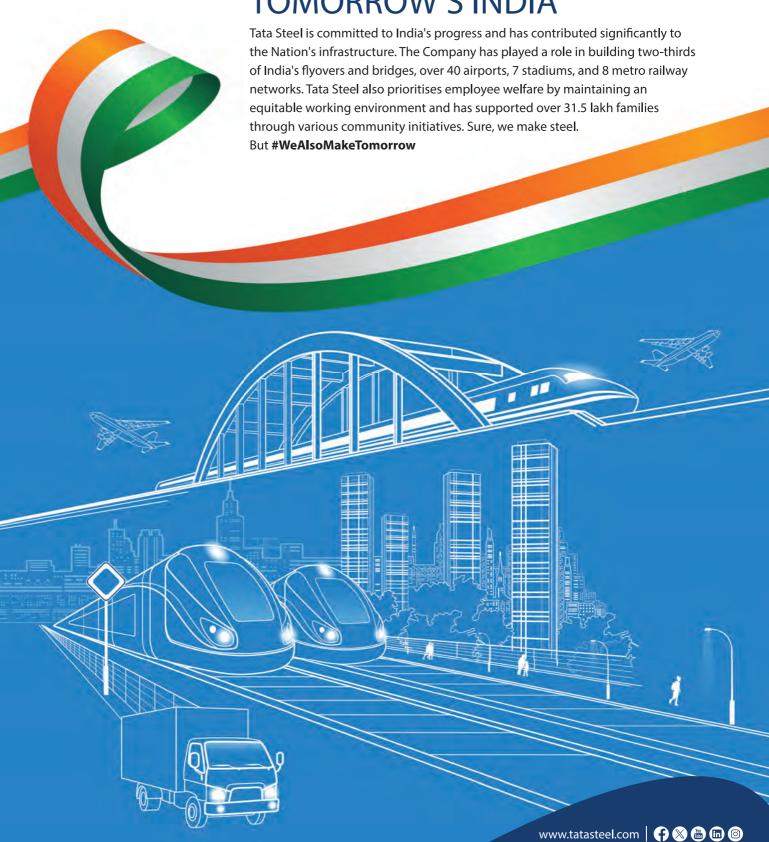


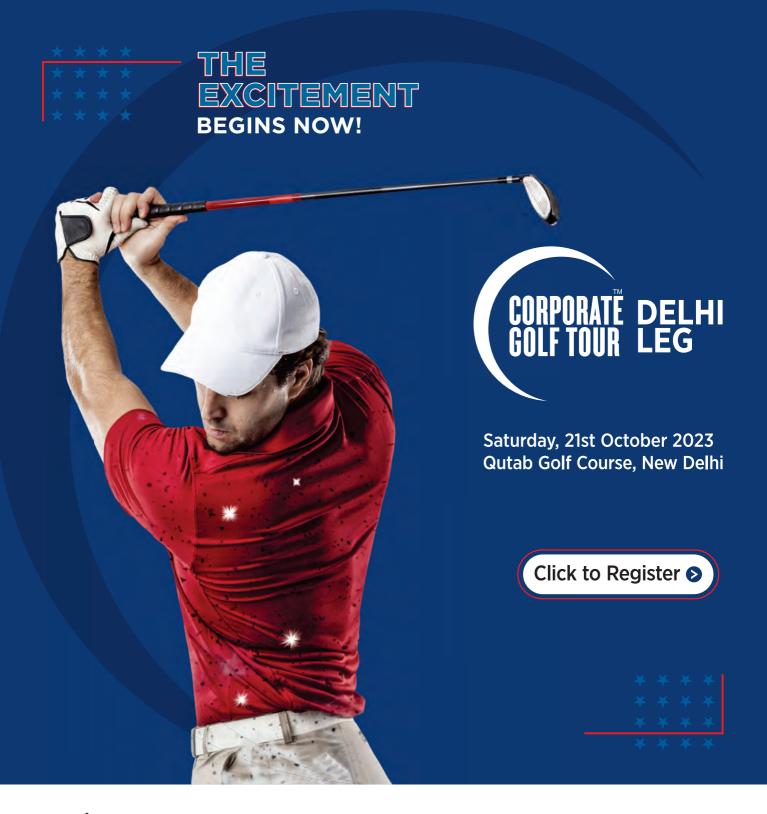
TIPS // EQUIPMENT // DESTINATIONS // TRAVEL PLUS... PGTI // RANKINGS





#### **BUILDING** TOMORROW'S INDIA

























he Month of August bode well for way at

Avani Prashanth created history by becoming

Young Indians as they put in stellar

performances to get stellar results.

the first Indian Amateur to win an International Professional event Ahlsell on the Nordic tour.

In Scotland at the US\$1.5 Million St. Andrews Bay Championship Gaganjeet Bhullar and Ajeetesh Sandhu had their seasons best finish at tied 5th and 8th respectively.

Closer to home, in Indonesia Yuvraj Singh won the Asian Development Tour (ADT) event adding to the already swelling numbers of Indian playing and performing on the International tours.

In India on the PGTI Tour, another youngster, Harshjeet Singh towered over Veteran and favorite OP Chauhan, literally, to win his maiden PGTI title at the 2023 Coimbatore Open. Harshjeet standing tall at a 6 feet height has a bright future with a natural physical makeup.

Not to be left behind Diksha Dagar leads the

way at the KPMG Women's Irish Open after shooting a seven-under-par round of 65 (At the time of going to print).

Dagar, a two-time winner on the Ladies

European Tour, went bogeyfree at Dromoland Castle to lead American Gurleen Kaur and France's Emma Grechi by a single shot after the opening round. Her win at the LET and other top finishes moved her Olympics Ranking to No.43 ensuring a sure spot in Paris in the 2024 Olympics.

On the Cover

Viktor Hovland won the BMW Championship and then the Tour Championship to claim the FedEx Cup, the PGA Tour's season-long

prize. He earned over \$32 million from these two victories alone!

Happy Golfing!

VIKTOR

FedFxCun

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#### **Feature**

#### 16 VIKTOR HOVLAND WINS TOUR **CHAMPIONSHIP TO CLAIM FEDEXCUP** TITLE

Staked to a six-shot lead, Hovland didn't flinch under a relentless challenge from Xander Schauffele. The 25-year-old Norwegian stayed on the attack and closed with a 7-under 63 for a five-shot victory at East Lake. Viktor Hovland played the best golf of his life in the final two weeks of the PGA TOUR season, and it paid off with the biggest trophy of his career - a FedExCup title along with the \$18 million bonus.

#### 24 SCOTT STILL PURSUING SILVERWARE **AND JACKETS 20 YEARS ON FROM** MAIDEN PGA TOUR VICTORY

Given that the youngster had just celebrated his 21st birthday, it didn't seem out of the ordinary to see him at the break of dawn, getting chauffeured around the streets of Lytham St. Annes on a Tuesday July morning some 22 years ago. It turns out Adam Scott was involved in a mission quite the opposite.

#### 33 RELIEVED NITITHORN BACK TO HIS **BEST**

Thailand's Nitithorn Thippong prevailed in the Mandiri Indonesia Open after a gripping finish- confirming he has recaptured the kind of form that established him as one of the region's most exciting young golfers last year. Having started the day with a comfortable five shot margin, he was pushed all the way to the finish line, closing with an even-par 72, for an 18-under-par total, and a two-stroke triumph over Australian Scott Hend, Steve Lewton from England and Chinese-Taipei's Lee Chieh-po, who all carded 68s.

#### Ladies on the Link

#### **42 PRASHANTH WINS THE AHLSELL FINAL IN SWEDEN**

Indian amateur Avani Prashanth took home the win at the Ahlsell Final at Elisefarm by one

shot. Prashanth, the first Indian to win on the LET Access Series, had an impressive final round to finish the tournament on six-underpar. Two Swedish amateurs, Matilda Bjorkman and Isabell Elkstrom tied for second on fiveunder-par.

#### 43 PANO CLINCHES PLAYOFF VICTORY AT ISPS HANDA WORLD INVITATIONAL

It was a birthday to remember for Alexa Pano as she won the ISPS HANDA World Invitational Presented by AVIV Clinics in a dramatic playoff. After rounds of 76-70-69-66, Pano ended the tournament with a total of eight-under par and found herself in a playoff alongside Germany's Esther Henseleit and England's Gabriella Cowley.

#### 55 DIKSHA'S SUPERB PERFORMANCE

Diksha Dagar finished a career-best T-21 in a Major at the AIG Women's Open. The twotime LET winner, Dagar, ended the tournament with another superb back-nine show. After a 2-over front nine, she was 3under for the back nine for a 1-under scorecard. With rounds of 74-71-72-71, she totalled even par 288 for four days.

#### **Masterclass Instruction**

Over the next few pages, leading players demonstrates the techniques and strategies you'll need to sharpen up.

#### 22 TODD ANDERSON INSTRUCTIONAL

In this tutorial, Anderson breaks down World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler's short game technique, which he rates to be amongst the best on the PGA TOUR. Scheffler is a six-time winner on the PGA TOUR, including the 2023 PLAYERS Championship, which is the TOUR's flagship tournament. Read to learn the techniques!

#### **35 LEARN FROM TYRRELL HATTON**

In this tutorial, Anderson breaks down World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler's short game

technique, which he rates to be amongst the best on the PGA TOUR. Scheffler is a six-time winner on the PGA TOUR, including the 2023 PLAYERS Championship, which is the TOUR's flagship tournament. Read to learn the techniques!

#### PGTI

#### **58 SUNHIT BISHNOI OUTSHINES FIELD** TO LAND MAIDEN TITLE

Gurugram's Sunhit Bishnoi was a cut above the rest as he produced a red hot eightunder 64 on the final day to outshine the rest of the field and land his maiden title at the inaugural India Cements Pro Championship played at the TNGF Cosmo Golf Course in Chennai. The 22-year-old Sunhit (66-68-70-64), playing only his second season as a professional, totalled 20-under 268 at the Rs. 50 lakh event to emerge wire-to-wire winner with an imposing nine-stroke margin.

#### **59 HARSHJEET SINGH SETHIE DRIVES HIS** WAY TO MAIDEN TITLE

The 21-year-old Harshjeet (69-67-72-67), who stands tall at a towering height of six feet and seven inches, collected the winning cheque worth Rs. 15,00,000 to skyrocket 70 spots from 81st to 11th position in the TATA Steel PGTI Rankings in a playoff at Coimbatore Open 2023.



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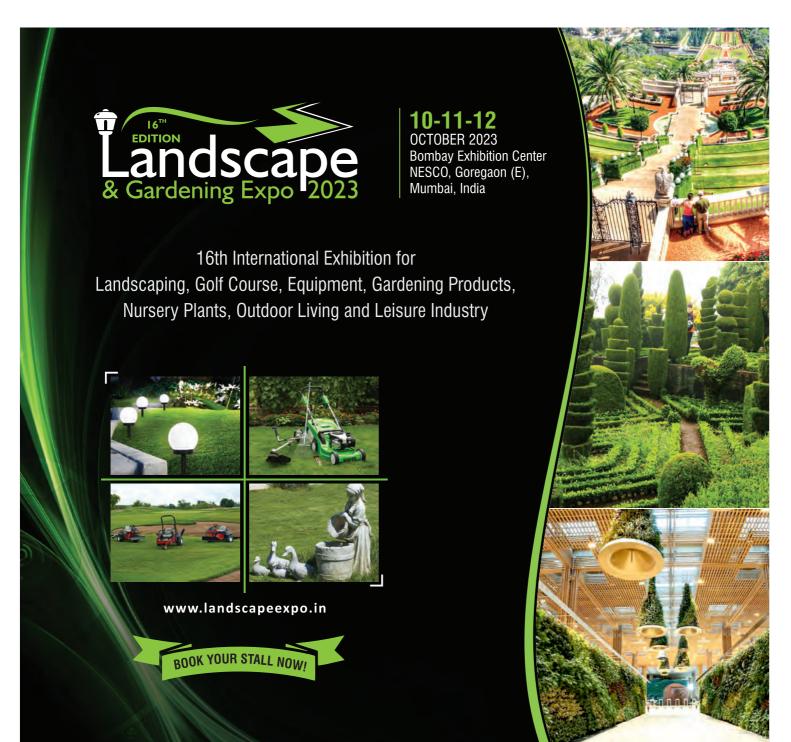














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### Hole-in-One Achiever THIS MONTH







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#### SADHGURU ISHA FOUNDATION

On the occasion of the International Day of Peace, Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, examines the factors that have made peace elusive to humanity. Pointing out fundamental flaws in thinking and actions, he says, Peace is not in terms of just avoiding war, but establishing an active culture of living in peace in the world.

Sadhguru: With all the faculties bestowed upon human beings, you'd think human beings are the most harmonious beings on earth. But if you look at the history until now, the world has never really been peaceful. People have been fighting for food, people have fought over boundaries, people have fought on their faith, their belief systems. People have fought for wealth; people have been fighting and are still fighting for their gods. We have always found an excuse to fight. We need to understand this, the way human beings are right now, if you take away one strife in the world, another is bound to evolve.

When World War II ended in 1944, many nations around the world vowed never again

to fight; they said never again are we going to create this horror on the planet. Over 50 million people had died. They said this is enough. But in reality, since 1944 to this day, there has not been a single day's break in fighting around the world. Somewhere, or the other some battle or the other has been going on without a single day's break. So this is a clear manifestation, a clear declaration by human beings, that the way we are right now, we are incapable of being peaceful.

We need to understand this; the world is not a globe. The world is its people. If we do not work for individual transformation, if we do not look for ways of making the individual peaceful, talking about world peace is just one more entertainment in the world. Without attending to individual human beings, trying to bring about any kind of change in the world, always leads to more problems.

If you look back on the great revolutions on the planet, generally, what happened during these revolutions were much more horrible than the situations which existed before them. Most of the time all that we achieved was that we replaced one tyrant with another set of tyrants. But, as far as individual human beings were concerned, within themselves there was no basic change in their experience of life. From all this it should have been clear to us that if there are no peaceful human beings, there is no peaceful world.

Now, if we look at the situation we are setting up right now in the world, we have laid foundations to ensure that there is no peace on this planet. There are various aspects to it. One important aspect is that we are making economics the most important part of human life.

In today's world, your love is not important, your joy is not important, your freedom is not important, your sensibilities are not important, your music and dance are not important, the most important thing is economics. Once you make economics the most important thing, fighting is inevitable. As the resources on the planet are limited, with our lives being driven by the engine of economics, war is inevitable, peace is impossible.

Today in any city, if you say someone is a big man, it does not mean he is the most intelligent man. It does not mean he is the most loving man or it does not mean he is the most skillful man. It does not mean he is the most meditative man at all. It simply means he has got the maximum amount of money in the town. So our whole orientation has become economics. Unless the subtler aspects of life become very important, peace is just a dream. I would prefer that people stop talking about it.

We are doing this with our education as well. Who are we teaching our children to remember? Alexanders, Ghengis Khans and Adolf Hitlers. So much attention is given to these people that you can forget Mahatma Gandhi and Gautam Buddha, but not them. They even called Alexander, Alexander the Great! I would like to add a third name to him - Alexander, the Great Idiot, because he was one person who wasted life, his life and other people's life, like nobody else.

At the age of 16 he started fighting. For another 16 years he fought non-stop killing thousands of people on his way. He died at the age 32, in a most miserable condition because he had managed to conquer only one half of the world, the other half was still left. Only an utter idiot can fight for 16 years like this.

But someone like Gautama Buddha is only a footnote in our history books. We read about Gautama not because he was Buddha, but because he was a king. His name was mentioned not because he was a realized being, not because of forty years incessantly working for human well being. He was so much more intense than Alexander in transforming human lives, but we have forgotten him. For 16 years of slaughtering people our children remember Alexander as Great.

