

GOLFINGLY YOURS

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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE INDIAN GOLF UNION



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I take over as President of the Indian Golf Union at a very crucial juncture of the sport in India. The game has grown from strength to strength under the leadership of the past presidents and I am extremely grateful to them for providing me with a solid platform.

With golf becoming an Olympic sport, the interest in the game is growing but the challenges for the game remain as the infrastructure is not growing at the same speed.

We need more public courses where every citizen of the country can aspire to play and represent the country at the highest arena of sports. Today a few individuals are leading the growth of the infrastructure. We require the Government to take cognizance of the needs of the game and help in its growth by partnering the fraternity in creating new facilities in terms of Courses / Driving Ranges etc.

Golf is a unique game as we don't have a fixed arena to play in. Each course and its playing condition is unique and reflects the designer's ideas on how the game should be played.

I am briefly highlighting below the activities and initiatives of the Indian Golf Union to give an idea of its role in developing the game in the country.

The IGU, as the governing body of golf in India

- conducts over 75 Amateur Tournaments each year - for men, women, juniors and sub-juniors.
- conducts the Amateur Golf Championship of India, the 2nd oldest golf tournament in the world (Est. 1892).
- conducts the "Indian Open", a US\$1.5 million event on the European Tour and the Asian Tour – the longest and oldest running annual international Golf event in India – for over 50 years.
- trains the National squads and selects teams to represent India in the Asian Games, Asia Pacific Amateur Team Championship, World Amateur Team Championship, Asian Senior Amateur, Asian Junior Amateur, Faldo Junior Series, Queen Sirikit Cup, etc.
- runs Junior Coaching programmes - Grassroots to Excellence - across the country. Recently launched the National Initiative for Golf in Schools (NIGS) programme.


ROLEX

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Director General's Message



It has been a busy quarter with activities being undertaken in varied fields. The Indian Amateur Team comprising six players participated in Asia Pacific Amateur Championship held at Royal Melbourne Golf Club from 21-26 October 2014. The players started off well but were caught on the wrong side of the

golf course in third and fourth round. Rigel Fernandes ended up with the best show among Indians and finished tied 15th. However, our most promising Junior golfer, Viraj Madappa got over his not so impressive performance at Melbourne by winning two back to back events in Kolkata.

The All India Amateur Championships were held in December in all categories as a year-ending finale and the following were crowned as Amateur Champions 2014:

- a) Trishul Chinappa (Men)
- b) Aditi Ashok (Women)
- c) Viraj Madappa (Juniors)
- d) Udayjit Bhalotia (Sub Junior)

Dr. Micah Woods and Mr. Jim Prusa conducted a course maintenance workshop for the green keepers at Eagleton Golf Course from 17-21 November 2014. The workshop was well attended and the delegates participated with enthusiasm while learning newer ways of green keeping.

An Introductory Level 1 Rules Certification Programme was conducted at the Army Golf Club, New Delhi on 12 November 2014. The programme was attended by a large number of ladies which only shows the growth of golf among the fairer gender. Level 2 Certification Programme is scheduled at Hyderabad Golf Club in the second week of January 2015 and more than 50 participants are expected.

The new team of Officer Bearers led by the President Mr. Jaydeep Chitlangia took office on 1st November. We wish the new team a successful year ahead.

Wg. Cdr. Arun K. Singh (Retd.)

- runs the National Golf Academy of India (NGAI) at Chandigarh – over 450 coaches have been certified including coaches from Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The NGAI also conducts various programmes in association the European PGA experts in various fields to enhance the knowledge base of our coaches, as better coaches make better players.

- under the R&A Rules Certification Programme, IGU runs Referee Certification and Tournament Directors Courses and has certified over 90 referees
- provides the National Handicap Service (NHS), to administer and issue handicaps to all golfers in India.
- rates golf courses and conducts rating workshops in collaboration with the USGA.
- conducts Golf Course Superintendents Programmes with world-renowned experts like TurfGuru Dr. Micah Woods:

and many more, which makes the Indian Golf Union truly the flag bearer of Indian Golf.

The National Squad Programme ensures that the leading amateur players get focused attention to hone their skills. The IGU also provides added international exposure so that our players get sufficient opportunities to benchmark their abilities with others, as well as experience a variety of courses and conditions around the world. These initiatives elevate standards and enable our players to leave their mark in most international events that they participate in.

The results speak for themselves.

With these initiatives and programmes, the IGU is on course to fulfilling its primary goal—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.

