer, who carded a bogey and a double bogey before any birdie dropped.

Two consecutive birdies on holes six and seven got the Englishwoman back in the game.

After another bogey on the par-four eighth hole, Dennis fired up the flatstick on the back nine to sink three birdies on holes 11 and 13 before a fabulous 33 feet putt on the 17th to give her a two-shot lead heading into the final hole.

"I'm shocked. I had no idea where I was standing until I got my first ball on the 18th green. I said to my caddie- should I know? Do I want to know? I asked him and he said I had a two-shot lead. So, I knew I just had to two putt the last. I'm so excited. I can't believe that I managed to string together a good round on the final day."



Megan Dennis
Pic Credit - LET Access Series

It's a pinnacle time for Dennis to clinch a win, as entering this tournament she was sitting way outside the top 10 in 16th on the LETAS Order of Merit, 351.27 points away from the top seven cards.

Now Dennis sits fifth with 993.73 points.

This was the first year for the Get Golfing Women's Golf Championship and will be a

week not to forget anytime soon.

With the biggest prize fund this season and the largest field, this tournament displayed the very best of women's professional golf.

LETAS Order of Merit leader, Sweden's Kajsa Arwefall finished second on five-under-par whilst Austria's Katharina Muehlbauer finished solo third on four-under-par. **GP**

DIMMOCK CLINCHES PLAYOFF VICTORY

7 Annabel Dimmock completed her comeback from injury as she won her first Ladies European Tour (LET) title in five years after defeating Pauline Roussin-Bouchard in a playoff at the 2024 KPMG Women's Irish Open.

English star Dimmock held a two-shot lead at the 54-hole mark and produced a round of 70 (-3) to be in the playoff alongside the Frenchwoman on the O'Meara Course at Carton House.

The duo headed back down to 18 for the playoff and both made pars on the first hole, but on the second hole Roussin-Bouchard took a 3-wood off the tee, however, it went left into the deep rough and she had to scramble and ended up making a bogey.

Meanwhile, Dimmock - who has come back from eight months out of the game with a thumb injury - went down the middle of the fairway with her driver and left herself two putts to win as she duly rolled in her two-foot putt to secure her second LET title.

"I am a bit shell-shocked at the minute," said Dimmock, whose mum is from Cork. "I'm standing here and I think I'm in a dream honestly. I'm just shell-shocked and over the moon right now."

Dimmock got off to a good start on the final day as she made birdies on her first two holes but dropped a shot on the 12th hole.

A birdie on 13 saw her just one shot behind Roussin-Bouchard and she rolled in another birdie on 17 for her round of 70 (-3) and to finish alongside the Frenchwoman on 19-under-par.

Roussin-Bouchard began the day in outright fifth place and made three birdies on her front nine to move herself up the leaderboard.

The Frenchwoman continued to pepper pins rolling in four birdies in a row on holes 10 thru 13 to put herself in a share of the lead.



Another birdie on 15 put the two-time LET winner into the solo lead but she then three-putted on 16, however she soon bounced back with a birdie on 17.

The 24-year-old saved par on 18 to card a round of eight-under 65 and seal the clubhouse lead on 19-under-par before losing out in the playoff.

Finland's Ursula Wikstrom finished her consistent week with another round of 69 (-4) for a total of 18-under-par and to miss out on the playoff by one shot and end the week in third place. **GP**



DIKSHA DAGAR T-38 IN IRISH OPEN, DIMMOCK WINS TITLE

7 Diksha Dagar finished the week at the 2024 KPMG Women's Irish Open modestly as she scored an even par 73 for a four-round total of 4-under 288. Diksha, a two-time winner on the Ladies European Tour, finished T-38 after making the cut in T-55th place, which was also the cut line.

Playing at the Par-73 O'Meara Course at Carton House, Diksha had four birdies against four bogeys, two of which came on Par-5s at the 15th and the 17th holes. The 17th was where she had birdies on the first two days.

While she had a decent 29 putts for the round, Diksha was found wanting with her approach shots as she had only 11 greens in regulation of 18.

The other three Indians, Tvesa Malik Sandhu, Pranavi Urs and Ridhima Dilawari missed the cut.

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Switzerland's Chiara Tamburlini finished in outright fourth place on 17-under-par after firing a round of 65 (-8) on the final day. Four players finished the week in a share of fifth place with Thailand's Trichat Cheenglab, Hong Kong's Tiffany Chan, Australia's Kirsten Rudgeley and Italy's Alessandra Fanali all on 14-under-par. **GP**



BRIEM WINS IN DRAMATIC THREE HOLE PLAY OFF

7 Germany's Helen Briem clinched her first win as a professional after a play off at the Rose Ladies Open.

The four-time LETAS champion was two shots back at the 36-hole mark and produced a round of 66 (-6) with a stunning eagle on the 18th to be in the playoff alongside 2023 graduate England's Hannah Screen.

The duo headed back up to 18 for the playoff and both made birdies on the first and pars on the second. On the third hole, Briem made her par putt to clinch victory.

Briem said: "It feels fantastic to get my first win as a professional, especially here at the Rose Ladies Open.

"Every tournament has its own story and this one is mine. I'm so happy to have another win.

"In regulation play, I considered hitting a three-wood after the tee. But I drove it and had a distance I didn't like at all. But I still finished with an eagle, and it was incredible.

Briem, who had three consecutive wins on LETAS back in June, has now confirmed her LET card for the 2025 season.

"In a play off, you have to give it everything and, in the end, it went my way and I'm so happy. "I couldn't read my last putt, so I had to improvise and do aim point but it all worked out well.

"It's been an amazing season so far and it's



so incredible that I've achieved my aim of getting my LET card."