In pursuit of our economic wellbeing, the volume of violence that we have imposed on every other creature on this planet is unspeakable. Don't think of violence as just killing another human being. Any destruction of life, beyond the need for one's survival is violence. If you look at it that way, today societies are filled with enormous amounts of violence; our very existence is violence. It will take us a thousand years to understand that the violence that we impose upon other creatures on the planet, whether it be a plant or a worm or an insect or any other animal, it is going to have an impact on our lives. It takes us a thousand years to realize this, unfortunately.

If you do not allow this energy which you call as life right now to find its expression, it naturally tries to find its way out in violent ways. If you look around the world today, you will see almost everything is becoming violent. Our music is becoming violent, our dance is becoming violent, our culture is becoming violent. Just the very way we move, just the very way we do things in our lives is becoming violent. Once in a way it is bound to spill over on the street.

You should not be surprised that it is spilling over onto the streets. You look at yourself as an individual and see, how many moments in a day you can't stand the person who is sitting next to you. You trying to hold yourself back is going to work only for a certain period of time; somewhere it is bound to explode.

Right now the world community is sitting on a disastrous foundation. Peace is something that these people have not even tasted in themselves. What right do we have to expect it in the social and world situations? Unless we are willing to work to change the foundations on which the world community is built, peace is not a possibility.

Another big reason why the world is perpetually flooded with conflicts is that our religions have failed us completely. The moment man became religious it should have been the end of conflict, but unfortunately, everywhere in the world, religion has become the main source of conflict. It has taken the maximum number of lives and caused the maximum amount of pain on the planet for thousands of years. For centuries the most horrible things in this planet were done in the name of religion.

Religion and quarreling cannot go together. But unfortunately, we have many quarreling religions. We have become so devious that we can kill in the name of Rama, in the name of In pursuit of our economic wellbeing, the volume of violence that we have imposed on every other creature on this planet is unspeakable.

Jesus; in the name of Mohammed we can kill. Somewhere we have lost the basic sense of what religion is.

True religion is an inward step. But today it has become only about belonging to this group or that group. This has only brought hatred, conflict and separation among people.

We have seen this any number of times in India: the same people who are together today, who are friends, and neighbors, the moment they identify with their religions, suddenly they separate. Tomorrow they are burning each other's homes. Ten minutes ago, they did not even think about such a thing. The moment they get identified to some religious group, they are willing to fight. If they did not belong to these groups, they would have no reason to fight. Some individuals will fight for some personal reasons, that is different. But the whole group of people would have no reason to fight and this kind of mass stimulation of animal energy wouldn't happen.

What the world needs is not more religions or more followers, but people committed to becoming peaceful themselves. Just one Jesus will not do; one Buddha will not do. Many are needed. If people just learned how to be absolutely still with great intensity, you would see all violence would simply evaporate from the planet.

It is not slogans and statement that will bring peace to the world, but a lifelong striving to produce peaceful human beings. On all levels of our human societies if we work for creating peaceful humans, especially among the leadership, key people, people who are in responsible positions in various spheres of activity, be it business, politics, industry, bureaucracy, if we can create people who are truly peaceful within themselves, people who have some sense of wholeness within themselves, they definitely will let peace percolate to large segments of society. Peace is not in terms of just avoiding war, but establishing an active culture of living in peace in the world.

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

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#### NAVEEN RATHI, ANSHUL AND ARIHAAN WIN IGU'S CHANDIGARH JUNIOR EVENT

aveen Rathi and Anshul Mishra led the winners' parade in Category A and B while Arihaan Beri won the Category C honours in Indian Golf Union's Northern India Junior Boys Golf Championships at the iconic Chandigarh Golf Club.

Naveen Rathi produced the most outstanding performance of the week as he closed the week with a stunning nine-under 63 that included an incredible 11 birdies and two bogeys. He had 69-75-71 on the first three days and finished with a total of 10-under 278.

Rathi from Haryana finished two shots ahead of Punjab's Jujhar Singh ((65-69-70-76) at 290 and Manjot Singh, also from Punjab with (71-68-68-74) at 291 was third.

Anshul Mishra from West Bengal took the honours in Category B with rounds of 73-71-72-70 for a total of 2-under 286. He was closely followed by Arjun Veer Shishir of Punjab, who shot 75-70-72-74 at 3-over 291.

Making a fine comeback on the last day was Arshvant Srivastava, who after 76-76 on first two days fought back well to shoot 73-71 on last two days grab the third place on the podium.

In the rankings for Category A and B combined,



the three Category A toppers were the top three, with Mishra, the winner in Category B, finished fifth overall. The next best category B boys in the Combined ranking were Arjun Veer in Tied-11th place and Arshvant in Tied-19th place.

Arihaan Beri of Delhi shot rounds of 74-73-76

for a winning total of 7-over 223 while Varish Mohta of West Bengal with rounds of 75-76-74 at 9-over 22 was second and Karnataka's Jashan Ganapathy (73-80-79) was third.

The next event for the IGU's Junior Boys circuit will be at Panchkula Golf Club.





#### HARYANA BOYS

Panchkula GOLF CLUB

August 18, 2023

#### **CATEGORY A TOP SCORES**

S.No	State	Name	Total
1	Uttar Pradesh	Sukhman Singh-A	288
2	Punjab	Jujhar Singh-A	291
3	Karnataka	Angad Singh-A	292
4	Maharashtra	Aradheea Gawade-A	294
5	Karnataka	Siddharth Paruthi-A	295
6	West Bengal	Anshul Mishra-B	295
7	Haryana	Trish Kal Kal-B	298
8	Telangana	Vishesh Sharma-A	299
9	Chandigarh	Ayaan Gupta- A	301
10	Delhi	Ranveer Singh Dhupia-A	301

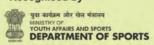
#### **CATEGORY B TOP SCORES**

S.No	State	Name	Total
1	West Bengal	Anshul Mishra	295
2	Haryana	Trish Kal Kal	298
3	Chandigarh	Harjai Milkha Singh	302
4	Haryana	Vihaan Jain	306
5	Harayana	Arjun Dahiya	308
6	Uttar Pradesh	Shubham Kumar	312
7	Chandigarh	Neil Jolly	313
8	Karnataka	Ishnidh Virdi	313
9	Karnataka	Tejas Mishra	314
10	Haryana	Prince Bainsla	316

#### **CATEGORY C TOP SCORES**

S.No	State	Name	Total		
1	Delhi	Chaitanya Pandey	217		
2	Haryana	Jaibir Singh Kang	224		
3	Maharashtra	Aditya Tewari	229		
4	Punjab	Danish Verma	230		
5	Haryana	Shaurya Dagar	230		
6	Uttar Pradesh	Arihaan Beri	233		
7	Uttar Pradesh	Mudit Agarwal	241		
8	Haryana	Aryan Pal	243		
9	West Bengal	Andrew Baid	245		
10	Uttarakhand	Samriddh Chand Thakur	257		

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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 5. 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



Level 2 Referrer School at Hyderathad

activity for the past 7 years. Tournament Directors and Rules Instructors are trained and certified accordingly.

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



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

programme and certification for caddles guarantees employment under the Government of Indias - Hunar Se Rozgar Scheme.

We have produced a Technical Handbook - "All you wanted to know about



setting up a Golf Course and running a tournament but were afraid to ask" - Now a Reference Guide in 40 countries of the APGC

Along with the USGA, IGU conducts the Course Rating Program

periodically. There are over 50 Course Raters in India who Course and Slope rate all our Clubs.



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









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#### FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

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

#### Initiatives that are to be focused are on:

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

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

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



## THE **STATS** THAT DEFINED THE PGA TOUR IN AUGUST

Viktor is victorious as FedExCup champion, Glover hits gold with back-to-back triumphs

ight days after he won the BMW Championship, another virtuoso performance gave Viktor Hovland his sixth PGA TOUR victory and the FedExCup as he became the first Norwegian in golf history to claim the PGA TOUR's ultimate prize.

Hovland's performance at the Playoffs Finale, the TOUR Championship was sensational, particularly on the weekend when he shot 66 on Saturday to open a six-stroke lead over Xander Schauffele. And he closed with a 63 that would have been Sunday's low score had the American not nipped him by one in their entertaining duel.

That round of 7-under was Hovland's 11th straight sub-70 round and one of the 37 he fired this year. Hovland, who didn't miss a cut in 23 starts this season - and finished 25th or better in all but five - put together a 64.33 scoring average in the final round of the Playoffs, better than anyone in FedExCup history.

Hovland led the field in Driving Accuracy for the second straight week – the only player to do so at the BMW Championship and TOUR Championship in the same season since the Playoffs began in 2007. His 68.45 percentage for the three post-season events was the best ever by a FedExCup champion.

And continuing another trend, he hit 76.39 percent of his greens in regulation during the Playoffs, better than any other FedExCup champion. Hovland's proximity to the hole average of 25 feet, 8 inches was second only to Rory McIlroy's tally of last year among players who took home the season-ending bonus.

He was no slouch on the greens, either. Hovland ranked first in average distance of putts made (90 feet, 4 inches) and putting outside 10 feet (25.81 percent) to lead players in the Playoffs with at least six rounds. Those numbers contrasted with his season average of 153rd and 59th, respectively.

Small wonder, then, that he gained 13.36 total strokes on the field during the BMW Championship and TOUR Championship, which was the most of any player since 2007. His sixth victory came in just his 98th start and added to his first multiple win-season that also included the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday "I feel like I've taken a lot of steps this season," said Hovland, who moved to No. 4 in the world. "... And then obviously the last couple weeks have just superseded that. It's been pretty surreal."

#### Hovland races to BMW Championship prize

Viktor Hovland used a near-flawless final round of 61 to power past world No. 1 Scottie Scheffler





and former U.S. Open champ Matt Fitzpatrick and win the BMW Championship, the FedExCup Playoffs penultimate event. The victory vaulted him to second in the standings entering the final week at East Lake.

The round of 9 under was the lowest of Hovland's career and the lowest by a winner this season on TOUR. Not to mention, no one has ever shot lower in the final round of any event in the FedExCup Playoffs, which began in 2007 – when Hovland was 10 years old!

Hovland, who trailed by three entering the final round, made 10 birdies on Sunday and more than doubled his birdie or better percentage in the first three rounds (24.1 to 55.6) "I sort of realized around like 14, 15 something pretty special was happening," Rory McIlroy, who played with Hovland, said.

The stellar Sunday enabled the 25-year-old Norwegian to gain 7.69 strokes on the field, the fifth most during a final round ever in the FedExCup Playoffs.

#### Glover strikes gold at FedEx St. Jude Championship

With his victory at the Wyndham Championship, Lucas Glover was the only player to play his way into the first Playoffs event. Precariously perched at No. 49, one shy of advancing another week, though, Glover knew he had work to do at TPC Southwind.

Once again, the veteran took advantage of the par 4s, playing them in 8 under, which tied for the best among the 70 players in the field. Overall, though, the normally steady 43-year-old struggled to find greens in regulation, hitting just 63.89 percent to rank tied for 37th in the field. The new-found confidence in his broomstick putter, though, alleviated some of the pressure. Glover was able to get up-and-down 23 times in

26 attempts to lead in the field in Memphis.

Sunday was particularly key as he only hit nine greens in regulation but made only one bogey – that coming on a 30-foot putt. He also made par-saves of 20 and 11 feet on the back nine on Sunday when he used just 25 putts total for the round. When he beat Patrick Cantlay with a par on the first hole of sudden death, Glover had more victories in his 40s (3) than his 20s (2) and his first two consecutively.

#### Drought ends for Glover at Wyndham Championship

Lucas Glover has always been known as the consummate ball-striker -- "Anybody who's ever listened to him hit a golf ball knows he's different," Max Homa once said. But Glover's overall play in the last decade has been inconsistent, and the 2009 U.S. Open champion admitted he's battled what he characterized as the yips.

A last-ditch switch to a broomstick putter in June (when he ranked 185th in the FedExCup), though, has paid dividends and nowhere was it more evident than at Sedgefield County Club. Glover dominated the par 4s, playing them in 13 under, which was best in the field and second best in any tournament in his career. Interestingly, three of the four times he's shot 12 under or better on the par 4s, he's gone on to win.

He gave himself plenty of birdie chances, too, hitting 65 of 72 greens in regulation, one shy of the most at the Wyndham since 1983. And his final round 68 on the Donald Ross gem was his 18th straight at par or better in his last five starts for a total of 80 under. Taking a deeper dive on the par 4s, Glover ranked first in Strokes Gained: Approach-the-Green (picking up 6.87 shots on the field), Tee-to-Green (+10.54) and Total (+14.67). He also ranked fourth in Strokes Gained: Off-the-Tee (+3.42) on the par 4s.

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# VIKTOR HOVLAND WINS TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP TO CLAIM FEDEXCUP TITLE

Viktor Hovland played the best golf of his life in the final two weeks of the PGA TOUR season, and it paid off with the biggest trophy of his career -- a FedExCup title along with the \$18 million bonus.

Staked to a six-shot lead, Hovland didn't flinch under a relentless challenge from Xander Schauffele. The 25-year-old Norwegian stayed on the attack and closed with a 7-under 63 for a five-shot victory at East Lake.

"It's pretty surreal to be standing here right now," Hovland said after receiving the silver FedExCup trophy. "I played basically my best golf the last two weeks and it couldn't have happened at a better moment."

Hovland capped off his best season with three victories. Even more staggering is that he played his final tournaments -- the BMW Championship at Olympia Fields and the TOUR Championship at East Lake -- in 36-under par.

Schauffele made him work for that \$18 million and got to within three shots with seven holes to play. Hovland ended the suspense with a 25-foot par putt on the 14th hole, and he put Schauffele away with a 10-foot birdie putt on the 16th.Schauffele and Hovland put on a superb show. Playing in the last group, on a day that was delayed nearly two hours by thunderstorms, they had the best scores of the day.

The 63 by Hovland was the lowest score for a TOUR Championship winner.

"I thought 62 would have let me get close to him," Schauffele said. "He played unbelievably well. He made important putts



and he's just played like a champ."

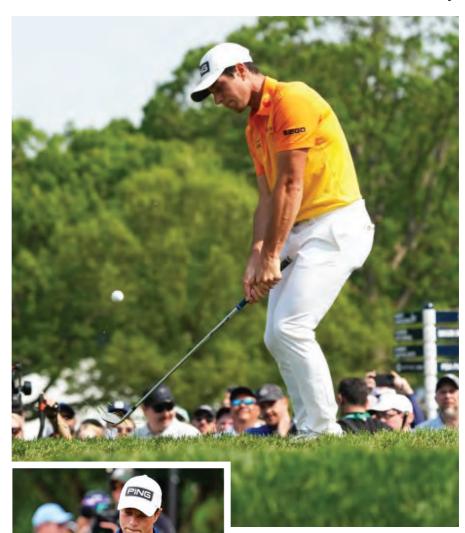
Hovland was the No. 2 seed going into the TOUR Championship, meaning he started at 8-under par. Hovland posted a 19-under 261 -- the same score as Schauffele, who started the tournament at 3-under par.

It was the second time in four years that no one scored better than Schauffele, and he left Atlanta without a trophy to show for it. Such is the nature of the FedExCup finale, and the importance of a strong season and a big performance in the two Playoffs events leading up to the TOUR Championship.

"I'll hold my head up high," Schauffele said. "It was the most fun I had losing in quite some time. It's such a weird feeling. I shot 62. I lost by five. Just kudos to Hovi. He played unbelievably well the last few weeks to get himself into this position and to really just put a cherry on top for himself and his team."