As the year comes to a close, we will see three new National Champions in the month of December, as 3 players will be crowned, 1 each in Amateur Championships for Men, Women and Juniors.

I take this opportunity to thank our partners, Hero Motocorp, Tata Steel, Rolex, Usha International and Yes Bank, for having supported us in our endeavour to promote golf.

I would also like to thank all the golf clubs in the country who gracefully accepted to host the IGU golf events in the year 2014.

We are happy that Golf Plus enables the IGU to reach out to a greater community of golfers and stakeholders.

Should you have any feedback on how we can grow or improve the game do write in to us at feedback@indiangolfunion.org, and we will be happy to consider the same.

I see a bright future for golf in India and I wish all of you Happy Golfing.

Golfingly Yours

Jaydeep Chitlangia
President



OBITER DICTA...



With a twinge of regret, I will have to say goodbye as the Editor of this wonderful magazine of the IGU. From offering to revive the magazine to bringing it to this stage has been a very pleasant and rewarding exercise. Pleasant because writing and editing is a panacea for stress and rewarding because while it gave me a lot of pleasure, I had the opportunity to

interact with so many people and learn from them.

The Media Committee of the IGU headed by our VP, Anil Seolekar will take over this function for 2015 onwards. I wish them the very best in their endeavours while thanking past Presidents, Rohit Amin, Manjit Singh, Gen. Bikram Singh and Raian Irani for entrusting this prestigious portfolio to me.

The IGU Council for 2014-15 was elected to office at Kolkata on November 1, 2014. For the first time and in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the National Sports Code issued by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, GOI, elections were held for the office of the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer. As was done last year, the President was also elected on the floor, conducted by the returning officer, Mr. Anil Chowdry, I.P.S (Retd.) in the presence of Group Captain S. Bhatnagar, Regional Director of SAI, as the government observer (nominee).

This Council has several changes in its composition. We bid adieu to Brijender Singh, Kapil Channa, K.K. Raman, Anuva Saurabh, Lt. Gen. Anjan Mukherjee, Lt. Gen. Sanjeev Anand, Sanjev Rattan, S.K. Nandal and Prabhat Chaturvedi and thank them for their services and guidance.

The emergence of Aditi Ashok and Trishul Chinnappa, both Bangaloreans as the 2014 National Women's and Men's Champions,

respectively, is complete. I have the privilege of knowing both these individuals well and must say that they are very well brought up and are great ambassadors of the game. It is understood that Trishul and Udayan Mane will turn professional soon and the IGU wishes them the very best while thanking them for their efforts. Aditi, at 16, has still a long way to go and knowing the person she is, she will work even harder to get there. Tushaar Malhotra reports on the National Championships in this issue.

Former Indian cricketer turned mind coach, Sujith Somasunder writes about the imperfections of perfection. Writer and statesman Goethe was spot on when he said, "Certain flaws are necessary for the whole. It would seem strange if old friends lacked certain quirks." Shaili Chopra met with Tiger Woods at Orlando and recounts that experience. His best buddy Arjun Atwal had a much-needed win at Dubai recently and many congratulations to Arjun for that.

One would think that any golfer knows what to do when his ball ends up on a wrong putting green. Apparently, Noh did not and Kevin Barker points out that folly and points worth remembering.

Jaydeep Chitlangia from Kolkata has taken over as the President of the IGU from Raian Irani. While wishing him the very best in his endeavours to grow this game in India, I must take a moment to salute Raian for all his efforts over the years starting out as Junior Golf Committee member rising to lead the IGU in what we know as difficult, transition times. Thank you Raian, it was an unique privilege working with you and under your leadership. Good health and Godspeed!

Uruguyan journalist Eduardo Galeano provides me with an apt exit, "History never really says goodbye. History says, 'See you later.'"

Au revoir,

Ishwar Achanta

Email: ishwar.achanta@indiangolfunion.org

IGU Council 2013-14



Standing (l to r) Ishwar Achanta, Anil Seolekar, Arun Singh (DG), Farzan Heerjee, Dr. Satbinder Singh, Anjan Mukherjee and Gaurav Gosh, Sitting (l to r) Ajay Chandele, Dilip Thomas, Monisha Ajmera, Raian F. Irani, Jaydeep Chitlangia and Mukesh Sabharwal



FEATURES

The Imperfections of Perfectionism



Precision, Accuracy, Efficiency, Error-free and Perfection are all excellent qualities to possess in many endeavours. However if taken to an extreme, particularly in golf, the very same qualities that breeds success can cause failure. Perfectionism is a double edged sword. Most players who are perfectionists, in their efforts to get better, tend to push themselves to an extreme level. The positive side is that they develop

an excellent work ethic and a great practice mindset. They are often identified as the coaches' delight! However, the negative side is that they tend to have an ineffective performance mind set which can interfere with them reaching peak performance.