Sweden's Isabell Ekstrom finished third on 12-under-par whilst fellow Swede Kajsa

Arwefjall finished fourth on eleven-under-par. In her professional debut England's Mimi Rhodes finished tied fifth alongside Gabriella Cowley. **GP**

FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2024 SOLHEIM CUP

7 Fans didn't have to wait long to see the much-anticipated rematch between the U.S. and European Teams at the Solheim Cup. Just 12 months ago, the match ended in a 14-14 tie at Finca Cortesin in Spain, and this year, the teams get a chance to square off once more, this time on U.S. soil, as both sides look to win the Cup outright. But why are these two teams meeting again so soon?

The Solheim Cup is a biennial competition that pits the best female golfers from the United States against the top competitors from Europe. The U.S. and Europeans Teams will compete over the course of three days of match play to determine who will take home the Solheim Cup. During the first two days of play, players will square off in a morning session of four foursomes matches followed by an afternoon session of four four-ball matches. On final day, the U.S. and Europe will then compete in 12 singles matches. One

point is awarded for each match won over the course of the three days, with a half point awarded to matches that end in a tie. A total of 14.5 points is required to win the Cup upon the conclusion of play and 14 points are needed in order for a team to retain the Solheim Cup. Should the event end in a tie, as it did in 2023, the last team to win the Solheim Cup will retain the trophy.

There are 24 players that are competing in the Solheim Cup, made up of 12 Americans and 12 Europeans.

With the most recent Solheim Cup in 2023 ending in a tie, the Americans and Europeans are taking two different mental approaches to this year's Solheim Cup. The Europeans considered themselves the winners of the last match because they retained the

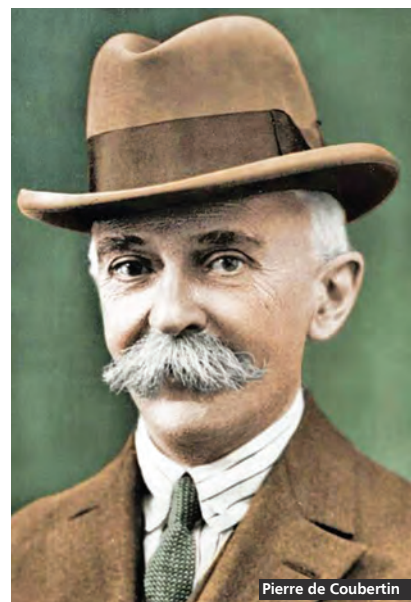


Cup, having been the last winners of the Solheim Cup in 2021, and on social media, they've touted their opportunity to win an unprecedented fourth consecutive Solheim Cup. From a U.S. perspective, Captain Lewis considers this year's match a chance to clean up their unfinished business from their last meeting in 2023. **GP**



By Farzan Heerjee

MAKING A CASE FOR BIENNIAL OLYMPICS: REVOLUTIONIZING THE WORLD'S PREMIER SPORTING EVENT



Pierre de Coubertin

The Olympics have been the most prestigious and grandest stage for any sportspeople since time immemorial. Held once every four years, since its reinitiation in 1869 the Olympic Games have always been the apex that athletes across the world have tried to reach. Back in the 1800s, conducting the Olympics every four years made logistic, anticipatory and financial sense. Athletes travelled by boat or on foot for months or years at a stretch to get to the next host city or country. We have come a long way since then with technology, planes and a faster-paced life than at any other time in human history. Other than historical precedence, is there any other valid reason for such a long wait for the most anticipated Olympics?

This article poses a simple question- Given the technological advances, should the Olympics be held biennially instead of every four years? If so, how? The question is not a new one as opinions are divided- One perspective states that we must stick to tradition while the other states that the largest sporting tournament of the world must catch up to modern times.

The Olympics, a time-honoured tradition, have captivated the world every four years with their display of athletic prowess, national pride, and cultural unity. However, as we move into the 21st century, it is worth reconsidering whether the current four-year cycle is still the most effective format. The tradition of hosting the Olympics every four years is rooted in historical precedent and practical considerations. The modern Olympic Games are inspired by the ancient

Olympics that were held in Olympia, Greece, every four years from 776 BC until 393 AD. This four-year period, known as an "Olympiad," was a unit of time in ancient Greece. The revival of the Olympics by Pierre de Coubertin in 1896 sought to honour this tradition by maintaining the four-year interval between the Games. The four-year gap between Olympic tournaments gives the event the cultural significance that Coubertin envisioned. The interval allows the host country to create a lasting legacy, using the time to promote Olympism, foster international cooperation, and encourage youth participation in sports. The time between Games is also used to reflect on and celebrate the values of the Olympic movement, such as fair play, peace, and international solidarity.

Without a doubt, there are several highly

exciting and exhilarating high-level competitions across various sports that fans wait for with baited breaths in the modern world. The Asian Games and Asian Championships also known as Asiad, is a multi-sport event held every four years among athletes from all over Asia. It is the second-largest multi-sport event after the Olympics. Cricket, Hockey, and Football have their respective World Cups. The Commonwealth Games are bookmarked and watched across the world by billions. Golf too has tournaments such as The Open and The Masters to name a few all year around- one grander than the next. However, the Olympics in particular, the largest sports carnival, revered by every nation, and held in the highest regard by athletes does not happen quite as often.

Rational behind the Olympiad format

The Olympic cycle is structured so that the Summer and Winter Games are held two years apart from each other within the four-year Olympiad. This ensures that the Olympics maintain a consistent presence on the global stage without overloading the international sports calendar. The four-year cycle for each edition (Summer and Winter) gives athletes and fans time to build anticipation and to allow the sporting movements to focus resources and attention on one event at a time.