Schauffele did everything he could. He was six shots behind when he left East Lake on Saturday evening, knowing that his only hope was to put as much pressure on Hovland as he could over the front nine.

Schauffele shot 30. Hovland nearly matched



#### WHAT'S IN THE BAG?

Viktor Hovland secured back-toback wins to finish the season in style and claim his first FedExCup. Check out the clubs he used to get it done in Atlanta.

**Driver**: Ping G425 LST (9 degrees @8.4)

**Shaft**: Fujikura Speeder 661 TR X

**3-wood**: TaylorMade Stealth Plus (15 degrees @ 16.5)

Shaft : Fujikura Ventus Blue 7 X Irons : Titleist U505 (3), Ping i210

ons : Titleist U505 (3), Ping i210 (4-PW)

Shafts : Graphite Design Tour AD DI Hybrid 85 X (3), KBS Tour-V 120

((4-PW)

Wedges: Ping Glide 4.0 (50-SS, 56-SS),

Ping Glide 2.0 (60-TS)

Shafts : KBS Tour-V 120 X (50-56),

True Temper Dynamic Gold Tour Issue S400 (60)

**Putter**: Ping PLD DS 72 prototype

Ball : Titleist Pro V1
Grips : Golf Pride MCC

WHEN THAT PUTT WENT IT, THAT WAS HUGE FOR MOMENTUM.
TWO SHOTS WITH FOUR HOLES
TO PLAY IS DIFFERENT THAN
THREE SHOTS, ESPECIALLY WITH
15 YET TO PLAY.



him birdie for birdie, posting a 31 that included a key 15-foot par save on No. 2 after the twohour delay from thunderstorms that slightly softened the East Lake turf.

Schauffele, for all his California chill, was simply relentless. He holed an 18-foot birdie putt on the par-3 11th hole and followed with a 12-foot birdie on the 12th, cutting the lead to three shots with seven holes to play.

It felt like the margin was even smaller considering how well Schauffele was playing, and Hovland having missed three birdie chances from 10 feet or closer.

The putt that mattered came at the 14th, the toughest hole at East Lake. Hovland came up short of the green, about 100 feet from the flag, and his pitch was weak and stopped just inside 25 feet from the hole.

He poured it in the heart and pumped his fist stronger than he had all day. The clincher was another pure short iron, this one to 10 feet on the 16th for birdie. At that point, the engraver went to work on the silver FedExCup trophy.

"When that putt went it, that was huge for momentum. Two shots with four holes to play is different than three shots, especially with 15 yet to play," Hovland said, referring to the par-3 to a peninsula green. "After that, I just

really relaxed."

He closed with three straight birdies that only mattered for the margin of victory.

Now it's a matter of how his peers judge his season. The PGA TOUR player of the year was thought to be a two-man race between Masters champion Jon Rahm and his four wins and Scottie Scheffler with THE PLAYERS Championship among his two wins and the No. 1 ranking from his remarkable consistency.

Hovland ended the season with wins at the Memorial and two FedExCup Playoffs events, including the one that mattered.

#### **VIKTOR HOVLAND (WON/-27)**

- Earns sixth PGA TOUR victory in his 98th start at the age of 25 years, 11 months, 9 days
- PGA TOUR wins (6): 2020 Puerto Rico Open, 2020 World Wide Technology Championship, 2021 World Wide Technology Championship, 2023 Memorial Tournament presented by Workday, 2023 BMW Championship, 2023 TOUR Championship
- Becomes the third-youngest player from outside the United States with three or more wins in the same season on TOUR, joining Rory McIlroy (2012, 2014) and Hideki Matsuyama (2017)
- Becomes the fourth player in history to win the BMW Championship and FedExCup in the same season, joining Tiger Woods (2007, 2009), Billy Horschel (2014) and Patrick Cantlay (2021)
- Becomes the eighth player to win consecutive FedExCup Playoffs events
- Joins Jon Rahm (4) with three or more victories this season
- Last time multiple players won backto-back events over a four-tournament span was in 1950 with Jimmy Demaret and Sam Snead (Lucas Glover: Wyndham Championship/FedEx St. Jude Championship)
- Joins Henrik Stenson (2013), Rory McIlroy (2016, 2019, 2022) and Justin Rose (2018) as players from Europe to win the FedExCup
- Five strokes marks the largest margin of victory in the FedExCup Starting Strokes era
- With a final-round 7-under 63, sets the tournament record for a low finish by a winner (previous: 64; Retief Goosen/2004 Rory McIlroy/2016)
- Improves to 3-for-4 in converting 54-hole lead/co-lead to victory
- 23rd 54-hole leader/co-leader to win the TOUR Championship
- Third 54-hole leader/co-leader to win the TOUR Championship since the FedExCup Starting Strokes era began in 2019
- 26th 54-hole leaders/co-leaders to win an individual stroke-play event on TOUR this season
- Has qualified for TOUR Championship every year since joining the TOUR (T20/2020, T5/2021, T15/2022, won/2023)
- With the win, moves from No. 5 to No.4 in the Official World Golf Ranking

# PLAYER BLOG



History was made at East Lake Golf Club when Viktor Hovland became the first Norwegian to hoist the FedExCup, the PGA TOUR's ultimate prize, at the conclusion of the 2022-23 Season. The 25-year-old started the Playoffs Finale, the TOUR Championship, two back of leader Scottie Scheffler in the staggered scoring format before romping to a five-stroke victory to complete a stunning season which featured three wins and six other top-10s.

t's been a great year. It kind of feels like I've taken a lot of steps this season, contending in more major championships, I finally won a big tournament in the U.S. – Jack Nicklaus' event at The Memorial – and honestly after that, I felt like I've gotten so much better and it was very pleasing to see.

The last couple of weeks have obviously superseded that. It's been surreal. You dream about it but these things happen when you don't expect them to, so it's just awesome to be sitting here with the FedExCup. There are a lot of big names on the trophy, and it's hard to win the FedExCup if you haven't had a great season and you beat the best players. It means a lot to be a part of that group that have won.

With my six-shot lead going into the final round, the game plan was to play as boring golf as possible, just like Tiger Woods back in the day when he would post the 69 or a 70 in a major championship and walk away with a victory.

It was sweet to make birdie on the first hole and a clutch par save on No. 2. After that, I felt really in control of my game. But even being 4-under through six holes, Xander Schauffele just kept pouring it on and suddenly after missing a couple of short birdie putts early on the back nine, the lead was at three, and if I had missed the par putt on 14, it's suddenly two. What Xander was doing was very special and it certainly made the final day a lot more stressful





than I felt like it should have been after the start that I had.

This season, I think I've exuded more overall confidence, and I think more peace. It helps being able to chip the ball too. My all-round game feels more complete and I think I've amassed good experiences over the last year or so, being in contention, failing in contention, being in contention and succeeding in contention. I think that's been cool to try to learn from any experience, whether it's not finishing well on a Sunday or what went wrong and what I can learn from it. I feel like I've used those opportunities to get better.

When my short game started to come around, I began to believe I have all the shots in my bag. I saw the shots I was able to pull off in tournaments and in highly stressful situations. I coupled that with the course management stuff and the attitude, just handling bad bounces, handling bogeys, handling bad shots. Those three aspects combined, when I started to see that, I wasn't stressed when I showed up to a golf tournament. It was like whatever happen happens. I might play bad and that's okay.

If you want to get to the next level, you have to look introspectively. When I'm in these

moments and things are not going my way, I'm maybe reacting a little bit too much to it. Obviously if I hit it in the water, that's a bad scenario. But you have a choice of whether you want to react to that shot and make it affect the next shot or the next few holes, or you can use that motivation or energy into something better and you can say let's get past this, let's see if we can get this round back together or basically prevent the round from going off the rails.

When you try to be honest with yourself and ask yourself, how can I get better, I basically have to force myself to change a couple of these mindset things. To some people, it comes naturally but it hasn't been natural to me, at least to that extent, so that's something I've been working on.

It's a lot of cash we're playing for. It's in the back of your mind. But I live in Stillwater, Oklahoma and money goes a long way over there. It's not like I'm spending money out the wazoo every week. I don't need a lot to be happy. I don't need a lot to live within my means. It's nice for my family to have that protection and my, you know, eventual kids, that I'll have in the future. It's nice to have that, but it's not something that drives me, it's not something that gives me meaning. I find meaning in other places.



# TODD ANDERSON INSTRUCTIONAL

# HOW TO CHIP LIKE SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER

In this tutorial, Anderson breaks down World No. 1 Scottie
Scheffler's short game technique, which he rates to be amongst the best on the PGA TOUR. Scheffler is a six-time winner on the PGA TOUR, including the 2023 PLAYERS Championship, which is the TOUR's flagship tournament.

#### Introduction

Scottie is one of the best short game players, if not the best, on the PGA TOUR. One of the reasons why he is so great around the greens is because he lands the ball in the area he wants to land it with the correct trajectory and release. He does this with great technique and feel and how he controls the amount of spin or roll on a shot. Sometimes he tries to spin a shot, other times he wants it to release. He's very good at controlling those key factors. So unlike a lot of players on TOUR, Scottie uses a variety of clubs depending on the situation. If he has a lot of room between where he wants to land the ball and where the hole location is, he'll use a less lofted club and if he needs to stop the ball more quickly, he'll use a more lofted

#### Assessing the Correct Shot

One of the things Scottie does that is different from a lot of players is he uses a variety of clubs (*Photo 1*) based on how far he needs to fly the ball and how far he wants it to release. He holes out a lot of chips because his ball tends to roll a lot in the last 10 feet. As it approaches the hole, it's rolling





more like a putt, as opposed to coming in with a lot of speed and a lot of check. Hence one of the things I would say is when you analyze a situation, figure out, first of all,

2023

where you want the ball to land and then what club you need to use to land it in that area and then how you want it to release towards the hole after it lands.







on the ball. And he has really 'soft' hands, which is a trait of any good short-game players. When your hands are 'soft' and you make a strike under the ball, the ball comes off soft. However, if you're stiff and rigid, the ball comes out hot and fast. Scottie's soft hands simply let the club falls on the ball and lets it release towards the hole.

Scottie is really good at just letting the momentum of the club fall on the ball and let it release. So allowing the momentum of the club to just fall on the ball, gets the ball coming off softly with less spin and rolling like a putt.

Give this shot a try and I'm sure it'll help your short game, and see you holing some chip shots.

#### Pick the Right Club

Scottie has the vision to use a lot of different clubs. You'll see him sometimes use a straight-faced club like an eight or nine iron all the way up to a lob wedge for his chips. It all depends on the situation. In the final round at the 2023 PLAYERS Championship, Scottie holes out a shot next to a bunker to a front hole location to make birdie and take control of the PGA TOUR's flagship tournament.

He didn't try to hit a high flop or anything like that. He basically took his lob wedge, gripped it down on the club (*Photo 2*) and made a very small, short swing (*Photo 3*) and simply tried to get the ball to fly onto the edge of the green and let it release towards the hole like it was a putt.

#### Soft Hands

You would also notice he didn't try to do anything fancy with his chip. Scottie gripped down on the club for better control, and there is not a lot of wrist action (*Photo 4*). He kind of let the club swing up and dropped it down

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





# SCOTT STILL PURSUING SILVERWARE AND JACKETS 20 YEARS ON FROM MAIDEN PGA TOUR VICTORY

by Jim McCabe

iven that the youngster had just celebrated his 21st birthday, it didn't seem out of the ordinary to see him at the break of dawn, getting chauffeured around the streets of Lytham St. Annes on a Tuesday July morning some 22 years ago.

Given that Blackpool – a lively English town just five miles away - was known for keeping young adults in a festive mood well past midnight, surely the young man was headed for a warm bed and a long sleep.

Not quite.

It turns out Adam Scott was involved in a mission quite the opposite. He was not returning





from an all-nighter; he was starting his work day, up with the sun and street-cleaners.

His birthday celebration the previous evening had been as quiet as possible. Boring, actually, although the soundest of reasons was in play. The young Aussie had a 6am practice round scheduled at Royal Lytham and St. Annes with Tiger Woods and for a young pro golfer with vibrant dreams for his career, this was well worth the 4:45am. wake-up call.

It was The Open Championship, for goodness sakes. The pinnacle in his line of work and thanks to a valuable common denominator — both Scott and Woods worked with instructor Butch Harmon back in the day – this opportunity was too good to pass up.

Here's the thing, though. Scott was brand new to this pro golf business and didn't understand how to slip in the back way to Royal Lytham at 5:30am. So by the time he figured things out, it was after the agreed-to starting time and Scott had to hustle meet Woods on the second hole.

"He's young. He'll learn," smiled Woods.

Fast forward 11 years and Scott was now a polished, 32-year-old, winner of 20 tournaments around the world, most notably his beloved 2009 Australian Open and two marquee events on the PGA TOUR – the 2004 PLAYERS

Championship and 2006 TOUR Championship.

Impeccably graceful, Scott was brilliantly handsome and owned a golf swing that flowed as smoothly as syrup. If there was a glitch, however, it came in the major championship category. The Aussie in 45 major starts had finished top 10 on just seven occasions; more painfully, there had been 15 missed cuts.

The fiery finish at the 2011 Masters (he stormed home in 67 and birdied the par-3 16th to seize a two-shot lead) was agonizingly bested when South African Charl Schwartzel miraculously birdied each of the last six holes to win. But it ignited Scott with layers of confidence so when shot 64-67-68 to open up a four-stroke lead at Royal Lytham, it seemed that the stars were in line for his major.

Then, disaster. He bogeyed each of the last four holes, shot 75, and finished second to Ernie Els. Scott's endearing popularity meant that thousands of fans at Lytham felt his pain during the trophy presentation, which protocol dictates the runner-up attend.

"I know I've let a really great chance slip through my fingers," said Scott. "But somehow I'll look back and take the positives from it."

Fast forward nine months and Scott was in the thick of a Masters pressure-cooker. At 6-under

great chance slip through my fingers, but somehow I'll look back and take the positives from it. mages Credit: Getty Images

- Adam Scott

he began the fourth round one off the lead, but when he birdied Nos. 13 and 15 and stuffed a 7-iron to make another at 18 to shoot 69, the Aussie was the leader.

Disappointment was still in the picture when Angel Cabrera followed shortly thereafter to birdie the 72nd hole to tie Scott, only the playoff went favorably. Matching pars at the 18th again, then at the par-4 10th, Scott trusted the read of his caddie, Steve Williams, and converted a 15-footer to become the first Aussie to earn the Green Jacket.

"What an incredible day," said Scott, who was emotional, yes, but as always, he was blanketed in composure. "Everything fell my way in the end. I'm just so proud of myself and everyone around me who has helped me."

These three snapshots of Scott's career

#### Official PGA TOUR Content





- from youthful promise to gut-wrenching disappointment to reaching the pinnacle of his sport – help provide definition of a professional who has in many ways done things in a proper fashion and always with consummate dignity.

That September 1, 2023 will mark the 20th anniversary of a victory that in many ways opened the door for Scott – as a sponsor's invite to the Deutsche Bank Championship outside of Boston, the Aussie earned his PGA TOUR card with a rousing performance - offers him the chance to be reflective in a way that fits his persona.

Acknowledging that he is blessed to be competitive at an age (43) when other pro

Impeccably graceful, Scott was brilliantly handsome and owned a golf swing that flowed as smoothly as syrup. If there was a glitch, however, it came in the major championship category. athletes are long retired, Scott said, "I think it's fairly unique to golf, that's for sure."

While it provides a sense of pride that Scott (No. 39) and Justin Rose (No. 33) are the only players ranked in the top 50 of the Official World Golf Ranking (Ed. Note: As of Aug. 1, 2023), the Aussie is cognizant of the landscape and concedes it is a huge challenge to keep up with brash and bold kids who are years younger and measurably stronger.

