

AAC 2021, an unforgettable experience for Indian Team p46

MONTHLY

GolfPlus

February 2022, ₹ 150

Registration No. UP/GBD-68/2021-2023

RNI No. UPENG/2008/25541

No.1 Golf Magazine
in India

FIRST-TIME
PGA TOUR
WINNERS
IN 2022

VIKTOR
HOVLAND

WINS

DUBAI DESERT
CLASSIC

INTERVIEW

ADAM SCOTT
AND HIS
FAVOURITES

PLAY BETTER

- Chris Ryan ● Adrian Fryer
- Simon Payne

Slync.io

MEDIA ASSOCIATES



MEDIA PARTNER



DON'T MISS... NEWS // SNIPPETS // CLUB NEWS // FEATURES // INSTRUCTIONS
TIPS // EQUIPMENT // DESTINATIONS // TRAVEL PLUS... PGTI // RANKINGS

Contents

February 2022

This month don't miss...



Feature

16 HOVLAND WINS DUBAI DESERT CLASSIC

Viktor Hovland won his first Rolex Series title as he completed a sensational finish with a play-off victory over Richard Bland, the Norwegian was barely in the picture when he missed a short putt and made a bogey on the 15th but he finished birdie-eagle-birdie to sign for a 66 and post the target at 12 under.

20 EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR 2022

A primer on all that's new in the New Year. We'll get you caught up on the current PGA TOUR season and let you know about the biggest changes ahead.

26 MAGICAL MATSUYAMA EQUALS WIN'S RECORD IN STUNNING FASHION

Japanese star Hideki Matsuyama delivered a grandstand finish in a playoff against a luckless Russell Henley to lift his career eighth title at the Sony Open in Hawaii and equal K.J. Choi's record of total victories by an Asian golfer on the PGA TOUR.

28 JOOHYUNG KIM TOUR NUMBER ONE AFTER PLAY-OFF DRAMA

Korea's 19-year-old prodigious talent holed a pressure-packed 14-foot birdie putt on the first extra hole, on the Tampines Course's daunting par-five 18th, before Rattanon missed his birdie attempt from eight feet.

29 RELENTLESS SADOM MAKES IT SIX IN SINGAPORE

Thailand's Sodom Kaewkanjana secured the biggest title of his fledgling career

when he won the US\$1.25 million SMBC Singapore Open. Sodom, the joint-overnight leader, fired a composed bogey-free 69 on the Serapong Course to finish on 13 under and beat Japan's Yuto Katsuragawa and Joohyung Kim from Korea by three strokes.

30 PERFECTION FOR PIETERS

Thomas Pieters became the first Belgian to win a Rolex Series event after outlasting a star-studded field with a superb display of poise and composure to claim the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship title. A birdie at the eighth hole moved him three shots clear while other stars moved in and out.

32 TOP THREE ON EUROPEAN TOUR

Meet your DP World Tour Rankings leaders - Collin Morikawa, Billy Horschela and Jon Rahm.

Instructions

35 QUICK FIX... THUMBS UP

A tight hold destroys chipping feel and awareness, Coach CHRIS RYAN shares easy tip to fix the problem.

38 BREAK 100/90/80, BETTER PUTTING

SIMON PAYNE examines two areas where problems frequently crop up...and teaches how to deal with them.

42 GET UPWARDLY MOBILE

Senior PGA professional, GILBERT HEPBURN explains how your driver attack angle can add significant distance – put this simple drill into play for maximum gains. Learn from the pro!

PGTI

56 TATA STEEL PGTI 2022 SEASON - EVENT SCHEDULE

The TATA Steel PGTI has announced its schedule of events for February to April 2022. The packed schedule features nine back-to-back events over nine weeks.

57 SHUBHANKAR CLINCHES JOINT RUNNER-UP FINISH

Twenty-five-year-old Shubhankar finished one shot behind winner Thomas Pieters of Belgium. The Indian shared second place with Rafa Cabrera Bello of Spain at the DP World Tour's Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship.

59 PGTI STATS – 2020-2021

Here's a look at TATA Steel PGTI's stats from the 2020-2021 Season which includes Order of Merit Champion, Emerging Player of the Year, First Time Winners and more interesting facts.



Disclaimer: The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors and contributors in this issue do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the publication.



The Indian Golf Union

The governing body for Golf in India

Q&A

with

SHAURYA

BINU BHARATHAN

Seventeen years old is a budding Indian golfer aiming to represent India at the highest levels in the game.

Q Who prompted you to take up golf out of all the other sports?

Shaurya: From what my parents tell me, I was always been an active kid with a natural flare for sports and possessed an impressive hand eye coordination skills. On my first birthday I could dribble a full sized basketball and by the time I was 2 years and six months, I was hitting a plastic cricket ball well over the head of the bowler who usually was my Father. My parents persuaded me to seriously pursue golf as a sport as I could hit the ball really long for my age. The recent podium finishes at the IGU Junior Nationals and Amateurs have been great sources of encouragement for me and I am confident of equal and better performances in future.

GP: How do you manage your time to juggle between golf and studies?

Shaurya: Yes, balancing studies and golf, both as full time activity, is quite challenging. My schedule would obviously look very different from regular kid of my age, I do have to let go



2nd Runner Up at IGU Mens Amateur Mumbai



Asia Pacific Thailand Masters

of stuffs like hanging out with friends, movies etc that kids of my age would normally do. I am pursuing 12th science from Army Public School, Bangalore. My school has been extremely understanding and supportive of my situation and have facilitated me with extra classes and rescheduling of exam.

GP: What has been the role of IGU in your journey as an amateur golfer?

Shaurya: According to me IGU is the main golfing platform in the country, which gives a very progressive format for developing golfing skills to juniors. Naturally, my golfing journey has been intimately linked with IGU starting from the Junior Zonal Feeder Tours to IGU Junior Nationals and presently with the IGU Men's Amateur Tour. I topped the order of merit for 2017/18 South Zone Junior Tour in Boys B Category. The recent win in the Junior National Finals at Ahmedabad is a great culmination to my journey as a Junior IGU Tour Player. This year in June, I will be turning 18 and continue my foray in the Amateurs circuit. My goal for the upcoming year is to represent the country as an amateur golfer through IGU.

GP: What are your future plans?

Shaurya: I had a fair opening run in the few IGU Amateur Golf tournaments I participated in last year with three top ten finishes and a podium finish as a runner up in IGU Men's

Amateur at BPGC, Mumbai. Next year my focus is to compete well on the IGU Amateur Tour and represent the country in international platforms. My long term goal is of course to eventually turn professional and do my country proud by competing and winning in top international golfing competitions including the PGA.

GP: How are you coping with the current scenario of Covid 19?

Shaurya: COVID has been a challenging time for everyone, at the same time, one needs to somehow find ways and means to turn challenges into opportunity. During the first lockdown we made a golf practice range on the building terrace with blankets as ball trappers and carpets as hitting mat and also continue to train within the applicable restrictions.

GP: How are you keeping up your practice regimen?

Shaurya: The training regime at TSG Academy is methodically planned and tailor-made to the strengths and weaknesses of individual players. I follow a very time bound schedule varying from short and long game drills, tournament practice and also physio training. During the days of exams I have to tone down the practice hours and focus on studies but I try to give in at least a couple of hours of golf. **GP**



With Anirban Lahiri and Devang Shah at Junior Nationals