#For the host and participating countries

The Olympics are a massive logistical undertaking that requires significant financial investment and planning. The four-year cycle allows enough time for nations around the world to prepare their athletes for competition, build the necessary infrastructure, and secure the financial resources needed to participate. Organizing a global event of this magnitude requires extensive planning, training, and



Aditi Ashok & Diksha Dagar with IGU Officials

“THE OLYMPIC GAMES HAS NOW BECOME A MONUMENTAL TASK TO CONDUCT EVERY FOUR YEARS WITH APPROXIMATELY 10,400 ATHLETES AND 700 OFFICIALS ATTENDING FEATURING 329 EVENTS IN 32 SPORTS ACROSS 48 DISCIPLINES REPRESENTING ABOUT 200 COUNTRIES.

opportunities and challenges that could fundamentally reshape the nature of the revered competition and its impact on the global stage. It is a topic that is highly debated in the sporting fraternity and the views are divided. One perspective states that we must stick to tradition while the other states that sports tournaments must catch up

to modern times.

logistical coordination. It also allows the host city to generate revenue and recoup some of the investments made for the Games, such as through tourism and international exposure. The four-year gap ensures that both host nations and participating countries can adequately prepare, ensuring the Games are of the highest standard.

#For the Athletes

For athletes, the four-year cycle provides a crucial period for development and recovery. Training for the Olympics and the Asian Games is an intense, long-term commitment, and the four-year interval allows athletes to peak at the right time. It also gives them the appropriate time to recover from injuries, plan their training cycles, and refine their skills and strategies.

#For the rest of the world

Holding the Games every four years adds to their prestige and significance. The anticipation that builds over four years heightens the importance of the event, making it a rare and eagerly awaited global celebration. This infrequency contributes to the sense of honour and achievement associated with winning an Olympic medal, as athletes have limited opportunities to compete in their lifetime.

The Case for Biennial Tournaments

The proposal to conduct the Games every two years instead of every four brings with it both

As stated by the esteemed Adille Sumariwalla, President of the Athletic Federation, “In my view, the Olympic Games and the Asian Games should be held every four years. The reason is that today the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games & Asian Games have a charm and importance of their own. The Olympics are a centuries-old establishment and institution with a tradition. If we hold these Games every year, the Games will lose its charm. International Federation regularly conducts its world, championships, world cups, diamond leagues, and continental cups every year at both World and Area levels; hence athletes get the desired competitions every year. Also, there is no prize money at the OG, CWG or AG. Athletes will go for other championships that give large amounts of prize money and not attend the Games every year and hence will move towards failure. The financial outlay and the logistics operations are huge and countries like Greece have gone bankrupt. Montreal, Canada took 30 years to pay back the loans taken to conduct the Olympics.”

Transitioning the Olympics to a biennial (every two years) schedule would be a significant shift from the current four-year cycle. While some may say the four-year wait builds anticipation and notoriety of the games, the same cannot be said for the athletes who could only participate in two or three Olympics in their entire careers. These athletes spend most of their youth



Brijinder Singh, President, Indian Golf Union with Gen. Bhushan, Director General, Indian Golf Union



Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI

training for the grand stage- to participate only twice or thrice is a waste of their potential, talent and hard work. Implementing modern technologies could make it feasible to host these time-honoured games every two years, reducing costs, improving sustainability, and enhancing the overall experience for athletes, spectators, and host cities alike. This way hosting the Games every two years is not just an impossible task, but one that can be achieved should the following factors align themselves.

Technology meets Sports

To make this transition successful, several strategies could be implemented to address the challenges and maximize the benefits. We live in the new age of technology where everything is digital. We have put a man on the moon, gone to space and created a network where people can be instantly connected no matter where they are on Earth. However, the same cannot be said for sports as this industry has yet to fully embrace the magnitude and advantages that technology has to offer. For example, using Modular and Reusable Stadiums solves a major part of the problem for the Biennial Olympics. Technologies enabling the construction of modular and reusable stadiums could allow cities to build and disassemble Olympic facilities rapidly. These could be moved and reassembled in other locations, reducing costs and environmental impact.

The use of technologically advanced transportation, such as hyperloop, high-speed

PRODUCTION HOUSES COULD CREATE HIGH-QUALITY DOCUMENTARIES OR BIOPICS ABOUT OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS, HIGHLIGHTING THEIR JOURNEY, CHALLENGES, AND TRIUMPHS.

rails and electric vehicles could quickly and sustainably move large numbers of people between venues and cities. With the take-off of IoT (Internet of Things), Smart City technologies could help manage crowd control, optimize energy use, and monitor environmental conditions in real-time.

Enhanced digital platforms would facilitate collaboration between global Olympic committees, broadcasters, and other stakeholders to make the Olympics more inclusive, available and easily accessible to the world.

As mentioned before the opinion is divided concerning the frequency of these games. Satish Pillai, besides being an Asian Games medalist is an individual who has dedicated his life to sports. He is renowned for his outstanding contribution in the administrative capacity to the field of sports. He was the Chief of Sports in Tata Steel- a highly coveted feather in his cap, alongside has held many leadership positions in several

other sporting bodies. Mr Pillai poignantly stated, “The Olympic Games has now become a monumental task to conduct every four years with approximately 10,400 athletes and 700 Officials attending featuring 329 events in 32 sports across 48 disciplines representing about 200 countries. There is a view that It should be held every two years instead of four. The reason is that the life span of Athletes is short so they should have more opportunities to perform on the world stage. Firstly in my opinion there are many events like Football, Basketball, Tennis, Cricket, and Golf among a few others which have world cups or annual events which are far more popular than when played in the Olympics. So having the Olympics every two years is not a bad idea but the IOC need to exclude some of the major sports as mentioned above and thereby make it more manageable for countries to bid.”