Then again, he's in his 20th PGA TOUR season and is 23 years removed from the day he turned pro, so being honestly appreciative of the career he's had is a tap-in to Scott. "I think when you're 20 or 23, you can't imagine 20 (pro golf seasons) into the future. It's hard to process that. If you asked me then, I probably would have said I wouldn't be playing at this age."

Yet here he is, striking an impactful presence at a time when pro golf is at the crossroads. Peers, several of whom he calls friends, have chosen to bring their games over the LIV Golf. Whether it was the gobs of money or the lure of a learner and less stressful schedule, Sergio Garcia, Henrik Stenson, Ian Poulter, Lee Westwood, and Paul Casey are no longer PGA TOUR opponents.

Scott could have gone, too. But he chose to stay. "It suits me best to be on the PGA TOUR," he said. "The one thing I haven't grasped is giving up my entire professional life of trying to achieve these things here and just leaving it behind."

Never a screaming anti-LIV guy, Scott may not have been a roaring, flag-waving, chest-pumping pro-PGA TOUR patriot either. That's because he tends to walk quietly and carry a forceful golf club and let his actions speak to where he stands. That he's now the Chairman of the PGA TOUR's Player Advisory Council (Rickie Fowler, Scottie Scheffler, Shane Lowry, and Open Championship winner Brian Harman are prominent members), Scott is proving his leadership mettle in a manner the befits him, dignified and professionally.

His worldwide wins are up over 30 tournaments, there has been more than US\$60m in prize money earned on the PGA TOUR alone, and the demand for him to be a global ambassador is stronger than ever.

So, too, is an even more important element. His passion to play and his desire to compete.

"You know, I love it and I'm really happy to be out here," said Scott, who continues to live a quiet life in Switzerland and Australia with his wife, Maria, and their children. Far removed from the social media crowd and never one to be a citizen of the "look at me world," Scott is as fit as ever and more determined than he was at 21 and trying to get through the gates at Royal Lytham.

"I still think I've got the game to win some events. So I'm going to keep pushing while I feel that way."



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#### SEVENTH HEAVEN FOR POPERT AT GALGORM



Kipp Popert won his seventh G4D Tour title after racing to a huge tenstroke victory at the G4D Tour @.

ISPS HANDA World Invitational presented by AVIV Clinics.

The Englishman made it back-to-back victories on the G4D circuit after winning at The Belfry last month and underlined his status as World Number One in the World Ranking for Golfers with Disability (WR4GD) in emphatic fashion at Galgorm.

The 25-year-old, who held a twostroke lead after day one, posted a stunning six under par round of 66 on the final day to add to his opening 69, finishing on nine under par and ten strokes clear of Canada's Kurtis Barkley, who finished second on one over par.

Popert, who was diagnosed with a form of cerebral palsy called Spastic diplegia that affects his lower body, quickly extended his lead with back-to-back birdies

from the second and followed up his only bogey of the day at six with an eagle at the par five ninth for the second day running.

With a five-stroke lead over nearest challenger Chris Biggins, Popert started his back nine with



back-to-back birdies, increasing his advantage to eight as the American failed to save par at the par-four 11th. Biggins dropped back further over the closing stretch, and with a final birdie at the 14th, Popert went on to secure the largest margin of victory in G4D Tour history.

"It was a lot of fun, you can't complain when you shoot six under so I'm very pleased," he said. "Having Ben on the bag, he did a great job as always, then my dad, my auntie Dodo and my friend John were there so it was awesome to do it front of them as well."

#### JOSÉ MARÍA OLAZÁBAL NAMED AS A VICE CAPTAIN FOR THE 2023 RYDER CUP



Luke Donald has named Ryder Cup legend José María Olazábal as his fourth Vice Captain for the 2023

Ryder Cup which will be played at Marco Simone Golf and Country Club in Rome, Italy, from September 26 - October 1, 2023.

The 57-year-old Spaniard is synonymous with the biennial contest against the United States, having played for Europe on seven occasions from 1987 to 2006; been a Vice Captain on three further occasions, in 2008, 2010 and 2014; and, of course, was Captain for the most famous European comeback victory of all time at Medinah in 2012.

In his seven Ryder Cup appearances as a player, which yielded three wins and a tie in 1989 which saw Europe retain the trophy, Olazábal played 31 times, winning 18 of those matches and returning 20½ points in total for the European cause. His partnership with the late, great Seve Ballesteros still stands head and shoulders above any other pairing in the contest's history, the Spanish duo winning 12 points from their 15 outings together.

Olazábal said: "It was a very nice surprise to be asked by Luke. I didn't expect it but I was



delighted when the call came. My role will be the same as the rest of the Vice Captains, namely to support and help Luke and the 12 players in any way we can, so they can perform at their best and be able to win that trophy back. I have no doubts that Luke will be a great Captain. He has played in the Ryder Cup four times and won four times and he therefore knows what is required to perform well in the match."

#### DAN BROWN CRACKS THE CODE TO WIN AT GALGORM

Dan Brown completed a stunning wire-to-wire success at the ISPS HANDA World Invitational

presented by AVIV Clincs to claim his maiden professional win.

The Englishman saw his six-shot overnight advantage shaved only slightly as he posted a one under par round of 69 at Galgorm to reach 15 under par and secure a five-stroke victory over countryman Alex Fitzpatrick, who finished second on ten under.

The 28-year-old, who earned his playing privileges via the DP World Tour Qualifying School in 2022, started with a bogey for the second day in succession before another dropped shot arrived at the third.

He returned to level terms with back-to-back birdies at the fifth and sixth, before entering red numbers for the first time at the par five tenth. Then came a real test of his mettle as he dropped a shot at each of the next three holes with Fitzpatrick ready to pounce.

However, the former EuroPro Tour and Challenge Tour player showed the prowess which had seen him post rounds of 64-66-67 over the first three days, as he birdied the next two holes and the par four 17th to ensure he could paint the perfect picture and enjoy the walk up 18 with a five-stroke advantage.  $\Box$ 



"I could never have dreamed this up in the past, however many years or whatever it is. I don't think it's sunk in but, yeah, amazing.I didn't really putt great yesterday. It was a bit nervy, struggling to get the pace and it was kind of similar again today. And then once you got down the closing stretch, last six, seven holes, I said to my caddie, just make sure your pace is good on each putt. I almost forgot about line and all that kind of thing. I was just trying to make sure that it was a decent pace."

#### THOMAS TO TEE IT UP AT AFRICA'S MAJOR



Major Champion Justin Thomas will tee it up at the Nedbank Golf Challenge as 'Africa's Major' returns to Gary Player

Country Club from November 9-12.

Two-time US PGA Champion Thomas will make his debut in Sun City, with the US\$6,000,000 event being the penultimate tournament on the 2023 DP World Tour schedule, carrying an increased number of Race to Dubai Ranking Points as the 64-man field vies for a place in the season-ending DP World Tour Championship. The Ryder Cup star and Major winner will bid to become the first American winner of this event since Jim Furyk's second victory in 2006, and is thrilled by the prospects of teeing it up in South Africa for the first time.

"I am so excited to get to Sun City for the Nedbank Golf Challenge and experience everything South Africa has to offer," said Thomas.

"It is a country I've always wanted to visit and this tournament gives me the opportunity not only to do that, but to compete in such an historic event. It's been going for over 40 years and it is amazing to have Mr Player's association. I can't wait to see what makes it so great in November."



#### HISTORIC HOME VICTORY FOR RUUSKA IN FINLAND



Lauri Ruuska clinched his maiden European Challenge Tour title in memorable fashion by seven shots on

home soil at the Vierumäki Finnish Challenge.

The Finn, who became just the fourth player in Challenge Tour history to shoot a round of 59 or better on Thursday, made more history by becoming only the second homegrown player to win at Vierumäki Resort. The 29-year-old carded a final round of 64 to pull away from overnight challenger Jack McDonald and join Kim Koivu as a home winner of the event.

With a round of 59 on Thursday and a 27 under

par winning total – his lowest 72-hole score on the Challenge Tour - it was a memorable week for Ruuska.

"It doesn't get any better than this week, there's no better week than this. Whatever the future brings we'll wait and see but this is the best week I've ever had. It's tough to put it into words. It felt amazing to make that birdie at the end in front of my family, my girlfriend, and friends out there – just unbelievable."

Ruuska began his final round with a birdie at the first and followed it with eight consecutive pars



to reach the turn with a four-shot lead.McDonald

tried to close the gap at the top but Ruuska, who was cheered on by the home crowd, stuck

to his gameplan and extended his lead in style with a birdie at the 11th ahead of back-to-back eagles at the 12th and 13th. While a closing birdie was met with raucous cheers as he sealed his victory in style.

#### CLEMENTS CLAIMS CZECH CROWN AFTER SENSATIONAL FINAL ROUND



Todd Clements carded a final day nine under par 63 to claim his maiden DP World Tour title at the

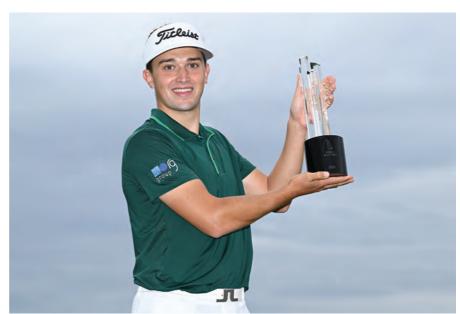
D+D REAL Czech Masters.

The Englishman, in his rookie season on the DP World Tour after graduating from the European Challenge Tour last year, started the day three strokes back but immediately cut the deficit with consecutive birdies on his opening three holes

Another hat-trick of birdies followed from the sixth hole as he made the turn six under par, taking the outright lead for the first time after the eighth hole.

He then made a third run of three consecutive gains from the 11th hole and parred his remaining five holes to sign for a 22 under par total, facing an agonising wait as countryman Matt Wallace still had four holes to play.

Wallace moved to within one stroke after his fifth birdie of the day on the 14th hole but was unable to draw level as his birdie attempt at the 18th slid past the hole, signing for a five under par 67 and handing Clements his first victory on his 30th start.



Todd Clements said "I've dreamt of this for a long time. It's the reason I play golf. To win out here, it takes some people a few years. I had my luck today and managed to take it. Over the moon.

Me and Dan (Brown) grew up together. Home

internationals. Good friend of mine. I was so over the moon to see him last week. That gave me the belief that I could do it as well. I know my game's there and I know I can compete at this level. I'm absolutely over the moon."

#### NAKAJIMA STAGES FIGHTBACK IN THE RAIN TO CLINCH ONE-SHOT VICTORY

Keita Nakajima secured his second JGTO title in six starts when he overcame a two-shot deficit in the rain-affected final round to become the first-ever winner of the Yokohama Minato Championship - Fujiki Centennial on Sunday.

The 23-year-old dazzled with a five-under-par 66, which included six birdies and a single bogey, to finish his campaign on 13-under-par 271 at the Yokohama Country Club in Kanagawa.

Nakajima beat his nearest competitor, Taiga Semikawa, who also carded a 66, by one stroke.

This marked Nakajima's third JGTO victory of his career, with two amassed within less than a year after he turned professional in October last year.

It was just two months ago when he won the ASO Iizuka Challenged Golf Tournament. Nakajima celebrated his first triumph at the 2021 Panasonic Open, at the time still an amateur.

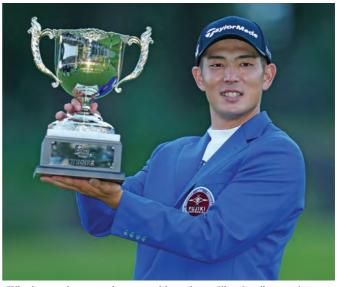
Starting the final day two shots behind Yuki Inamori in second place, Nakajima made his move early by birdieing the first hole to tie for the lead with the latter, who bogeyed.

Nakajima then set up a birdie opportunity on the second just before the rain halted the play for three hours and 22 minutes.

Upon returning to the course, Nakajima duly converted the putt to gain his second shot of the day. Despite dropping a bogey on the par-four fifth for his only blemish of the day, he recovered superbly to birdie the sixth, eighth, ninth and 13th to move three shots clear at one stage.

Semikawa tried to stage a late charge when he birdied three of his last five holes but still ended up one shot shy.

"This course is tricky, and the lead doesn't mean much. I can'tcontrol the scores around me. I focused on playing well," said Nakajima.



"Winning against a truly competitive player like Semikawa gives me confidence."

Nakajima also expressed gratitude to the many fans who stayed until the end despite the heavy rain.

"Thank you very much for staying until the end in the heavy rain today. I will continue to grow as an athlete so that I can become an inspiration for the kids who came today," he vowed.

The victory allowed Nakajima to overtake Takumi Kanaya, who's absent this week, in the first place on the JGTO money list. ...

#### FOWLER, MORIKAWA AND SCHAUFFELE COMMIT TO 2023 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP

Tournament officials announced that Rickie Fowler, Collin Morikawa and Xander Schauffele, who have won a combined 18 PGA TOUR victories, will headline the 2023 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP at ACCORDIA GOLF Narashino Country Club in Chiba, October 19-22, 2023. Joining the trio will be two of the PGA TOUR's newest young stars, Akshay Bhatia and Min Woo Lee.

"We are thrilled to have Rickie Fowler, Collin Morikawa and Xander Schauffele headlining the 2023 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP," said Executive Director Travis Steiner. "Joining them is a pair of exciting young talents who will be making their ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP debuts in Akshay Bhatia and Min Woo Lee. All together, these players will bring a touch of everything from a major champion, the reigning Olympic Gold Medallist and golf stars with captivating playing styles and engaging personalities. Japan fans are in for a fun week of world-class action."



The 2023 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP will feature 60 players from the FedExCup points list, and players designated by the Japan Golf Tour Organization, including the winner of the 2023 BMW Japan Golf Tour Championship Mori Building Cup (Takumi Kanaya) and sponsor exemptions.

The winner of the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP will earn 500 FedExCup points while the event will be co-sanctioned once again with

the Japan Golf Tour Organization. As part of PGA TOUR Fall, the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP offers players the opportunity to secure their PGA TOUR status and earn additional playing opportunities for the 2024 season. Winners of each Fall event will receive a two-year PGA TOUR exemption, entry into the season-opening The Sentry and THE PLAYERS Championship, plus qualify for majors where PGA TOUR victories count as eligibility status.

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South Korea's Song Young-han claimed victory at the Sansan KBC Augusta, marking his first JGTO win in seven years.

Even though he held a three-shot lead stepping onto the par-five 18th tee at Keya Golf Club, the 32-year-old encountered a late scare, but a double bogey was nevertheless enough for him to win by one shot from second-placed Ryutaro Nagano. Song carded a three-underpar 69 in the final round, culminating in a 17-under-par 271 total.

This win ended his frustrating wait for a second triumph, his last being the SMBC Singapore Open in 2016. In that memorable event, he defeated then-world No. 1, Jordan Spieth of the United States by one shot. Identifying himself as a proud full-fledged JGTO player, Song expressed joy that his persistence finally bore fruit.

"I'm a JGTO player, and I've always wanted to win in Japan. It took a while to secure my second victory, but I'm thrilled," said Song, who speaks fluent Japanese.

Before the final hole's setback, Song, who started the day sharing the lead with Yusaku Miyazato and Masanori Kobayashi, consistently held his ground. Birdies on the third, fifth, sixth, and eighth holes allowed him to pull clear from the chasing back.