A perfectionist sets very high standards/goals and high expectations from oneself. This attitude cannot tolerate failure and there is simply no room for errors, misses or anything less than a perfect performance. The game of golf to add to the woes, fosters perfectionism and yet as human beings we aren't perfect. So, when a perfectionist makes a mistake which is almost inevitable in golf, frustration set in. This in turn leads to ineffective behaviour such as criticising oneself thereby hampering one's confidence, trying too hard or pressing and trying to control the swings too much all in order to play at their best and produce desired results. They will be engulfed with a fear of failure and caught in a web of anxiety. All this will only snowball further into deterioration of their execution and thereby the performance.

It's said that golf is a game of misses and one who can manage their mistakes/misses effectively will prevail. In this article, I present some ideas for dealing with the negative side of Perfectionism.

1) Get rid of your Expectations

Expectations cannot exist without upsets. Expectations are always about results and results are not under anybody's direct control. Placing high expectations on oneself will lead to a win-lose or a success-failure equation. There is no middle ground and therefore whenever one doesn't reach their expectation, the efforts are viewed as a loss or a failure. Therefore failed expectations almost certainly leads to frustration (a mind-set not favourable for success or peak performance). So, setting attainable goals are a better option and further breaking them down into process and action goals such as hitting certain number of fairways per round, maintaining the swing tempo, visualising every shot to be played etc. are some examples of process, action / controllable goals.

2) Emphasize Fun, not Winning

Everyone loves to win and that is the ultimate goal of any sportsman. However, over emphasis on winning or beating others, will result in performance anxiety. When one cannot directly control the outcome of the competition and when everyone is doing their best to win, a better competitive goal is to focus on enjoyment and having fun on the course. When one is having fun, the body is more relaxed, the mind is more open for possibilities. All these conditions will only lead to peak performance and are pre conditions to playing in the 'zone' and maybe eventually winning.

3) Don't Dwell on Mistakes

A perfectionist has a tendency to focus more on his mistakes and the negatives in order to find a solution, eliminate or even worse avoid. During competition, it will lead to a tendency to focus on avoiding failure rather than striving for success. This mindset of dwelling on mistakes is unhealthy. It constantly reminds one of their deficiency or weakness which only erodes ones self-belief and confidence. Research suggests that one who has the ability to focus on the positives and one's strengths, will be able to bounce back from setbacks and temporary failures. A good strategy would be to make a conscious choice of letting go of errors and develop the ability to remember, recollect and visualise the good shots rather than replaying the bad shots over and over.

4) Give yourself permission to make mistakes

A Perfectionist comes from a view that anything short of a flawless performance is failure. We know that even the best of the best golfers make mistakes. We are only human and prone to making a mistake. One has to accept that errors are bound to occur. So sometimes it helps to give oneself permission to make mistakes. This will enable the player to play on with freedom, confidence and composure, even after making mistakes without ruining one's game.

5) Try Less

Most hardworking players think that while competing, the harder they try the better they will play. In golf especially, the harder one tries, the worse the outcome gets. That's because when one tries harder, the muscles tense up, interfering with a smooth and natural swing. It's beautifully summed up saying, "one has to give up control to gain control".

Next time you compete on the course, just trust yourself and let things happen instead of 'trying' to make things happen - you may surprise yourself!

For more information call Sujith Somasundar on 9845211023 - Certified Mind Coach and a Certified High Performance Coach or write to Sujithsom@gmail.com

Sujith Somasundar

With grateful thanks Raian Irani from the Council of the IGU



Jaydeep presenting a salver to Raian as Abhi Parmar looks on



FEATURES - SHAILI SPEAKS

An Afternoon with Tiger on his Turf



It's a fine crisp winter morning in Orlando. The course is ready for some seriously long drives. The putting and practice area is full with spectators of all ages and suddenly there is a loud cry... Some kids are chasing a golf cart yelling 'Tiger', 'Tiger'. From being a busy day on the course, it becomes frenzy. Such is the grasp the man has on his fans. Everyone was running after him. He had arrived for the tournament.