Immortalization of the winners is the need of the hour:

Lastly, and most importantly and perhaps unfortunately as well, the stars of the show, the athletes themselves have a short lifespan in the spotlight. With the number of games and sportspersons, it is difficult for most people to name and recall winners of most games without the help of Google. This is especially true for the Olympic Games.

The winners of the Wimbledon Championships, both in the men’s and women’s singles, have their names engraved on their respective trophies. The men’s trophy is a silver gilt cup, and the women’s trophy is a silver salver known as the “Venus Rosewater Dish.” The Stanley Cup is one of the most famous trophies in sports awarded for hockey. The names of every player, coach, and staff member from the championship-winning team are engraved on the cup. The FA Cup, awarded to the winner of the oldest football competition in the world, has the names of all winning teams engraved on it. The Claret Jug is awarded to the winner of The Open Championship, one of golf’s oldest tournaments. The winner’s name is engraved on the jug each year. The Masters Trophy is awarded to the winner of the Masters Tournament in golf. The winner’s name is engraved on the trophy, which remains at Augusta National Golf Club, and they also receive a gold medal and the iconic green jacket.

It is disheartening to know that no such trophy (other than the medals) is given to our Olympic heroes and heroines! The need of the hour for these exceptional beings is to be immortalised on a more permanent stage. Athens, the Mecca of the Olympics, could construct a structure such as a winner’s wall or create an ‘Olympic Hall of Fame’ to increase the prominence of their wins and ensure their names are never forgotten but forever etched in the annals of history- as they rightly deserve. An Olympic museum or dedicated spaces within existing sports museums



The officials with Gaganjeet Bhullar & Shubhankar Sharma





(L-R) Gen. Bhushan, Director General, IGU, Anthony Scanlon, ED, IGF & Brijinder Singh, President, IGU

to honour past winners can be constructed. These could include interactive elements and personal memorabilia. Statues or monuments in their home countries or at Olympic venues can be erected to immortalize their achievements. Besides this, there are several other ways to give these exceptional beings the credit they deserve.

Production houses could create high-quality documentaries or biopics about Olympic champions, highlighting their journey, challenges, and triumphs. This can help keep their stories alive in public memory. Creating interactive online platforms or apps where fans can explore the history of Olympic winners, rewatch highlights, and learn about their personal stories to understand what inspires and motivates them.

Legacy Programs, Ambassadorships and Education Integration

Establish programs that allow winners to give back to their communities, such as youth sports initiatives or mentoring programs. These Olympic Legacy Projects can be named after them, ensuring their legacy continues. Appoint Olympic champions as global ambassadors for the Olympics or other international organizations, giving them a platform to remain in the public eye. Introduce Olympic champions' stories into educational curriculums to inspire students. The inclusion into school curriculums could be part of physical education or history lessons. By creating scholarships or awards in the names of various Olympic champions, we are ensuring their names and achievements are recognized in academic and sports contexts.

Annual or Biennial Celebrations

Establish a global day to celebrate Olympic winners, where their achievements are commemorated through events, media coverage, and public celebrations. Create an "Olympic Winner Day" akin to the Oscars or the Grammy's to celebrate and honour the

winners of the prestigious event. Past Olympic winners should be invited to participate, share experiences, and receive recognition for their ongoing contributions to sports and society in biennial reunion events.

Sustained Sponsorship and Financial Support

Encourage sports and lifestyle brands to provide long-term sponsorships to the winners with financial security and public visibility well after their Olympic success. Foster long-term partnerships between Olympic winners and global brands to keep them in the public eye through endorsements, public appearances, and advertising campaigns.

Build and sustain a robust platform that offers resources and programs to help Olympic champions transition into new careers or ventures, ensuring they remain influential public figures instead of forgotten heroes of yesteryears.

Increased engagement in Digital, Social Media Campaigns and Pop culture

Create ongoing social media campaigns that regularly highlight the stories of past Olympic winners, particularly around the time of each new Olympics. Develop and distribute VR experiences that allow fans to relive historic Olympic moments from the perspective of the champions, giving their achievements a new life in the digital age. Encourage the appearances of Olympic winners in popular media, including guest roles in TV shows, talk shows, films, or even as hosts of sports programs. Enrol them as hosts or commentators for their respective games, as is practised in cricket, football and other games. This way they get to share the mindset, strategies and technique feedback of the athletes as they play.

By implementing these strategies, major sporting events such as the Olympics and the Asian



Brijinder Singh with Aditi Ashok

SATISH PILLAI, BESIDES BEING AN ASIAN GAMES MEDALIST IS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO SPORTS.



Farewell Mr. President

Games can be biennial events that are equally if not more enthralling for the viewers. While there are challenges to increasing the frequency of the Games, the risks are significantly outweighed by the benefits of a two-year cycle. Moreover, the achievements of the winners can be celebrated and remembered long after their initial victory, ensuring their contributions to sports and society are enduring.

Games can be biennial events that are equally if not more enthralling for the viewers. While there are challenges to increasing the frequency of the Games, the risks are significantly outweighed by the benefits of a two-year cycle. Moreover, the achievements of the winners can be celebrated and remembered long after their initial victory, ensuring their contributions to sports and society are enduring. **GP**

GO GOLF !

The 8th event of Gulmohar Golfer of the Year 2024 took place on 24th & 25th August at Gulmohar Greens-Golf & Country Club as part of the MP Financial Services-Go Golf 2024 calendar. The event saw 55 golfers who played to win the Claret Jug replica.

Total 26 Golfers from 4 categories earned Reward Points. 