He secured two more shots on the 11th and 13th holes, moving him to 20-under and establishing a five-shot lead. Although Song recorded his first bogey at the par-four 16th, it was hardly seen as a threat to his title march. Explaining about his 18th hole scare, Song said: "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

I'M A JGTO PLAYER, AND I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO WIN IN JAPAN. IT TOOK A WHILE TO SECURE MY SECOND VICTORY, BUT I'M THRII I FD.

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."

Nagano advanced one position from his overnight standing, carding six birdies against three bogeys to finish with a 69.

#### RELIEVED **NITITHORN** BACK TO HIS BEST

Thailand's Nitithorn Thippong prevailed in the Mandiri Indonesia Open after a gripping finish here at Pondok Indah Golf Course – confirming he has recaptured the kind of form that established him as one of the region's most exciting young golfers last year. Having started the day with a comfortable five-shot margin, he was pushed all the way to the finish line, closing with an even-par 72, for an 18-under-par total, and a two-stroke triumph over Australian Scott Hend, Steve Lewton from England and Chinese-Taipei's Lee Chieh-po, who all carded 68s.

Hend, chasing his 11th win on the Asian Tour and first in four years, came closest to catching him but, playing in the group ahead, hit his tee shot on the par-five 18th out of bounds and made a costly double bogey.

Nitithorn had appeared to be in complete control at the turn after two birdies and no dropped shots on the outward half to open a substantial lead on 20 under but dropped shots on 12 and 13 to give hope to his three nearest challengers.

However, he was able to par home to secure his third Asian Tour title and put behind him a poor first half to the season, when he was shadow of the player who recorded two breakthrough



victories last year, in The DGC Open presented by Mastercard and the International Series Singapore.

Said the 26-year-old, whose nickname is 'Fever': "Wow, amazing! Like, I feel so happy about this win you know. Back the last few weeks I didn't feel confidence like this, but

after I played some rounds before, I came here and I just figured out my swing, got some good feelings and transferred to this tournament. Like I said the past few weeks, I was like how to hit, even how to impact the ball very well, I really struggled on my swing. But right now, I feel better, amazing!"

#### **OGLETREE** SECURES HAT-TRICK OF INTERNATIONAL SERIES TITLES

Andy Ogletree stamped his authority once again on the Asian Tour today by claiming the US\$2 million International Series England after a stunning seven-stroke victory—with a runaway 16-under tournament total.

The American was unstoppable at Close House, near Newcastle, shooting a final-round seven-under-par 64 – the joint lowest round of the week – to finish ahead of second-placed Ian Poulter from England, who closed with the same score.

Indian Anirban Lahiri also excelled, carding a 68, to take sole possession of third, one back from Poulter.

This is Ogletree's third convincing International Series victory – he triumphed in Qatar by three this year, and by four in Egypt last season – and it consolidated his lead on both the Asian Tour and International Series Order of Merits.

"I don't think I could hit it much better than I did this week," said the 25-year-old, who banked US\$360,000.

"The greens were super bumpy so it's hard to tell exactly how my putting was, but I was pleased with how I played and my speed control coming down the stretch today was awesome. And it was nice to see a few putts go in, so we're just gonna keep trying to get better every week. My game is in a really good spot against a world-class field, super honoured to



play the way I did."

Poulter, playing in the fifth from last group, closed Ogletree's lead to five after he eagled the par-five 16th, only to see the American frontrunner do the same soon after.

Poulter, attempting to win for the first time in five years, said: "I just kind of found the key to hitting a few putts on these greens, which I didn't have the first three days. And you know,

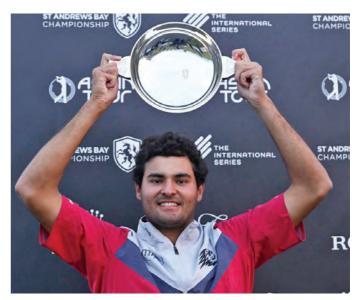
when you do that and you play good golf like I played the first three days, then you're going to be able to make some birdies. And that's what I did today. I made quite a few 'birds', and it was 16 feet on 16 there, and rolled that one in."

Lahiri finished second in the International Series Vietnam and backed that up this week. "Very, very pleased," said the 2015 Asian Tour Order of Merit champion.

#### **CHACARRA** BEATS JONES IN EPIC, RECORD-BREAKING PLAY-OFF

The Asian Tour sensationally witnessed the longest suddendeath play-off in its history today, when young Spaniard Eugenio Chacarra defeated veteran Matt Jones from Australia on the 10th extra hole at the inaugural St Andrews Bay Championship. Chacarra made a par on the par-five 18th, two putting from 30 feet, while Jones, 20 years his senior, missed a five-footer for a five at Fairmont St Andrews - after one of the most exciting ever finishes on the Asian Tour.Both players had birdied the final hole in normal time to finish tied on 19-under, with Chacarra carding a five-under-par 67 and Jones a 69. Australian Andrew Dodt (68) and Jaco Ahlers (69) from South African finished one stroke short of the play-off. Chile's Mito Pereira and Gaganjeet Bhullar from India both returned 70s and were another shot back. The previous longest play-off took place at the 2001 SK Telecom Open in Korea, when local player Charlie Wi triumphed after seven holes against countryman Kang Wook-soon and Simon Yates from Scotland.

"It was a long day," said Chacarra "Happy it came out my way, but I mean, Matt had a tremendous day as well. Tremendous 10 holes, I think we all know he's a great player. Thank you very much it came out my way but I'm sure Matt will win a lot of more events."





#### WITH **ANIRBAN LAHIRI** AFTER ROUND 3 OF ST ANDREWS BAY CHAMPIONSHIP

Anirban Lahiri carded a five-under 67 in his third round taking him to a 12-under total at the St Andrews Bay Championship and discussed his season goals and debriefed on his round.

#### How would you summarise today's performance?

I think it's kind of even par for how easy the scoring conditions were out there. I played very poorly on the front nine, got off to a bad start, had a cold putter, kept leaving myself in positions that weren't ideal, and that's where so many birdies were to be made. I made at least three or four pars out there that felt like bogeys. So I guess it's one of those days, it looks nice on the scorecard, but I know I left a lot of shots out there.

#### As you said before, you didn't start the way you wanted to. Did you have to change your mentality on the back nine?

Internally, not really. I'm a bit tired. I'm a bit fatigued physically and mentally, so I just had to tell myself to be up for it and really grind it out and dig my teeth in a little bit. Obviously in my group, everyone else was playing super hot. I think Wade [Wade Ormsby] was five under through seven, Turk [Turk Pettit] was six under through seven, and I was one-over through four so it really felt like I was 10 shots back. It was good to have them play good because it kind of spurred me on to stay in touch. But yeah, I've

got some work to do on the greens. I've got some work to do with my game. I'm happy, but I should have been better.

#### How are you finding Fairmont?

Yeah, I've enjoyed it, I've enjoyed it a lot. I think the conditions are really, really nice. I expected more of a true links, but I think St Andrews has its own kind of signature. It can play like links, sometimes it plays like a Parkland, so you kind of have to adjust for it. I think it's just the way it's set up, especially in this wind. I think it allows for a lot of scoring expectivities. On the front pipe and on the

this wind. I think it allows for a lot of scoring opportunities. On the front nine and on the back nine as well you can make some birdies, but you have to go at your ball a little bit more. I think the weather we had on the first two days back then probably played a little easier. It kind of depends, it's interesting to see how the weather holds up. I think we've had probably once in a lifetime weather.

I've been chatting to some of the locals, I don't think we've had so many days in a row without even a downpour of rain and we might have had a slight drizzle, but it wasn't a downpour. Not the usual 25 mile an hour gusts with sideways rain. Even the 15-20 minutes that you get every now and then, we haven't had it. It's been unbelievable, I'm hoping for the miracle, that it stays that way for another 24 hours. But yeah, it's been phenomenal!

#### In terms of your goals for the season, what does that look like?

Well I'm definitely chasing my win. I've been chasing it for a while now. I've come close a



bunch of times, that's my focus, that's my goal. Obviously we're going to be playing a few more International Series tournaments. I'm looking to try and get back to winning ways and try and muster up as many world ranking points as possible.

We've got three events left on LIV, a couple of opportunities to try and win an individual title and then the big team championship. I think just these two years have been incredible for me and the Crushers GC so it'd be nice if we could get the team win this year.



changed anything for the sake of changing. I've gone on consistency and it's worked. The most important thing for me is that it's a swing I can repeat easily because we haven't changed it in more than IO years.

"Keeping things simple and not having too many things to worry about works for me and also helps me under pressure. I believe in myself and I know what works. My father is my coach and there are certain points in the swing we look at. If they're in the right place, we'll normally have a good week."

Hatton has been coached by his father, Jeff — a single-figure-golfer — since he was a junior. "I took over about 15 years ago. We tried a few coaches before that but they were basically saying the same things I was saying, so I had no hesitation in taking over," says Hatton senior. "We worked predominantly on

#### 'I try to feel that I make a three-quarter length swing'

Tyrrell's set-up. I like the way Jack Nicklaus went about it. He says the three most important things in golf are set-up, set-up and set-up. I like that philosophy." For a mid-iron shot, Tyrrell's feet are shoulder-width apart and the ball is in the middle of his stance. The shaft is inclined forward, which is perfect for a mid-iron. If he were using a fairway wood or hybrid, the shaft would be close to vertical. It would be inclined slightly away with driver. While I like the balance at address to be 50/50 from front to back, Tyrrell prefers it to be 60/40 towards his toes. But his balance is excellent.

"We also study down the line at address a lot to make sure the feet, knees, hips and shoulders are all parallel to the target. Tyrrell uses an alignment rod on the ground on the range to check this."

The Hattons also follow another of Nicklaus' famous doctrines: If it ain't broken, don't fix it. "If you're playing well, the last person you want to talk to is your coach."





#### **DRIVING DISTANCE**

2020	<b>2020</b> 310.3 yards (9th)				
2019	299.3 yards (54th)				
2018	304.6 yards (29th)				
2017	307 yards (15th)				
2016	304.6 yards (13th)				
2015	311.6 yards (4th)				
2014	303.5 yards (13th)				



#### **IMPACT**

This is the moment of truth. I like that Tyrrell's hips are turning and that his hands are leading – but his head hasn't gone with them. The shaft is still inclined towards the target, encouraging that downward hit we talked about. Tyrrell's flight is what you might call 'midtrajectory' – he doesn't hit his shots particularly low or high.

JOOST LUITEN

# CHANGE BALL POSITION, NOT SWING

YOU DON'T NEED A SWING CHANGE TO RIP YOUR DRIVER.

A lot of people think that, because the clubhead is shaped a little differently, you have to change your swing to hit the driver. I don't know where that myth came from, but the truth is that you only need one golf swing. The only thing that's different in your driver swing to your iron swing is your ball position (below). That's because the club is longer and the face is a little straighter. You want to hit the ball slightly on the upswing to counteract those two things.

Get the ball position right – for me, opposite my left heel below my left armpit – and you will naturally hit the ball slightly on the up and launch it high without making any other adjustments. Which brings me onto the subject of amateurs trying to help the ball into the air. I see so many people allowing their weight to fall onto their back foot through impact, thinking it will help them get the ball airborne more effectively. It won't. Instead, you'll simply end up flipping your hands into impact and mishit the shot. Just swing naturally, trust your ball position and let the club do all the work. You don't need to force the issue, either. Keep your same tempo. If you try to swing too hard, you'll lose your balance and your swing speed.  $\square$ 

- Joost Luiten is a six-time European Tour winner.



**DAVID HORSEY** 

# ALWAYS AIM AND START YOUR BALL AWAY FROM TROUBLE

#### NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR TEE SHOT.

In many cases, a mistake that leads to a drop shot, or worse, is a result of poor decision-making before you even swing the club. Many amateurs either don't take enough care with their aim, or they take on too many risky lines and angles off the tee. If you are aiming well, start the ball where you want to and you pick sensible lines, then your accuracy and scoring really cannot fail to improve.

# AVOID THE DANGER AT ALL COSTS

A general rule of thumb: always aim away from danger unless you absolutely have no alternative. For example, if you fade or slice and there's water left, you should aim down the middle of the fairway and accept that you might end up in the right half of the fairway or slightly into the rough. That's much safer than aiming left and increasing your chances of hitting the ball in the water.

#### IGNORE THE FLAG... SOMETIMES

It's the same going into greens, too. You don't always have to take dead aim at the flag, especially when it's near the edges of the green. Do so and you bring hazards and short-sided recovery shots into play. In fact, most amateurs would score better by aiming for the middle of the green no matter where the flag is.

#### TAKE RISK ONLY IN EXTREME SITUATIONS

As I mentioned above, you should only start the ball at trouble if there's absolutely no other option to consider. The only time you should consider aiming anywhere near the water on this hole is if there's a hard wind off the left and severe danger right of the fairway, too. It's all about playing the percentages and knowing where to find the good 'miss'.

#### PICK A S TARTING POINT AND TAKE AIM

Once you have chosen your line off the tee, pick a specific spot in the distance as your aim point. I like to work with a starting point and move the ball off that, rather than picking the point where I want the shot to finish because I find that easier to visualise and execute. Some players pick a spot, like a patch in the grass or a twig, a couple of yards in front of the ball and start the ball over that. You'll be amazed by how much it can improve your accuracy. 🔐





# SWING WITHIN YOURSELF FOR BETTER STRIKES

It sounds obvious, but you have to hit the ball in the middle of the clubface if you want to be a good striker of the ball. If you try to hit the ball too hard, you'll struggle to pure it. There's loft on an iron for a reason – it's designed to go however far you can hit that loft. Accept your distances and simply take more club if you need extra yardage.

### 1. IF IN DOUBT, CLUB UP AND HIT IT SMOOTH

When in between clubs, many amateurs would rather take the shorter iron and hit hard rather than the straighter-faced iron and swing more smoothly. Tour pros are the opposite. With irons, it's all about control. We would always prefer to club down and keep the control. You're only ever trying to hit your irons at 75% power and so I'd much rather ease down to 60% than go up to 90%. The slower you swing it, the easier it is to get the club where you want it. You lose control when you swing it harder.

#### 2. TRUST YOUR SHAPE

It's always easier to embrace your natural shot shape than continually try to fight it. I've lost count of the number of times I've seen amateurs who hit fades start the ball straight at the pin and, of course, miss it right. Allow for your shape with your start point. If you fade the ball, it's got to start left of your target.

- Andy Sullivan is a three-time European Tour winner





# FIVE-MINUTE LESSON

#### **CHRIS PAISLEY**

The 2018 BMW SA Open Championship winner champion is one of the European Tour's best scramblers around the green. We got him to let us in on a few of his secrets.

#### **GP** What is the best way to practise your short game and chipping?

CP: "The first thing I do in practice is check on my strike. I'm looking to make sure I'm hitting the ball out the middle off the face and that I'm taking the same small divot with each shot. I've found that if my strike isn't quite there, then my distance control goes all over the place."

#### GP Do you prefer the ball position back or forward for chipping?

CP: "I have the ball just forward of centre to encourage me to make a wider arc and to keep my body turning through impact. Spin comes from the quality of the strike. A shallow attack angle with a fraction of forward shaft lean and a shallow divot with a strike out the middle makes it spin."

#### **GP** And what about your stance? Some players like an open stance, others prefer closed.

CP: "I actually prefer to be ever so slightly closed. It just feels more comfortable for me. I don't like to feel I'm aiming too far left because it forces the clubhead to come into the ball a bit steeper. Whereas feeling almost closed encourages the clubhead to stay nice and shallow to the turf."

#### GP Finally, do you prefer a wristy or non-wristy approach?

CP: "I'm quite passive with the wrists for a standard chip. I see the chipping action as a bit of a putting stroke. I use the bigger muscles because it makes the club and ball speed more predictable, which makes it much easier to judge the shot, which is important because you've got to be quite precise with chips, especially on fast greens."