And so here I was, all set to meet Tiger. I didn't have to chase the cart luckily, this was by appointment. I had flown more than half the world for my few minutes with Tiger Woods. I have been the face of Indian golf coverage for over a decade but suddenly I was the groupie, the fan-girl finally getting to do the interview I have always wanted.

We met below the canopy of the very prestigious Isleworth Golf Club, which also at one point was Tiger's home course. This is his comeback to the sport after a four-month break. His game has been lousy and even he would admit that. But just how does the world's great golfer deal with constant scrutiny and attention? And all that expectation that Tiger shouldn't falter at his game of all things. Tiger seems to accept the fact with a degree of ease. "My entire career has been documented. I am in the spotlight since the day I turned pro. It's been different with me. We have a 24 news cycle now which we didn't have when Jack (Nicklaus) and Arnold (Palmer) were playing. Now we also have social media. So in a way the world has become more intimate. Things are travelling faster in seconds instead of – at that time – even weeks or days. It's a totally different global climate now but it's also one that can work for you in a positive way."

You'd think he would be more guarded given the upheaval he has gone through in his life after his multiple sex scandals broke out in public. But he remains at peace with himself, or at least that how he projects it. He had spent the last four months with his children doing things that dads do with them. Part of this break was also recuperation for his incessant injuries, which he needs to nurse time to time. We move from the subject of his health to what he plans to do in India with his foundation and how he could be seen supporting golfers in the country. His visit in February 2014 left him with pleasant memories and the latest branding deal with Hero Moto gives him more opportunities to come here.

His best buddy Arjun Atwal, who also stays in Orlando, has done well to share good things about India including getting Tiger addicted to butter chicken. "I've heard so much about India from Arjun. He's been trying to get me go there for years. I finally went and had just had a blast. Had a great time. Arjun was supposed to be here to play. Arjun and I have been fantastic friends, and the people that



he's introduced me to from India that come over here besides his family, they couldn't have been nicer." Tiger shares he is not coming for the Indian Open in 2015 - having experienced the fantastic Delhi Golf Course - but would definitely plan a few others in the future. For now, he is excited with the new golf talent emerging from countries like India and China though he laughs and warns, "Maybe some little boy will be better than me but the idea is for me to keep playing well so he won't kick my butt yet."



Shaili Chopra

*Award winning Journalist & Author
Founder of golfingindian.com*



FEATURES

And the Winner is... The Game of Golf!!

Those 72 holes of golf that were played without a hitch at the Incheon Asian Games, in not so perfect conditions, is a testimony to the character of the game. The Dream Park Golf Course was definitely in no shape to host such an event. Chosen by the Government of Korea, the Incheon Asian Games Committee had no choice but to play the games here. Landfilled over 7 painstaking years of effort with the garbage of Seoul and Incheon cities, the course will be a beauty in a few years.

20 Inches of Grass

Setting up the course was a challenge as the club management insisted on keeping the fairway heights at 20 inches.

The two main species of grass used at the DPCC is Kentucky Blue grass and Korean Zoysia. The Asia Pacific Golf Confederation, responsible for the technical conduct of Asian Games adopts international practices of cutting fairways heights and widths while keeping in mind various factors and optimal was 10-12 mm with widths of 25 metres. The Club management had steadfastly been refusing to comply stating that such grass varieties are non-spreading and a low cut would reduce root depth and vigour and damage the grass.

At this height, while the playing of a game of golf was eminently possible, it was not appropriate for a tournament of the standards of the Asiad. The ability to hit down on the ball as the technique of the game demands is considerably affected by the ball, sitting up high.

While such grass varieties are used in golf courses throughout Asia depending on climatic conditions, the real issue was that the Club was reluctant to cut as the roots would be exposed to winter kill, a couple of months away. Better senses prevailed and we were able to get the grass down to 16 mm.

19 Under Par

The Asian Games is not the easiest of competitions to best the best. The results throw focus on newcomers and the emergence of Thai and Taiwanese golfers.

Korean woman, Park Gyeol's four-round total of 19-under 269 including eight birdies beat Thailand's Sukapan Budsabakorn by a mere stroke. Taking the lead on the 71st hole thanks to a fatal bogey

by the Thai, the nerve-racking finish by both firing birdies on the 72nd, augurs very well for the character of this game.

The Thai women's team four-round, gold winning effort of 38-under 538 decimated the opposition, 7 strokes ahead of the Korean team, which won silver and 21 strokes ahead of the Chinese team that won bronze. The men's team gold was won by Chinese Taipei at a gross 45 under, 7 clear of Korea and 14 clear of Thailand.