Samir Kumar Dhar



Minoti Singh Satpute



Juhi Mavani



Naveen Rana

8/11 G G O Y - AUGUST 2024 - SUMMARY

#	CATEGORY	PRIZES	NAME	GROSS	POINTS
1	Category - 1	WINNER	NAVEEN RANA	78	39
2	H'cap 0-14	RUNNER UP	RAKESH KUMAR	85	37
3	Category - 2	WINNER	S K DHAR	89	41 (B9-20)
4	H'cap 15-23	RUNNER UP	ANAND BABU	90	41 (B9-18)
5	Category - 3	WINNER	MINOTI SINGH	104	36 (B9-20)
6	H'cap 24-36	RUNNER UP	MOHAN LAL	96	36 (B9-18)
5	Category - 4	WINNER	JUHI MAVANI	83	42
6	JUNIOR	RUNNER UP	YASHVI SHAH	86	41

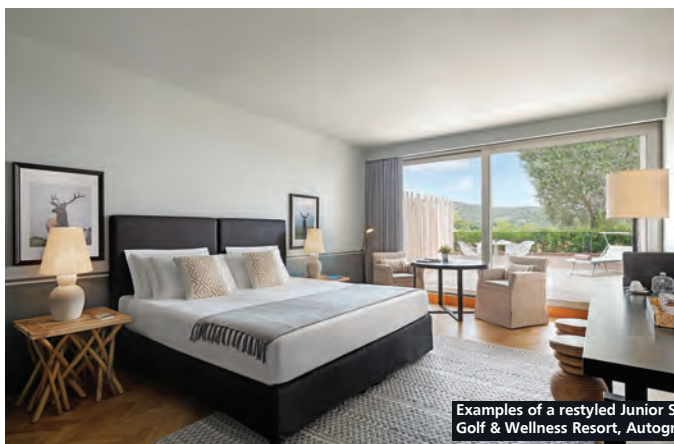
SKILL COMPETITIONS

7	Longest Drive - Hole # 1	YASH R SHAH	249 YARDS	OVER ALL
8	Closest to Pin - Hole # 3	S P SINGH	13 FT	
	2nd Shot Closest to Pin - Hole # 9	NEIL DAVE	2'8" FT	

GOLF & WELLNESS RESORT RESTYLES



Argentario Golf Club



Examples of a restyled Junior Suite and Suite at Argentario Golf & Wellness Resort, Autograph Collection



Tuscany's Argentario Golf & Wellness Resort, Autograph Collection has undergone a restyling to further reflect the essence of the Maremma into the property and its signature contemporary design with the use of a range of earthy colours, natural textures and organic materials that are found

in this part of Italy.

The restyling process has brought a soft new look to a number of the public spaces, namely the impressive entrance hall, the capacious light-filled breakfast room, the quirky bar and the adjacent lounge to give a warmer, more cosy feel to all areas of the resort.

The Argentario design journey began with

a deep respect for the surrounding nature of the Maremma and a vision to pay tribute to the rustic charm of this undiscovered part of southwest Tuscany while embracing the contemporary, striking aesthetics that the resort is so well known for. The result is a harmonious blend of eco-conscious design and modern, indulgent luxury that embodies the philosophy of the resort.



Argentario Golf Club

THE RESTYLING CONTINUES IN EACH OF ARGENTARIO'S 73 ROOMS AND SUITES, WHICH TELL THEIR STORY THROUGH SOPHISTICATED, COMFORTABLE AND SUBTLE DESIGN TOUCHES.



The warm, welcoming entrance hall at the Argentario Golf & Wellness Resort

As you step into the majestic entrance hall, for example, you are greeted by expansive windows framing the radiant Mediterranean sky and the lush green flora of the golf course and nature reserve in which it is set. These breathtaking views complement the Tabarca-stone floors, the arched plexiglass and oak reception desk, and the natural-toned structural elements and organic materials that have been added to the great effect.

Whilst the resort's unique dragonfly-shaped structure that features a limestone façade merges seamlessly with the surrounding landscape, the renowned interior designer Andrea Fogli has honed his design skills to curate a space where contemporary styling combines with the colours of nature to create a warm and inviting atmosphere.



The Dragonfly Bar at the Argentario Golf & Wellness Resort



Giglio Island, Maremma Tuscany

The dragonfly theme recurs in the lounge bar located at the base of the stunning white spiral central staircase, thanks to a counter illuminated by windows reminiscent of dragonfly wings. Guests are charmed at the same time by the unusual yet playful boar tables designed by Marcel Wanders.

The restyling continues in each of Argentario's 73 rooms and suites, which tell their story through sophisticated, comfortable and subtle design touches. In every room, there are reminders of the Maremma, with examples that include photos of local wildlife and tree-shaped wooden coffee tables. Whether you prefer the minimalist vibe of a modern art gallery or the sophisticated appeal of metropolitan chic with chrome finishes and stone tubs, the new-look rooms speak to the

AS YOU STEP INTO THE MAJESTIC ENTRANCE HALL, FOR EXAMPLE, YOU ARE GREETED BY EXPANSIVE WINDOWS FRAMING THE RADIANT MEDITERRANEAN SKY AND THE LUSH GREEN FLORA OF THE GOLF COURSE AND NATURE RESERVE IN WHICH IT IS SET.




soul and offer calm and relaxation.

Every room features a private wooden decked terrace overlooking the championship golf course and Orbetello Lagoon up to the Mediterranean Sea to bring the outside in and allow guests to mix harmoniously with the

surrounding wilderness.

Situated near Porto Ercole, just 90 minutes from Rome International Airport, Argentario Golf & Wellness Resort, Autograph Collection is a sanctuary for those seeking relaxation in nature, modern amenities, and the perfect blend of sports such as golf, wellness and cuisine in Italy.

Surrounded by the stunning natural beauty of cork-oak woods, olive trees, and the nearby Silver Coast beaches, the resort invites guests to embark on a transformative and empowering journey in one of Tuscany's best-kept secrets.