## **BOUTIER** SECURES BACK-TO-BACK TITLES WITH VICTORY IN SCOTLAND

Celine Boutier won the 2023 FREED GROUP Women's Scottish Open Presented by Trust Golf after shooting a final round of 70 (-2).

The Frenchwoman began the day with a threeshot lead and had a steady front nine with birdies on holes six and nine at Dundonald Links.

Boutier rolled in a birdie on 13 before making bogeys on 14 and 16, but she bounced back with a birdie on 17 which proved to be enough to seal a two-stroke victory in Scotland.

"It's completely crazy," said Boutier. "I would have never imagined that I would be able to win not one, but two tournaments in a row. I'm just incredibly in shock. I don't think I know what to say or what to think! I think it's just completely out of control. I'm not sure what to think.

"There were definitely some tough shots out there, and I didn't manage to play as well as the past three days, but I feel like that's going to happen. It's a long tournament, and I just tried to stay patient and stick to my game and stick to my game plan.

"I feel like both Hyo-Joo [Kim] and Maja [Stark] were playing well and, on this course, just like last year, anything can happen with a solid round. I tried to really stay patient and



tried to hit some close, but it's not always easy especially, on this course.

"It's definitely an amazing feeling. I feel like winning in Scotland is definitely on my bucket list. The Home of Golf, to win a tournament there would have been amazing, but it's so unexpected just because I won last week, so the odds that I would win this week are pretty low, and so I'm just incredibly in shock and very grateful."

Korea's Hyo-Joo Kim fired a final round of 65 (-7) to end the week at Dundonald in second place on 13-under-par.

The five-time LPGA Tour winner was bogeyfree on the final day making birdies on holes three, five, eight, 11, 13, 14 and 18.

## **CLEWS** CLINCHES FIRST LETAS TITLE WITH PLAYOFF VICTORY IN DENMARK

7

England's Gemma Clews clinched her first LET Access Series (LETAS) victory in dramatic style with a playoff victory at the Smorum Ladies Open by EC Drive.

Trailing by five shots prior to the third and final round, the 28-year-old had a strong final round of 68 (-4) and a faultless back-nine of three birdies and all pars to take Sweden's Corrinne Viden and Nathalie Borg to sudden death.

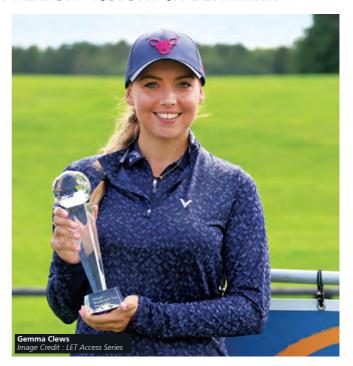
The sudden death was short-lived as Borg found trouble in the trees off the tee and Viden fell to a bogey.

Clews, looking the most collected and calm, had two putts for victory as she rolled in the second from close range to seal the deal and lift her second professional title- her first since 2021.

"I'm feeling amazing. It's great to get a win. Obviously, it's the first LET Access win, which is nice, and it feels good. In the playoff I tried to stick to what I've done the last couple of days. It's a special 18th hole because you can hit the driver at the green or you can lay up and wedge it on. I made birdie on it in the final round so I knew I was going to stick to it, commit and try and make a birdie."

Clews was accompanied by fellow England LETAS player Sharna Dutrieux on the bag today after she had to withdraw from the tournament at the beginning of the week due to injury. Clews missed out on the win at the Amundi Czech Ladies Challenge by one shot so this win means even more.

After this win, Clews has gained 500 points on the LETAS Order of Merit and now currently ranks second with 994.10 points.



With Viden and Borg taking second, Denmark's Sofie Kibsgaard Nielsen became the highest-ranking Dane in fourth on five-under-par.

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## **PRASHANTH** WINS THE AHLSELL FINAL IN SWEDEN

Indian amateur Avani Prashanth took home the win at the Ahlsell Final at Elisefarm by one shot.

Prashanth, the first Indian to win on the LET Access Series, had an impressive final round to finish the tournament on six-under-par.

It was a shaky start for the 16-year-old who carded two bogeys in the first four holes before firing up the flat-stick two card two more birdies in the front nine. At the turn, Prashanth gained momentum to get two consecutive birdies on holes 12 and 13 followed by an eagle on the 14th to put herself in the lead. A further birdie on the 17th was where the top Indian amateur clinched the win.

Speaking about the round, Prashanth said: "It's surreal winning this week, after my rocky start to finish five-under-par is great and this is my first professional win on international soil. The wind completely switched on us today which really made the first four holes super long and tough to play. Whilst the first four played long a good number played shorter. So, after nine I came back to par and then saw the wind was down in the back nine and then I really took advantage from there on."

Prashanth won the Queen Sirikit Cup in Manila early in the year and now as her eyes set on being the youngest golfer ever to represent India at the Asian Games in Hangzhou next month.

"In terms of European competition, the Big Green Egg open in Amsterdam on the Ladies European Tour is the next one. I'm planning on



playing at Q school in December.

"How will I celebrate?, well everyone back home is asking for a party, so I've got to take care of them first and then I'll make plans as soon as I'm back."

Two Swedish amateurs, Matilda Bjorkman and Isabell Elkstrom tied for second on five-under-par.

## TAMBURLINI TRIUMPHS IN PROFESSIONAL DEBUT AT PGA CHAMPIONSHIP GOTHENBURG

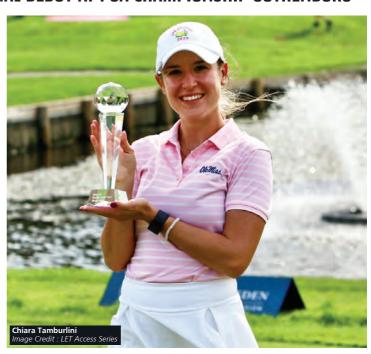
Switzerland's Chiara Tamburlini triumphs at the PGA Championship Gothenburg to take the win by five shots in her first tournament as a professional. The 23-year-old, who decided to turn professional the night before the tournament began, had a fantastic final round to extend the lead she created yesterday.

It was an almost faultless final round for Tamburlini who carded five birdies and only one bogey on the 13th to finish the tournament with rounds of 70, 66 and 68.

Speaking about the win Tamburlini said: "I feel amazing, this was pretty cool especially in my first professional golf tournament. I played solidly, I just had so much fun out there and enjoyed myself so much. I'm very blessed I feel like all the pieces are falling together."

Tamburlini has had a strong season on the LET Access Series making all the cuts in the six events she has competed in, but this was her time experiencing being in the final three.

With this win, Tamburlini has moved to 10th position in the LETAS Order of Merit with 710.60 points. England's Emily Price continued her fine form to finish in second place on seven-under-par whilst Norway's Dorthea Forbrigd and Denmark's Puk Lyng Thomsen came joint third on six-under-par.



### PANO CLINCHES PLAYOFF VICTORY AT ISPS HANDA WORLD INVITATIONAL

It was a birthday to remember for Alexa Pano as she won the ISPS HANDA World Invitational Presented by AVIV Clinics in a dramatic playoff.

After rounds of 76-70-69-66, Pano ended the tournament with a total of eight-underpar and found herself in a playoff alongside Germany's Esther Henseleit and England's Gabriella Cowley.

The American, who turns 19 today, headed back down 18 and made a birdie on the first playoff hole, as did Cowley to send them back to the tee.

Despite her tee shot ending up in the trees, Pano made a par on the second playoff hole while Cowley missed her birdie putt as they both headed back to the 18th tee again.

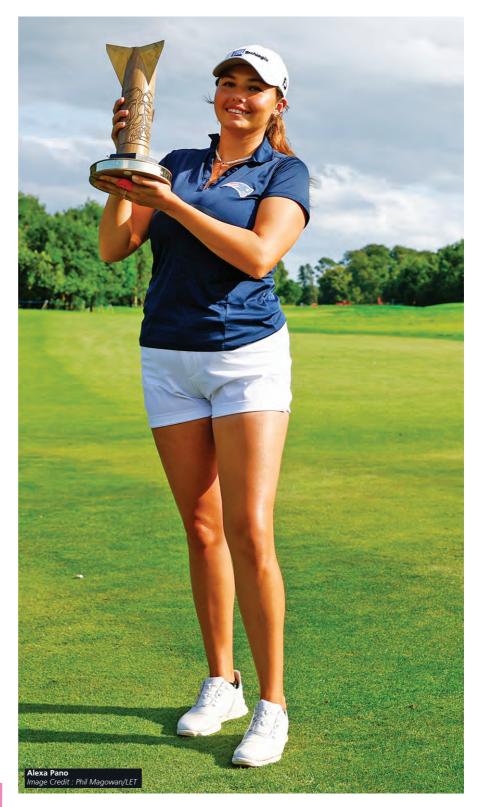
On the third playoff hole, Pano made the green in two and was able to two-putt for a birdie to win her maiden title on the LPGA Tour and Ladies European Tour (LET).

"I've kind of been saying that I really wanted to win this event because it's on my birthday," said the LPGA Tour rookie.

"My best friend can contest it's been for like two months. It feels so surreal that it's happened. It's been a little bit crazy because I didn't have my clothes and clubs earlier in the week, but it's all worth it.It just feels so surreal right now to have my dad on the bag as well. I can't actually process that that just happened."

Pano fired a round of 66 (-6) on day four at

"My best friend can contest it's been for like two months. It feels so surreal that it's happened. It's been a little bit crazv because I didn't have my clothes and clubs earlier in the week. but it's all worth it.lt iust feels so surreal right now to have my dad on the bag as well. I can't actually process that that just happened."



Galgorm to put herself in contention for the win, making three bogeys and nine birdies including two in her final two holes.

England's Cowley carded a round of 70 (-2) on the final day competition and rolled in an eagle putt on the last to secure her place in

the playoff.

The 27-year-old had the opportunity to take the win on the second playoff hole when she had a five-foot birdie putt, but unfortunately, she missed it and Pano triumphed on the next hole.

# BLITZ GOLF RENEWS GOLF EXCITEMENT

Competition on the fairways is being redefined as Blitz Golf, the world's only short-form version of the sport, continues to make a big impact as it offers a fresh, new opportunity for players and spectators alike to enjoy the game from a different perspective.

- By Chloe Holliday



he Australian-born idea, which brings golf professionals and celebrities together in an action-packed three-hour format, has grown exponentially in its four seasons to date by offering something to both traditional golf watchers and those just looking for an exciting and enjoyable day's entertainment.

Founder and Director of Blitz Golf, Simon Zybek, says the tournament is designed to



complement and integrate with the regular golf season.

"Blitz Golf is the perfect format for twilight entertainment, as well as being ideal for both on course fans and television/online audiences," says Simon. "It can co-exist with any golf tour as Tuesday night golf could become the perfect complementary addition to any event in the world, bringing a sponsorship and television friendly product into tournament week".

Blitz Golf has risen from a small budget competition into a national series now taking place across four states over the Australian summer. The competition consists of just 10 holes in three hours, where rounds get progressively shorter as participants are eliminated; starting with 6 holes in Round 1, 3 holes in Round 2 (with 50% of the field) and then a 1-hole final for the top 4 players. Centred around a stadium hole, the event lifts to a high energy climax with continuous live music; and with the entire crowd surrounding the winning shot.

Simon says the tournament intends to engage fans from all sports and all walks of life; with pop-up bars, food trucks, live music and child













friendly entertainment also adding to the unique event atmosphere.

"On the back of exciting developments across the professional game globally, golf has never been more popular," says Simon. "Blitz Golf is a tournament that excels in bringing fresh excitement to the game, and is an entertainment brand, with golf as the central attraction. It is a fun, light-hearted atmosphere while still maintaining the attributes of a high prize money professional golf competition."

Holding the record for the richest single day golf purse event in Australia, Blitz Golf has also smashed single-day golf event attendance records across the country, with the upcoming series promising to attract many thousands more, off the back of renewed interest in the game.



The 2023-24 Australian Blitz Golf season will begin in Brisbane (Queensland) on Friday, December 29 2023, before rounds in Melbourne and the Yarra Valley (Victoria) and Riverina (NSW) and then concluding in Adelaide (South Australia) on Friday, January 19 2024.





The writing is on the wall, professional Golf as we see it has to evolve keeping in mind the short attention span of the Gallery. Simon Zybek may have hit upon the perfect format to interest both the ardent golf fans as well as the non-golfing community with his short -form version of Golf bringing Golfers and celebrities together in an action packed three hour game.

The Australian born , basketball player has successfully stitched together 'Blitz Golf' and has already tasted success with the tournament growing exponentially in its four seasons since launch. The fixtures in Australia fun filled action replete with live entertainment including an African Music band.

Simon firmly believes that the idea has come to age and instead of competing with newer formats being launched would redefine the game of Golf as we see it.

Backed by a number of sponsors and investors ,Simon is looking to host the event in London, Las Vegas, Dubai, Singapore and Delhi.

Whether Simon has a winner in Blitz Golf and will it 'Blitz' through Golf only time will tell but the idea of professional golfers coming together in this T20 of Golf is surely to stoke interest in a game which is gradually losing viewer ship due to long drawn out fixtures. 6P



## **GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND TEAM ANNOUNCED**

en golfers have been selected for the Great Britain and Ireland team to compete against the United States of America in the 49th Walker Cup match at St Andrews.

The biennial encounter is taking place over the Old Course, marking 100 years since it was first played at the home of golf, on Saturday, 2 and Sunday, 3 September when GB&I is bidding to win the famous trophy for the first time since 2015 when it secured a 16½-9½ victory at Royal Lytham & St Annes.

Stuart Wilson, GB&I captain, said, "We have selected ten players who we believe will give us the best chance of regaining the Walker Cup against the United States of America.

"This is their opportunity to perform on the

biggest stage in amateur golf and have their name written alongside some of the greatest names in the history of the sport by winning the Walker Cup. There is arguably no more iconic venue in the world to achieve that feat than on the Old Course in St Andrews.

"We look forward to the challenge of winning the match next week and I know these players will give it their all to win back the trophy in front of a home crowd."

#### The GB&I team:

- James Ashfield, Wales, Delamere Forest, 22
- Jack Bigham, England, Harpenden, 19
- Barclay Brown, England, Hallamshire, 22

- John Gough, England, The Berkshire, 24
- · Connor Graham, Scotland, Blairgowrie, 17
- Alex Maguire, Ireland, Laytown & Bettystown, 22
- Matthew McClean, Ireland, Malone, 30
- Liam Nolan, Ireland, Galway, 23
- Mark Power, Ireland, Kilkenny, 23
- Calum Scott, Scotland, Nairn, 20

#### Reserves

- 1. Tyler Weaver, England, Bury St Edmonds, 18
- 2. Caolan Rafferty, Ireland, Dundalk, 30

#### Captain:

• Stuart Wilson

## HELEN BRIEM AND KRIS KIM WIN R&A GIRLS' AMATEUR AND BOYS' AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS





elen Briem became the first German to win The R&A Girls' Amateur Championship in its 104-year history as England's Kris Kim claimed the Boys' Amateur Championship trophy at Ganton today.

Briem, ranked tenth in the World Amateur Golf Ranking® (WAGR®), won the 36-hole Final of the 94th Girls' Amateur Championship by a record 12&10 margin against Spain's Martina Navarro Navarro.

Kim came out on top at the 38th hole in the closely contested Final of the 96th Boys' Amateur Championship against Alex Papayoanou.

Briem and Kim gain exemptions into Final Qualifying for the AIG Women's Open and The Open as well as a range of prestigious amateur championships.