Asia's Best Golfer

Chinese Taipei won gold and bronze in the men's individual golf competition. Pan Cheng Tsung topped the chart in the men's individual event with a four round total of 17-under 271. Pan's 2 shot win over Korean, Kim Nam-hun belies the intensity of the competition but in the end, Asia's best golfer prevailed.

Teens to the Fore

Also noteworthy was that four of the six medalists are teenagers. With 31 men and 14 women finishing at even par or better, the future of Asian Golf is in extraordinary hands and buttresses the fact that soon, the best golfers in the world will be Asian!

Big Mane's Heartbreak

Leading the Indian charge was "Big Mane" as Udayan is fondly called. His four rounds of 70,66,72 and 60 for a total of 11 under par placed him joint 4th, just one stroke away from the bronze medal. Following a spectacular performance at the World Amateur in Japan, where he was the best placed Asian at the 10th spot, Udayan is a true performer and the IGU wishes him the best. Manu Gandas at 9 under was placed 11th and Firoz Garewal at 3 under was tied 19th.

Well Done India

The Indian men's team was tied for 3rd almost through most of the 3rd round, Thailand's Danthai's 67 edged India to the 4th place going into the final day.

Despite a 3 under by Udayan and 1 under each by Samarth and Manu, India was pushed to the 6th place behind China and Japan. Their gross 25 under, though 20 behind the winners Chinese Taipei is a testimony to the effort our lads made in the event. Well done indeed, India!

Ishwar Achanta



*The Indian squad
with their Captain
Raian Irani*



FEATURES

Champion Stuff!

“Champions keep playing until they get it right.” Billie Jean King

Special Privilege

I was privileged to be at the sixth edition of the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship that was held from October 23-26, 2014, at the prestigious Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Melbourne, located in Victoria, Australia.

As one of only two referees who have attended all six so far, I was repeatedly asked, what brought me to Melbourne. “To see the making of Champions” was my constant rejoinder.



The Indian squad with DG, Arun Singh and the two Indian referees at the event, Ishwar Achanta and Jayanan Satagopal

When you have The (Augusta) Masters Tournament, the R&A and the APGC, all put their heads together to create this event; we have the leading amateur golf event in this region.

Two time winner of this event, Japan's Hideki Matsuyama is now a top ranked professional. Sixteen-year-old sensation, Guan Tianlang who not only made the cut at the 2013 Masters but earned notoriety when he was also penalized 1 stroke for slow play!

The winner of this prestigious event gets a spot in the Masters Tournament, and, together with the runner up, will get a direct entry place in International Final Qualifying for the Open Championship, the world's oldest and most celebrated professional event.

When this Championship commenced in 2009 at Mission Hills, China, the Asian world was expecting that the uber strong Aussies and New Zealanders, on account of the most robust junior development programme in all of the Asia-Pacific, would walk away with the titles.

It took all of 6 years for an Aussie to win during which time, two Koreans, Chang-won Han and Chang-woo Lee, Japan's Hideki Matsuyama and China's Guan Tianlang, bested the best to take this coveted title.

The Royal Melbourne

Established in 1891 at Caulfield, The Royal Melbourne Golf Club is the oldest golf club in Australia without interruption and as a

measure of the Nation's absolute gender equality, women were accepted into the Club as Associates in 1892. In 1895, Queen Victoria granted the Club the privilege of prefixing its name with 'Royal'. At the time the Australian Golf Union (AGU) was founded in 1898, the Club moved to Sandringham. With the acquisition of more land, Dr. Alistair Mackenzie, a Scot, designed what is now known as the West Course and in 1929, the East Course came into being.

Both courses are rated in the top 100 in the world and the APAC was played on what is called “the composite course” where holes from each of the two courses were combined to make 18, for the event.

When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough Get Going

For this edition, the bookies must have favoured the Aussies as they always practise and play on courses such as these (over 7,000 yards long), with unforgiving brambles and rough and green speeds going up to 12.6 feet on the stimp, on undulating greens.

As the host country, 10 spots were given to Australia and 19-year-old, two-time Australian Junior Champion, Antonio Murdaca, found himself just in, at the 9th spot. With near perfect rounds of 69, 68, 67 and 71, he finished at 13 under par to win by 7 shots from Mikumu Horikawa of Japan. 2013 winner, Guan, finished tied for 5th along with the Asian Games Gold medal winner, Pan Cheng-Tsung.