Distinctive design and the spirit of Maremma flows over into the Dama Dama Restaurant, offering a contemporary twist on Tuscan and Mediterranean cuisine and menus crafted using local organic products, many of which are sourced from the resort's vegetable garden and handpicked farms. 





TATA STEEL PGTI LAUNCHES MYSURU OPEN HOSTED BY JAYACHAMARAJA WADIYAR GOLF CLUB

The Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), the official sanctioning body of professional golf in India, along with Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Golf Club (JWGC), Mysuru, launched a new event, the Mysuru Open Hosted by Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Golf Club, which was held at the picturesque JWGC from August 8 – 11, 2024. The total prize purse for the event was INR 1 crore.

The TATA Steel PGTI explored new territory with the inaugural Mysuru Open as the tour made its debut in the city of Mysuru and at the esteemed JWGC. The tournament was supported by Host Venue JWGC and Associate Partner Cycle Pure Agarbattis.

The leading Indian professionals participating in the event included 2022 PGTI Order of Merit champion Manu Gandas, local lad Yashas Chandra, multiple international winner Rahil Gangjee, Olympian Udayan Mane, Aman Raj, Karan Pratap Singh, Sachin Baisoya, M Dharma and Abhinav Lohan, to name a few.

Dr. Abraham Thomas, President, JWGC, said, “We are excited about the upcoming tournament and the opportunity to showcase the exceptional talent and skill of our players. The stunning backdrop of this prestigious golf course promises an unforgettable event for both participants and spectators.”

Mr. Arjun Ranga, CEO, Cycle Pure Agarbattis, said, “It is a matter of pride that PGTI has come to our city of Mysuru. We at Cycle Pure Agarbattis are delighted to be associated with this event that provides golfers from Mysuru an opportunity to play alongside the best.”

Mr. Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI, said, “We’re delighted to resume the season with the inaugural Mysuru Open at a new venue, the magnificent JWGC. We thank JWGC and other event partners for supporting the



Leading Indian professionals Manu Gandas (left) and local lad Yashas Chandra (right) pose with the trophy. Seen in the back row are (left to right) Mr. Arjun Ranga, CEO, Cycle Pure Agarbattis, Dr. Abraham Thomas, President, JWGC, Mr. Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI and Mr. M S Yeshwant, Captain, JWGC

“WE’RE DELIGHTED TO RESUME THE SEASON WITH THE INAUGURAL MYSURU OPEN AT A NEW VENUE, THE MAGNIFICENT JWGC.”

UTTAM SINGH MUNDY, CEO, PGTI

tournament and thus facilitating PGTI’s debut in Mysuru, a city which has been producing some fine golfing talent in recent years. The JWGC course looks in great shape and will present a whole new challenge for the professionals. We look forward to an action-packed second half of the season. We wish the professionals all the best.”

Nestled in the heart of Mysuru, the Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Golf Club is a

premier golfing destination renowned for its picturesque landscapes and challenging fairways. The course spans over 134 acres, featuring lush greens, strategically placed bunkers and pristine water hazards that provide a true test of skill for golfers of all levels. Designed by Phil Ryan it seamlessly blends the natural beauty of the surroundings with top-notch facilities, making it a favourite among golf enthusiasts. **GP**

Content Editor: Nikhil Kalaan, Media Manager, PGTI





SHAURYA BINU SEES IT HOME WITH GALLANT FINAL ROUND 65, LIFTS SECOND TROPHY OF THE SEASON TO CLIMB UP TO FIFTH IN THE TATA STEEL PGTI RANKING



Champion Shaurya Binu receives the trophy from His Highness Yaduveer Krishnadutta Chamaraja Wadiyar, Honourable Member of Parliament. The others seen in the picture are Dr. Abraham Thomas, President, JWGC (2nd from right), Mr. U S Mundy, CEO, PGTI (extreme right), Mr. Chandrae Gowda, Chairman, Mysore Race Club Ltd (3rd from left), Mr. M S Yeshwanth, Captain, JWGC (2nd from left), Mr. Ryan Irani, Past President, IGU (extreme left)



Shaurya Binu - Winner

Twenty-year-old Shaurya Binu of Bengaluru saw it home with a gallant final round performance of five-under 65 in a closely-fought affair at the INR 1 Crore Mysuru Open 2024 Hosted by Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Golf Club (JWGC).

Shaurya (64-64-64-65) totaled 23-under 257 to prevail by one shot over Patna's Aman Raj (62-67-66-63) who carded a brilliant 63 in the last round.

Binu, who bagged the winning cheque worth INR 15 lakh, thus lifted his second trophy of the season to climb up three spots to fifth place in the TATA Steel PGTI Ranking.

Bengaluru-based 17-year-old amateur Veer Ganapathy (63-68-61-67) finished a creditable third at 21-under 259 in his very first appearance in a professional event. Veer returned a solid 67 in round four.

Shaurya, the overnight joint leader along with Veer Ganapathy, made a steady start to round four as he made pars on the first six holes. Two good drives that led to birdies on the seventh and ninth holes got Shaurya's round going.

In spite of his bogey on the 12th, Shaurya kept himself in the hunt with birdies on the 11th, 13th and 14th where he hit it close on two occasions and also sank a 30-footer. Needing a birdie on the par-5 18th to surpass Aman Raj's total, Binu kept his nerve by landing his approach on the left side of the green before making an up and down for victory.

Shaurya said, "There were some nerves for me at the end and it was quite different from

my first win earlier this year. On the 18th tee I knew that I had to make a birdie to win. I then executed my plan to perfection on the last hole.