#### THE GIRLS' AMATEUR

In the Girls' Amateur Final, Briem capitalised on a slow start from Navarro Navarro to win the first two holes of the match and she moved to three-up with a birdie four at the 6th.

The 18-year-old German's only blemish on the front nine came with an untidy double bogey at the par-5 7th to lose the hole but she won three of the next four holes to move to five-up by the 11th

A birdie three at the 14th extended Briem's lead to six holes. Navarro Navarro struggled to find a way back into the match and lost the last three holes of the morning round to leave Briem with a commanding nine-up lead.

The 15-year-old Spanish girl had a mountain to climb in the afternoon and it got a little higher when Briem won the 20th to go ten-up. Navarro Navarro did manage to win the 21st when Briem three-putted from the front of the green but she bogeyed the 22nd to fall back again.

Briem turned up the pressure with three consecutive birdies from the 24th and when Navarro Navarro's ten-foot putt slipped by the hole at the 26th it left Briem with a tap in to seal a dominant 12&10 victory.

Briem gains exemptions into Final Qualifying for the AIG Women's Open, The R&A Women's Amateur Championship, the US Girls' Junior Championship and, by tradition, an invitation to compete at the Augusta National Women's Amateur Championship.



## **WORLD'S LEADING MALE AMATEUR GOLFER**

Gridon Sargent of the United States of America has won the Mark H McCormack Medal as the leading male in the 2023 World Amateur Golf Ranking® (WAGR®).

The McCormack Medal winner receives exemptions into the 2024 US Open at Pinehurst and The 152nd Open at Royal Troon.

"It's really special to have won the McCormack Medal, especially when you see the names of the golfers who have won it before, and everything that comes along with it, including the major exemptions, is really cool," said Sargent.

"This achievement definitely means a lot to me. It's a goal that I've had set for a while and it gives me a lot of confidence now that I've achieved it. I'm really honoured to be receiving the medal."

The American rose to the top of the men's ranking in February this year after winning the John Hayt Invitational by seven shots. In April, he became the first amateur since Aaron Baddley in 2000 to accept a special invitation to compete in the Masters Tournament and then went on to win the Mason Rudolph Championship by eight shots in the following week.

Sargent was a member of the team from the United States of America which won the Arnold Palmer Cup in June and in the same month he qualified for the US Open at Los Angeles Country Club in June, finishing tied-39th and earning the low amateur honour in his second major championship appearance.

So far this season, he has also recorded six topten finishes in college events and will compete for the United States of America against Great Britain and Ireland in the 49th Walker Cup at St Andrews next week as well as for the USA Team in the World Amateur Team Championship in October. He also received invitations to play in the Rocket Mortgage Classic and John Deere Classic on the PGA TOUR earlier this year.

Last year, the 20-year-old won the NCAA



Division I Individual Championship after making birdie on the first hole of a four-man playoff, becoming the ninth freshman to win the NCAA individual title. He also won the Mossy Oak Collegiate that year and represented the United States of America in the Arnold Palmer Cup and the Eisenhower Trophy at the World Amateur Team Championships.

Professor Steve Otto, Chief Technology Officer at The R&A, said, "Gordon is a thoroughly deserving winner of the McCormack Medal and we would like to congratulate him on this significant achievement.

"To perform consistently at such a high level and deliver outstanding performances reflects the hard work and dedication that Gordon has applied as an elite amateur golfer. We look forward to seeing his career continue to prosper in the years ahead."

"Gordon has shown that he is a force in the amateur game, and we're proud to see him

accept this honour and reap the benefits of all that comes with it," said USGA Chief Championships Officer John Bodenhamer.

"All of us at the USGA look forward to watching him compete at St Andrews next week, and know he'll be a presence in our championships for years to come."

The R&A and the USGA co-award the McCormack Medal annually. It is named after Mark H McCormack, who founded sports marketing company IMG and was a great supporter of amateur golf.

The World Amateur Golf Ranking, which is supported by Rolex, was established in 2007 when the men's ranking was launched. The men's ranking encompasses over 3,500 counting events, ranking 4,520 players from 118 countries. The women's ranking was launched in 2011 and has a calendar of around 2,300 counting events with more than 3,322 ranked players from 85 countries.

## **THE R&A AND GOLF** NEW ZEALAND FORM STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

announced they are forming a strategic partnership in the international golf technology solutions provider DotGolf.

The New Zealand-based company was formed in 1999 and is a leading provider of technology solutions for golf clubs and organisations.

The new strategic partnership will see The R&A and Golf New Zealand each take a 50% equity stake in DotGolf. Murray Ward will continue in his role as Chairman of DotGolf, with The R&A and Golf New Zealand both

having two directors on its board. The current Chief Executive of Golf New Zealand, Dean Murphy will step down from that role and become Chief Executive of DotGolf.

The DotGolf technology is already used by national associations in New Zealand, England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, with Australia taking it up from 2024. The joint investment by the two organisations in DotGolf aims to help the company, which employs 25 staff and is headquartered in Auckland, enhance the suite of technology products it offers and develop new technology

platforms that can help attract more people into golf. The partnership will also develop multilingual solutions along with other tools for the utilisation of data and monitoring.

Martin Slumbers, CEO of The R&A, said, "We have a long-term vision for how golf can thrive in the future and a large part of that is based on embracing technological solutions that can bring more people into the game and enhance services to golfers. Golf is a global sport and we believe DotGolf has huge potential to deliver cutting edge platforms and solutions to the industry."

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# **SUMIT TAMES THE WIND!**

arun Sardesai Golf Academy in
Bangalore and Young Master Golf
Tour have collaborated together to hold
WAGR events on a monthly basis to
give players in the South an opportunity to
play more WAGR events.

The first TSG Young Master Monthly Medal, for young juniors and amateurs surpassed expectations with an impressive turnout and competitive scores. Amid challenging and windy weather conditions at the scenic Zion Hills Golf County, Sumit Kotwal showcased exceptional skills in the Mixed Boys and Girls open amateur WAGR category beating the 114thranked amateur in the world Subash Tamang by 2 shots after shooting scores of 76, 72 and 71 with a 3-day total of 3 over par.

In the Open Girls Amateur Category, Tanishka Prithvi demonstrated resilience against the wind, earning her victory with shooting under par on the last 2 days with scores of 81, 71 and 71 with a 3-day total of 7 over par. And finally in the 14



& Under Mixed Juniors category we had Aditya Bharadwaj who emerged triumphant



showcasing his talent with scores of 82, 82, and 85 with a 3-day total of 35 over par.

# **EUROPEAN TEAM FOR 2023 PING JUNIOR SOLHEIM CUP**

aptain Gwladys Nocera has announced the 12 girls that will be representing Europe at the 2023 PING Junior Solheim Cup (PJSC), which will take place at La Zagaleta, Spain, from September 18-19.

Following the conclusion of the R&A Girls' Amateur Championship, the final PJSC qualifying event, the top six ranked players were confirmed to the team.

Spain's Rocío Tejedo topped the ranking with 287.50 points and will be playing in her first PING Junior Solheim Cup.

"It's a dream come true and it has been the highest of my goals this season," said Tejedo. "Being in the team with some of the other Spaniards and other very good players from Europe will be just amazing.

Swedish duo, Nora Sundberg and Meja Örtengren, finished second and third in the rankings with 282.50 and 195.00 points respectively, and will each be playing in the competition for the second time having been

part of the winning European Team in Ohio in 2021.

Germany's Helen Briem will also be making her second consecutive appearance having finished qualification in style winning the R&A Girls' Amateur Championship at the weekend.

The final two automatic qualifiers were Spain's Andrea Revuelta and Belgium's Savannah De Bock, both were part of the winning team last time out.

Nocera alongside Vice-Captain Nora Angehrn had six captain's picks where the criteria used was the PJSC rankings alongside results from all amateur events, the European Women's Amateur Golf Ranking and input from the coaches of European national teams.

Spain will have a total of four players in the team with Cloe Amión and Anna Cañadó being chosen as picks.

Italy's Francesca Fiorellini and Czechia's Denisa Vodickova will be making their second appearances in the contest, and they will



be joined by Switzerland's Yana Beeli and Sweden's Josefin Widal.

A total of seven players from the winning team in 2021 where Europe triumphed 13-11 return for the 2023 PING Junior Solheim and the whole team will be aiming to win back-to-back titles. This will be the 12th edition of the PING Junior Solheim Cup, which has grown from strength to strength since it started in 2022, and the first time it will be played in Spain. With the support of PING and the Solheim family, the competition has developed a reputation for showcasing the best female juniors who go on to become world-class players. 6P

"BEING IN THE TEAM WITH SOME OF THE OTHER SPANIARDS AND OTHER VERY GOOD PLAYERS FROM EUROPE WILL BE JUST AMAZING."

Rocío Tejedo, Spain

# THE NCR CUP 12TH JUNIOR GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date: 9-11 Aug 2023 Venue: Peacock Course, Delhi Golf Club



# VEDIKA LEAPS INTO T-4 AT US KIDS WORLD CHAMPS; 4 INDIANS FINISH IN TOP-6

edika Bhansali, the emerging star from Bengaluru, turned in a superb final round of 3-under 33 to leap into Top-4 of the Girls 7 years category of the US Kids Golf World Championships. As many as four Indians finished in Top-six of the final placings in their respective categories.

Vedika Bhansali, coached by former India pro, Rahul Ganapathy, was fourth as were Nihal Cheema (Boys 6) and Ojaswini Saraswat (Girls 10). Adding to the fine showing were Kabir Goyal (T-6 in Boys 8) and Shambhavi Chaturvedi (T-15 in Girls 11). Later this year, Vedika will play in US Kids Golf India Tour in Bengaluru to be run by Ganapathy.

Vedika picked four birdies in her final round of 3-under 33 as she moved from T-10 to T-4 in Girls 7 at Midland Country Club. The runaway winner in the category was Japan's Emi Minami, who shot under par on each of the three days including a 6-under 30 on second and 4-under 32 on the final day for 12-under 96. Ahana Shah (42) finished T-23 in the same section.

Nihal Cheema despite being hit by bogeys on his last two holes carded even par 36 in the final nine-hole round, He totalled 1-under 107 and ended fourth in Boys 6 Category, as American Jaxon Callon (34) took the top spot at 5-under 103 at Midland Country Club.

In Girls 10 at Southern Pines Golf Club,



Ojaswini Saraswat found two birdies right at the end of her round of 74 but the four bogeys earlier cost her dearly. She ended fourth with 2-under 214. Iris Lee, who led after the first day, won with a final round of 72.

Kabir Goyal, in Boys 8, added a 2-over 38 for Tied-sixth in the third round and finished



at 4-over 112 at Mid Pines (Back) as French youngster Cayssi Dunlop (34) with 1-under 107 emerged the winner. The second Indian, Sahib Aujla, dropped to T-83 after a final round 47.

The two weeks of US Kids World Championships

The two weeks of US Kids World Championships saw over 2200 youngsters from 55 countries, including 21 golfers from India.

## BHAVESH'S MAIDEN WIN AT WAGR EVENT

he Spectators at the Noida Mixed Strokeplay Championship witnessed some spectacular golf by the young brigade. The event was played in hot and windy conditions with the tough pin positions.

Day 1 saw a surprise leader in Bhavesh Nirwan who shot a 68 and was leading the field by two shots from Shat Mishra 70 and three shots from Anshh Dubey & Aryaveer Lamba 71. The second day saw Bhavesh shoot another 68, with three low scores by Anshh Dubey 65, Anshul Bhati 66 and Nikhil Bhatia 67. Bhavesh maintained his top spot with 136 but was joined on the top of the leaderboard by Anshh Dubey

Top Scores

Bhavesh Nirwan
Shat Mishra

**Anshh Dubey** 

**Anshul Bhati** 

Nikhil P.Bhatia

Vihaan Sharma

**Aryaveer Lamba** 

avesh shoot another s by Anshh Dubey 65, khil Bhatia 67. Bhavesh with 136 but was joined oard by Anshh Dubey	
68+68+65 =201	
70+69+64 =203	1 126 1 6 1 2 1 1 1
71+65+73 =209	also 136, and a further 3 shots back we
71+72+71 = 214	Mishra and Anshul Bhati with 139. Da
73+66+75 = 214	Bhavesh and Shat locked in an intense

also 136, and a further 3 shots back were Shat Mishra and Anshul Bhati with 139. Day 3 saw Bhavesh and Shat locked in an intense battle. After the first nine holes, the 3-shot lead of Bhavesh was reduced to 1 shot despite Bhavesh shooting 2 under in the front nine. In the back nine Bhavesh had 3 birdies in a row. Shat made

a small error on the 17th which made life a bit easy for Bhavesh as he had a 1-shot lead coming into the 18th. With another birdie on the 18th, Bhavesh managed to win by 2 shots over Shat Mishra. Bhavesh kept his best round for the last day and shot 65 whereas Shat had an amazing round of 64 with six birdies and one eagle.

**Parth Raman Sood** 75+70+72 = 217

78+67+71 = 216

77+72+69 =217

# TRICOLOR IN PATTAYA!

he spirit was national as the Winners of Corporate Golf Tour teed off in Pattaya Thailand. The start of the event was a celebration of the Independence day wherein all the Participants paid tribute and sang the National Anthem before the start of the Game. The event saw two rounds of Golf being played at the Bangpra Golf Club and the St. Andrews 2000 Golf course which incidentally is a Par 74 course boasting of two Par 6 Holes with a yardage of more than 600 each!

The participants enjoyed Golf, Thai Cuisine and the vibrant nightlife of Pattaya.

A large number of Prizes ensured that everyone went home a winner.

The Event was supported by Tourism Authority of Thailand, New Delhi.



















#### **RESULTS**

#### DAY 1

1 Gross Winner

2 Runner Up Gross

3 Nett Winner

4 Nett Runners Up

5 Winner Ladies

6 Winner Senior

7 Longest Drive

8 Closest to the Pin

Anil Kumar Jule Paresh Sawhney

Parmar Balrajsinh

Ajay Dheer

Vandna Minj (MS)

Prakash Tolani

Anil Kumar Jule

Prakash Tolani

#### **DAY 2 WINNER EACH FOUR BALL**

1 Group 1

2 Group 2

3 Group 3

4 Group 4

. c.oab.

5 Super Senior

7 Longest Drive

Closest to the Pin

Anil Kumar Jule Jalaj kakkar

Parmar Balrajsinh Hemendra Sanghvi

Mahavir Singh Mahalawat

Ajay Dheer

Prakash Tolani





# PAR FOR PAWS

The 6th edition of Par for Paws Golf Tournament focused on Animal Welfare at the Delhi Golf Club, New Delhi.



leo Foundation held the 6th edition of its annual fund raiser event at Delhi Golf Club on the 18th of August at the Lodi Course. The event saw more than ninety participants teeing off in support of the cause for animals. Players and a number of private and public organizations contributed jointly to the cause. The players were in for a treat as they played the elusive main course. The prize distribution was followed by a Gala dinner the next day in the front lawns of the Club.

The field was divided in four groups and there were a number of prizes including Gross, Nett winners and runners up in each group, on course competition. Each winner got to take home an Ergonomic Executive Chair courtesy Featherlite. The event was supported by Tourism Authority of Thailand, Container Corporation, FIEM Industries, JEEP, Heritage Hotels, Mankind Pharma & Kingfisher.

Speaking on the occasion Charu Dev, Trustee Cleo Foundation expressed her gratitude to the Players and the sponsors "It is heart-warming to see so many supporters coming together for the cause, their support will go a long way in helping a large number of animals".



















# **NEW COMMITTEE!**



he Meghalaya Golf Promoters'
Society (MGPS) held its AGM
& elections in July. It is the State
Golf Association for the state
of Meghalaya affiliated with the
Indian Golf Union and Meghalaya State
Olympic Association and registered with
the Registrar of Societies.

They have taken keen interest to promote and develop the game of Golf in the state of Meghalaya and have also conducted various National and International events in the past few years in the state of Meghalaya which has promoted the tourism of the state and brought Meghalaya in the national Golf Map.

Mr AL Hek, Hon'ble Minister, Government of Meghalaya and Chief Advisor of MGPS mentioned about the prospects of Golf Tourism in the State.



#### ELECTED NEW COMMITTEE:

		<del></del> -	
1 President	: Daniel S Jyrwa	5 Chief Patron	: James Sangma
2 Vice President	: Michael Hek	6 Chief Advisor	: AL Hek
3 Secretary	: Gaurav Bajaj	7 Advisor	: Neil Jatiani
4 Treasurer	: Kishan Singhania		





# 7/11 GULMOHAR GOLFER OF THE YEAR

he event took place from 18th- 20th August at Gulmohar Greens-Golf & Country Club as part of the MP Financial Services-Go Golf 2023 calendar. The event saw 47 golfers participating with Winner & Runner Up in various categories. [5]

#	CATEGORY	PRIZES	NAME	GROSS	POINTS
1	Category - 1	Winner	AVTAR SINGH	80	35
2	H'cap 0-14	Runner up	DEVANSH SANGHVI	83	32
3	Category - 2	Winner	NIRAV SONI	86	35
4	H'cap 15-23	Runner up	MANJEET SINGH	93	33
5	Category - 3	Winner	KAMLESH TIWARI	99	33
6	H'cap 24-36	Runner up	HIREN THAKKER	100	32
5	Category - 4	Winner	JUHI MAVANI	96	35
6	JUNIOR	Runner up	DEVJEET SINGH	96	33
		SKIL	L COMPETETIONS	- V	
7	Longest Drive - Hole # 1		ongest Drive - Hole # 1 MAHARSHI PATEL 247 YARDS		
8	Closest to Pin - Hole #3		JUHI MAVANI	6 FT	OVER ALL
9	2nd Shot Closest to Pin - Hole #9		YASH SHAH	11'5" FT	





# **CADDIE GOLF TOURNAMENT**

ujarat Caddie golf tournament 22nd Aug 23 at GLADE ONE GOLF CLUB saw 88 caddies participating from 11 Golf Course. Many club golfers came forward to support the cause, the tournament was indeed an encouragement for caddies.















Open. The two-time LET winner, Dagar, ended the tournament with another superb back-nine show.

After a 2-over front nine, she was 3-under for the back nine for a 1-under scorecard. With rounds of 74-71-72-71, she totalled even par 288 for four days. Aditi Ashok shot a second straight 75 to fall to T-40 with rounds of 72-69-75-75. She was Tied-ninth at the halfway stage of the tournament but slipped over the weekend.

Lilia Vu was simply magnificent as she strode to a six-shot victory in the 2023 edition of the AIG Women's Open.

After opening with a two-over-par 72, the American moved through the gears over the weekend and eventually saw off home favourite Charley Hull by a comfortable margin.





# INDIA CEMENTS PRO CHAMPIONSHIP Launched Jointly by India Cements & PGTI

• Vedica Himalayan Spring Water comes on board as Tour Partner of PGTI



ndia Cements, the title sponsor and Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), the official sanctioning body of professional golf in India, on August 14 jointly announced the India Cements Pro Championship 2023 which was to be held at the Tamil Nadu Golf Federation (TNGF) Cosmo Golf Course from August 16 – 19, 2023.

The tournament marked the beginning of the action-packed second half of the 2023 TATA Steel PGTI season. The India Cements Pro Championship 2023 offered a prize purse of INR 50 lakh, the highest-ever prize money for a men's professional event in Chennai.

Content Editor: Nikhil Kalaan, Media Manager, PGTI

Mr. N Srinivasan, Vice-Chairman & Managing Director, India Cements, said, "Golf remains as one of the most celebrated sports across the world. India Cements has significantly contributed to the development of a golf course in Chennai and organizing golf tournaments.

"As an avid golfer myself, I am very proud of the major role played by Tamil Nadu Golf Federation, formed in 1996, in transforming the golf course at Nandanam in Chennai, to modern standards. Over the years its membership has more than doubled and we see a large number of golf loving expatriates and Indians playing at the golf course."

Further, he said, "TNGF has spent lot of money

in the last two decades and has transformed it into a lush green course equipped with modern facilities, better infrastructure, green keeping, trained manpower along with a golf academy for training budding golfers. More recently, TNGF has established a new clubhouse."

Mr. Parthasarathy Ramanujam, Chief Marketing Officer, India Cements and an avid golfer said, "India Cements has a rich sporting tradition and as a title sponsor, we are proud of the long awaited Pro Championship returning to Chennai.

"India Cements has 75 years of legacy and it is one of the largest producers of cement in South India. The Company's name is synonymous with strength and durability as well as sports.























"INDIA CEMENTS HAS
A RICH SPORTING
TRADITION AND AS A TITLE
SPONSOR, WE ARE PROUD
OF THE LONG AWAITED
PRO CHAMPIONSHIP
RETURNING TO CHENNAI.

The Company has made a rich contribution to the development of sports and sportspersons including golfers and golf through TNGF."

The event was to witness participation by 126 golfers including 123 professionals and three amateurs. The leading Indian professionals in the field included Om Prakash Chouhan, Aman Raj, Karan Pratap Singh, Sachin Baisoya and Gaurav Pratap Singh, to name a few.

The week saw PGTI also welcome on board Bisleri Vedica Himalayan Spring Water as Tour Partner. Born of a clear spring, that gushes from its Himalayan labyrinth, Vedica is the finest life taken to another altitude. Vedica Himalayan Spring water is a single source natural mountain water, that is bottled at the source. Vedica Himalayan Spring Water has a fine balance of naturally occurring calcium, magnesium, sodium, sulphates and bicarbonates. It is naturally alkaline, thus making it a natural antacid, acting as a calming antidote to our stressful urban lives.

Mr. Tushar Malhotra, Head of Marketing, Bisleri International Pvt Ltd, commented, "Bisleri Vedica Himalayan Spring Water stands as the preferred option for the sophisticated, epicurean and health-conscious consumer. Our collaboration with Professional Golf Tour of India is the perfect association to celebrate a life #FullOfAltitude."

Mr. Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI, said, "We thank India Cements for partnering

with us in launching the India Cements Pro Championship. With the support of India Cements, a great patron for sports in India, the growth story of Indian professional golf receives yet another major boost. I would personally like to thank Mr. N Srinivasan for sharing PGTI's vision. It was Mr. N Srinivasan's encouragement and support that helped PGTI make its long-awaited return to Chennai last season with the staging of its event at TNGF Cosmo Golf Course."

He further stated, "We are delighted to partner with Bisleri Vedica Himalayan Spring Water as the Tour Partner. It is a perfect synergy as, like the game Bisleri Vedica also strives for excellence. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship. Here's wishing the players all the best as an exciting second half of the season lies in prospect."

TNGF Cosmo Golf Course was the Venue Partner, Crowne Plaza Chennai was the Hospitality Partner and Ballantine's was the Associate Partner for the event.













# SUNHIT BISHNOI OUTSHINES FIELD TO LAND MAIDEN TITLE AT INAUGURAL INDIA CEMENTS PRO CHAMPIONSHIP

urugram's Sunhit Bishnoi was a cut above the rest as he produced a red-hot eight-under 64 on the final day to outshine the rest of the field and land his maiden title at the inaugural India Cements Pro Championship played at the TNGF Cosmo Golf Course in Chennai.

The 22-year-old Sunhit (66-68-70-64), playing only his second season as a professional, totaled 20-under 268 at the Rs. 50 lakh event to emerge wire-to-wire winner with an imposing nine-stroke margin. Bishnoi's last round of 64 matched the tournament's lowest score shot by Divyanshu Bajaj on day three.

Bangladesh's Jamal Hossain (67-69-71-70) took second place at a distant 11-under 277.

Sunhit Bishnoi dominated the tournament by leading in the first three rounds and then maintaining his stranglehold on the leaderboard from start to finish in round four too.

Bishnoi, the joint leader along with Akshay Sharma going into the final round, was quick off the blocks on day four with an eagle on the par-5 second hole where he landed his second shot 10 feet from the pin. This was followed by birdies for Sunhit on the next three holes that gave him a commanding seven-shot lead.

After a bogey on the eighth, Sunhit, the 2022 National Games bronze medalist for Haryana, was back to firing on all cylinders as he added four more birdies on the back-nine where he drove one of the par-4 greens and made his second chip-in of the day.

Bishnoi collected the winning cheque worth Rs.



7,50,000 to move up 16 spots from 25th to ninth position on the TATA Steel PGTI Rankings.

Sunhit said, "It feels really good to win in just my second season as a professional. When you know that your hard work is paying off, it boosts your confidence. I dedicate this win to my parents and my sister Gaurika who is also a professional golfer. I keep talking to my sister after my rounds and often take her advice as she

"IT FEELS REALLY GOOD TO WIN IN JUST MY SECOND SEASON AS A PROFESSIONAL. WHEN YOU KNOW THAT YOUR HARD WORK IS PAYING OFF, IT BOOSTS YOUR CONFIDENCE."





has more years of experience as a professional golfer than I do.

"Being five-under on the first five holes helped me calm my nerves and relax. It set the tone for the rest of the round. However, I was not keeping track of my score but instead just focusing on the job at hand."

Jamal Hossain pocketed three birdies and a bogey in round four and was among the many other contenders who couldn't catch up with the pace set early on by Sunhit in round four. 6P













# HARSHJEET SINGH SETHIE DRIVES HIS WAY TO MAIDEN TITLE, UPSTAGES EXPERIENCED OM PRAKASH CHOUHAN IN A PLAYOFF AT COIMBATORE OPEN 2023 PRESENTED BY KGISL

elhi golfer Harshjeet Singh Sethie saved his best for the last as his gallant effort of five-under 67, the eventful final day's lowest score, took him into a playoff where he upstaged the experienced Om Prakash Chouhan of Mhow by driving his way to his maiden title at the Rs. 1 crore Coimbatore Open 2023 presented by KGiSL played at the Coimbatore Golf Club.

The 21-year-old Harshjeet (69-67-72-67), who stands tall at a towering height of six feet and seven inches, collected the winning cheque worth Rs. 15,00,000 to skyrocket 70 spots from 81st to 11th position in the TATA Steel PGTI Rankings.

Om Prakash Chouhan (67-71-68-69), who like Sethie also totaled 13-under 275 for the week before losing out on the second playoff hole to the latter, further consolidated his lead on the PGTI's money list with his runner-up finish that earned him a cheque worth Rs. 10,00,000.

Harshjeet Singh Sethie, lying overnight fifth and four off the lead, was even-par for the day before he made one and all sit up and take notice with his eagle and three birdies between the ninth and 13th. The pro from the Delhi Golf Club drove two par-4s on the back-nine.

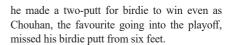
Sethie, playing his third season as a pro and struggling in the first half of 2023 making just two cuts out of eight starts, then met PGTI Order of Merit leader Om Prakash Chouhan in



the playoff who had shot five birdies and two bogeys for his 69 in round four. Om Prakash had begun the final round being two off the lead in tied second place.

After a deadlock on the first playoff hole, the second playoff hole saw Harshjeet unleash yet another sensational drive on the par-4 18th that found the green where the yardage read 395 yards. This led to huge cheers from the crowd as it left Sethie with a 15-feet eagle putt.

Sethie finally registered a huge upset when



**SO I COULD END IT WITH** 

ONE GOOD DRIVE.

Harshjeet said, "In the playoff, I knew 'OP' (Om Prakash Chouhan) would hit a wedge into the green so I could end it with one good drive. I got the just reward for my aggressive approach.

"I had been struggling with my game before I went and consulted my coach Jesse Grewal in Chandigarh during the off-season. While in Chandigarh, where I spent a lot of time over the last three months, I worked hard on my fitness, swing and mindset that helped turn things around for me.

"I thank my parents, my coach, my fitness trainer and my sponsor for all their support. This win means a lot to me as it came in such tough conditions and I won in a playoff against a far more experienced opponent."

















#### TATA STEEL PGTI RANKINGS

Tata Steel PGTI Rankings as of COIMBATORE OPEN 2023 presented by KGiSL (EVENT - 10)

			<u> </u>				
POS	GOLFER	HOME TOWN	PLAYED	WINS	CUTS	TOP-10s	TOTAL PRIZE
1	OM PRAKASH CHOUHAN	MHOW	10	1	6	5	₹ 6340667
2	AMAN RAJ	PATNA	8	1	8	4	₹ 3833500
3	KARAN PRATAP SINGH	FARIDABAD	9	1	8	3	₹ 3545263
4	SACHIN BAISOYA	DELHI	10	1	8	2	₹ 2922033
5	JAMAL HOSSAIN	DHAKA	9	1	7	3	₹ 2918485
6	GAURAV PRATAP SINGH	NOIDA	9	1	8	3	₹ 2363715
7	KARTIK SHARMA	GURUGRAM	6	0	6	2	₹ 1938128
8	ARYAN ROOPA ANAND	MYSORE	8	0	6	3	₹ 1926615
9	VEER AHLAWAT	GURUGRAM	3	0	3	1	₹ 1904220
10	SUNHIT BISHNOI	GURUGRAM	9	1	9	3	₹ 1836313
11	HARSHJEET SINGH SETHIE	DELHI	9	1	3	1	₹ 1652167
12	KAPIL KUMAR	DELHI	8	0	7	3	₹ 1609552
13	HONEY BAISOYA	DELHI	4	0	4	2	₹ 1608104
14	ANGAD CHEEMA	MOHALI	9	0	6	0	₹ 1584667
15	M DHARMA	BENGALURU	10	0	10	1	₹ 1556359
16	ARJUN SHARMA	GREATER NOIDA	9	0	8	1	₹ 1547440
17	HARENDRA GUPTA	CHANDIGARH	9	0	6	4	₹ 1480950
18	VARUN CHOPRA	CHAMPAIGN	5	0	4	2	₹ 1345550
19	YUVRAJ SINGH SANDHU	CHANDIGARH	6	0	5	0	₹ 1280290
20	ABHINAV LOHAN	FARIDABAD	10	0	7	2	₹ 1267723
21	KSHITIJ NAVEED KAUL	FARIDABAD	10	0	6	2	₹ 1264291
22	SAPTAK TALWAR	DELHI	7	0	6	3	₹ 1230392
23	SUDHIR SHARMA	GREATER NOIDA	8	0	6	1	₹ 1168860
24	N THANGARAJA	COLOMBO	10	0	5	2	₹ 1168463
25	RASHID KHAN	NOIDA	4	0	2	1	₹ 1150575













# INDIA AT THE ASIAN GAMES

With the Asian Games around the corner, here's a look at the previous men's teams that have represented India at the quadrennial event from the 2006 edition till the 2018 edition:

#### **DOHA 2006**

**Indian Team:** Anirban Lahiri, Gaganjeet Bhullar, Chiragh Kumar, Joseph Chakola

**Team Silver** 





#### **GUANGZHOU 2010**

Indian Team: Rashid Khan, Abhijit Singh Chadha, Abhinav Lohan, Rahul Bajaj

**Team Silver** 





















## **JAKARTA 2018**

**Indian Team:** Aadil Bedi, Kshitij Naveed Kaul, Harimohan Singh, Rayhan Thomas













# **ADOPT A WIDOW MOTHER**

"When you Adopt a Widow Mother, two lives are changed : a Mothers' and yours."

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