"A win at the start of the second half gives me great confidence and keeps me on track to end the year in the top-3 of the Order of Merit. All the work I did in the off-season on my swing and my body is paying off as it has helped me gain some distance with my shots." **GP**



Aman Raj - Runner-up



Teenage amateur Veer Ganapathy finished Third





RAYHAN THOMAS RISES TO THE OCCASION TO TRIUMPH ON PGTI DEBUT



Champion Rayhan Thomas receives the trophy from Mr. Prassadh Shanmugam, CEO - KGiSL. The other dignitaries seen in the picture are (left to right) Mr. Sampath Chari, Tournament Director, PGTI, Mr. R Gopinath, President, Coimbatore Golf Club and Mr. D Ravichandran, Honorary Secretary, Coimbatore Golf Club



Rayhan Thomas - Winner

RAYHAN BECOMES ONLY THE SECOND PLAYER TO WIN IN HIS MAIDEN PGTI APPEARANCE

Dubai-based Rayhan Thomas announced his arrival in Indian professional golf in style by rising to the occasion with a solid final round of four-under 68 and clinching victory on his PGTI debut at the INR 1 crore KGiSL Presents Coimbatore Open 2024 Powered By Prima Donna played at the Coimbatore Golf Club.

The 24-year-old Rayhan (70-67-69-68), who was placed one off the lead in tied second place ahead of the final round, totaled 14-under 274 for the week to prevail by one shot and create history by becoming only the second player to win in his first appearance on the PGTI. Thai golfer Pariya Junhasavasdikul was the first player to achieve the feat when he won the year-end Tour Championship in 2016 on his PGTI debut.

Gurugram's Manu Gandas (71-65-72-67) took second place at 13-under 275 as a result of his last round of 67.

Rayhan Thomas, playing at Coimbatore for the first time, was two-under through the front-nine

after he made three birdies and a bogey that kept him in the race. Rayhan, who won twice on the MENA Tour while still an amateur and also represented India in many prestigious events such as the 2018 Asian Games, sank a couple of long birdies on the front-nine.

Thomas, excelling in all departments of his game through the week, stormed into the lead and became top contender when he collected birdies on the 13th, 15th and 16th. Rayhan, who turned pro in May this year, had a few anxious moments on the 17th where he made bogey but still held on to his lead thanks to a great chip and putt.

The professional from the Dubai Creek Golf Club, who has his roots in Kerala, finally sealed it with a par on the 18th after making a comfortable two-putt.

Rayhan, emerging champion in only his fourth professional appearance, said, "I feel playing college golf in the United States helped me prepare well for the professional level. You experience a lot of pressure in US college golf because playing for a team your score means

a lot more. Growing up in Dubai has also helped a lot as I've had access to some of the best golfing facilities there. Coming back to my home country India completes the cycle for me.

"My grit and patience stood out for me this week. There were a lot of birdie chances out there so it was easy to get complacent when you don't get a birdie. But I was happy with how I stayed patient and kept it going."



Manu Gandas - Runner-up





DHRUV SHEORAN'S VALIANT FINAL ROUND 69 EARNS HIM MAIDEN TITLE ON PGTI AT CHENNAI PRO CHAMPIONSHIP 2024



Champion Dhruv Sheoran receives the trophy from Mr. R K Jhaver, Honorary Secretary, TNGF. The other dignitaries seen in the picture are Mr. S Raamassubramanian, Treasurer, TNGF (extreme left), Mr. K C Raghunathan, Honorary Associate Secretary, TNGF (2nd from left) and Mr. U S Mundy, CEO, PGTI (extreme right).



Dhruv Sheoran - Winner

Gurugram's Dhruv Sheoran struck a valiant three-under 69 in the final round of the INR 50 lakh Chennai Pro Championship 2024 to earn his maiden title on the PGTI. Dhruv totaled 16-under 272 for the week to win with a comfortable three-stroke margin at the TNGF Cosmo Golf Course in Chennai.

Sheoran (69-67-67-69), previously a two-time winner on the PGTI Feeder Tour in 2018, bagged a winning cheque worth INR 7.5 lakh on Friday that propelled him from 23rd to 14th position in the TATA Steel PGTI Ranking.

Manu Gandas (67-68-68-72), another Gurugram-based professional, brought in a card of 72 in round four to finish runner-up for the second week in succession. Manu, who totaled 13-under 275 for the week and picked up a cheque of INR 5 lakh for his effort, consolidated himself in second position in the PGTI Order of Merit behind Veer Ahlawat.

Dhruv Sheoran, the overnight joint leader along with Manu Gandas, began day four with a flourish as he sank a 12-footer for eagle on the first and birdied the third to establish an early lead. Sheoran, the 2017 PGTI Qualifying School winner, then had a rough ride as he pulled his tee shots that led to bogeys on the fifth and eighth.

Dhruv then steadied the ship with pars all the way till the 15th not letting his lead slip away at any point. He finally rose to the occasion with birdies on the 16th and 18th, both Par-5s, finding the green in two shots on both occasions.

Sheoran said, "All these years I always felt like I had the potential to win on the tour but somehow this game plays tricks on your mind, it keeps you humble. I've been humble thinking that my day will come soon. So, I feel really blessed that it finally happened for me today.

"By nature, I'm a very emotional person so it was always a challenging task for me to stay

in the present tense and even small setbacks on the course used to affect me. But over a period of time through meditative practices, breathing exercises and mental training I've been able to make a huge improvement on that front." **GP**



Manu Gandas - Runner-up





INAUGURAL HSBC INDIA LEGENDS CHAMPIONSHIP MARKS DEBUT OF LEGENDS TOUR IN INDIA



(L - R): Mr. Dhiraj Jha, CEO, Athletic Drive; Mr. Ryan Howsam, Chairman, Legends Tour and Staysure Group; Mr. Ranganath Ananth, Chief Distribution Officer, Wealth and Personal Banking, HSBC India; Mr. Dhruv Pal Singh, Senior General Manager, Jaypee Greens Golf Course along with golfers Jyoti Randhawa, Michael Campbell and Jeev Milkha Singh

The inaugural edition of the HSBC India Legends Championship was launched on 27th August thus marking the debut of the Legends Tour in India. The event, co-sanctioned by the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), was scheduled from 30th August to 1st September at the magnificent Jaypee Greens Golf Resort.

The seniors, who are all legends in their country and the field of golf, were to clash over three rounds (54 holes) for a whopping US\$ 500,000. The field of 64 golfers from 17 different countries was to include nine Indians, led by India's legendary duo, Jeev Milkha Singh, who was also the tournament host and Jyoti Randhawa, who won the Legends Tour's Qualifying School earlier in the year.

Commenting on the inaugural Legends Tour tournament in India, Sandeep Batra, Head, Wealth and Personal Banking, HSBC India, said, "We are thrilled to tee off our title sponsorship of the HSBC India Legends Championship, a key milestone in our endeavour to support the golf landscape in the country. Our goal is to create

a lasting impact by nurturing talent, driving growth at all levels, inspire a new generation of golfers while ensuring the sport's sustainability and growth in the country."


Ryan Howsam, Chairman, Legends Tour and Staysure Group, said "There is a growing part of the demographic developing in India that is taking up golf and with our profile and our players, the HSBC India Legends Championship is a great fit.

"India is an economic powerhouse and the timing for us to go there is great, hosting a tournament and building on other projects to help grow the game. We want to help improve participation in golf in India and assist stakeholders in the creation of more facilities for the Indian public and tourists to enjoy."

Speaking ahead of the tournament, the tournament host Jeev Milkha Singh said, "As the tournament host, I welcome everyone. I hope all the players have a great experience and enjoy the Indian cuisine and culture."

Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI, said, "We are excited to partner with the Legends Tour

as it makes its debut in India. This marks a historic moment for professional golf in India as it opens up new avenues for leading Senior Indian professionals to compete against the best in the world in the Senior category. We look forward to seeing the strong Indian contingent led by Tournament Host Jeev Milkha Singh and Legends Tour Qualifying School Winner Jyoti Randhawa, make an impact. We wish the players all the best."

Dhruv Pal Singh, Senior General Manager, Jaypee Greens Golf Course, said, "Jaypee Greens Golf Course has consistently upheld its reputation as a championship-level course, and we are honoured to host India's inaugural Legends Tour event. The HSBC India Legends Championship marks a significant milestone, not only for our facility but for the Indian golfing community as a whole. This prestigious tournament brings together some of the most celebrated names in the sport, and we take pride in offering a challenging venue for this historic occasion. We believe this championship will elevate the profile of golf in India and inspire future generations of players." 





JEEV MILKHA SINGH FINISHES TIED THIRD FOR CAREER-BEST RESULT ON LEGENDS TOUR; SWEDE JOAKIM HAEGGMAN WALKS AWAY WITH THE TITLE



Champion Joakim Haeggman poses with the trophy. The other dignitaries seen in the picture are (L - R) Mr. Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI, Mr. Kadam Singh, Vice President, Content & Partnerships, Marketing, Wealth & Personal Banking, HSBC India, Tournament Host Mr. Jeev Milkha Singh, Mr. Nikhil Singhal, Managing Director & National Manager, Global Private Banking, Wealth & Personal Banking, HSBC India, Mr. Dhiraj Jha, Chairman of the Tournament Organizing Committee & Mr. Phil Harrison, CEO, Legends Tour



Joakim Haeggman - Winner

Tournament host Jeev Milkha Singh endured a disappointing final day at the \$500,000 HSBC India Legends Championship to finish in a tie for third place at the Jaypee Greens Golf Course.

Joakim Haeggman (65-70-72) posted a last round of even-par 72 to emerge wire-to-wire champion with a two-shot margin at a total of nine-under 207.

Joakim said, "It's been a really long two and a half days in the heat trying to stay on top and not lose focus. I had one mistake today and that got Jeev and the boys back into the tournament. But I'm really happy that I managed to keep it going."

Andrew Marshall (73-71-65) of England finished runner-up at seven-under 209.

Playing in the final group alongside Jyoti Randhawa and event leader Joakim Haeggman of Sweden, Jeev (65-70-72) was two shots behind Haeggman after 17 holes and decided to attack the final hole and ended with a triple-bogey 7 to finish on four-over 76 for the day and four-under 212 for the tournament in shared third with Thomas Gogele of Germany. Jeev thus recorded his best ever finish on the Legends Tour and moved up nine spots to 19th

place on the Order of Merit.

Jeev said, "Honestly, being a host of the first Legends Tour tournament in India, I think all the players are very happy and they're going to take back good memories. I think I've done a good job with that.

"I would like to thank all the people on board for making this event happen and to make it a success. I would like to thank HSBC India for coming forward, and all the other sponsors. Especially, thank all the players for making the

effort, for coming down and playing this week."

Jyoti Randhawa (68-72-74) was the next best of the Indian contenders in tied ninth place at two-under 214 while Mukesh Kumar scripted a final day's two-under 70 to take a share of 15th place after earlier cards of 74 and 72 at the Legends Tour event that was co-sanctioned by the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI). It was Randhawa's fourth top-10 in the current Legends Tour season and placed him 25th in the Order of Merit. **GP**



Jeev Milkha Singh finished Tied Third



Jyoti Randhawa finished Tied Ninth





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she can live with Identity, Dignity and Respect"*

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

When you adopt a Widow Mother, you achieve a special kind of Giving that creates a relationship between you and the widow mother at Maitrihar. Adopting a mother means, you are taking care of her wellness and wellbeing.

Support Maitri in providing a safe and secure home to widow mothers where they can live with dignity and get nutritious meals including fruits and milk, clothing, emotional and mental wellbeing, and provided with healthcare.



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