There were a total of 11 players with under par scores and what this means is that the gap between these elite amateurs, champions in the making and professionals is whittling down, day by day.

Flattered to Decieve

There were 6 Indians invited to the event, Udayan Mane and Viraj Madappa as the top 2 per the merit list and Manu Gandas, Rigel Fernandes, Saqib Ahmed and Aman Raj based on their World Amateur Golf Ranking Points.

While Saqib and Manu missed the cut applied at 10 over, Udayan with two opening rounds of 72 and 69 was tied for 5th going into round 3. However a very indifferent 3rd round of 85 and a finishing round of 79 saw him slip down to tied 55th.

Rigel Fernandez was the best Indian with steady rounds of 74, 71, 72 and 72 for a very creditable tied 15th spot. Aman Raj and Viraj Madappa finished tied 51st and 59th respectively.

Many amateurs, post this event will turn professional and we wish them the very best in all their endeavours.

Ishwar Achanta



RULES & REGULATIONS

R&A

Wrong Putting Green



In a highly unusual case at The Barclays in August, Korea's Seung-Yul Noh incurred a penalty of two strokes when he played from a wrong putting green.

Noh's tee shot at the 11th went right, way right, and landed on the 3rd green. A wrong putting green is any putting green other than that of the hole being played, including any practice putting green. When your ball is on a wrong putting green,

Rule 25-3 requires you to take relief, i.e. you cannot play the ball as it lies, you **MUST** take relief. Why? Well, your green keeper spends a lot of time and money tending the greens, work that is rendered redundant if they are being hacked to bits.

You are only required to take relief when your ball actually lies on the wrong putting green though, there is no mandatory relief without penalty if you have interference to your stance or the area of your intended swing due to a wrong putting green.

If your ball is on a wrong putting green you must lift it and drop it within one club-length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief; the nearest point of relief must not be in a hazard or on a putting green. Effectively you find the point off the putting green that is nearest to where your ball lies, and is not nearer the hole, and drop the ball within one club-length of that spot.

Noh played the ball as it lay (to anguished cries from green keepers around the world), his two stroke penalty meaning he ended up with a triple bogey 7. The penalty in match play is loss of hole.

In his defence, Noh did replace his divot, although a Ridgewood CC green keeper came along moments later and replaced the affected area altogether with a new piece of turf.

"I've been out here 33 years," said PGA Tour Vice President of Rules and Competition, Slugger White. "We have never seen this happen."

It is worth remembering that you can use any club when making a stroke on the putting green (or anywhere else for that matter) – it's entirely your choice. Putters are designed and built for use on the putting green but there times, albeit few, where a different club may be effectively employed, e.g. it is not unknown for players to use a wedge from some parts of some greens on the Old Course in St. Andrews. Mind you, you need to have skill, confidence and nerves of steel to play such shots... particularly when there is a green keeper watching nearby.

That said, it doesn't matter what club you use to make a stroke from a wrong putting green, you are still going to be penalised!

Wrong Putting Green Essentials (Rule 25-3)

- You must take relief if you have interference by a wrong putting green.
- Interference only occurs when your ball lies on a wrong putting green.
- If you make stroke from a wrong putting green, the penalty is two strokes (stroke play) or loss of hole (match play).

Kevin Barker

Assistant Director of Rules, R&A Rules Ltd

2014 Level 1 IGU - R&A Rules School at AEPTA, New Delhi



Pauline Singh
scored a centum
in the exam



FEATURES

USHA IGU All India Ladies & Junior Girls Golf Championship, Eagleton Golf Resort, Bangalore, 15 - 21 December 2014



Aditi Ashok receiving winner trophy from Shiny Wilson, Padma Sri and Arjuna Awardee as Prakash Padukone looks on

The 98th edition of the All India Ladies Amateur Golf Championship kicked off at Eagleton Golf Resort, Bangalore which saw 57 golfers in the fray competing in a three-day stroke play event for the Biloo Sethi Trophy with the top 16 qualifying for the Match Play segment which began on 19th December. The winner, three years ago and semi-finalists in the last two events, Aditi Ashok was hoping to win the 98th edition of this championship alongside the likes of Ridhima Dilwari and local girl, Anisha Padukone.

Nishtha Madan from Gurgaon turned on the heat on the opening day. The teenager returned a two under 70 which was dotted with four birdies to top the leader board. Tavleen Batra and Seher Atwal ended the day at tied second with a score of 72. Local golfer and favorite, Aditi Ashok carded a one of 73 to share the third position with Ridhima Dilwari, Diksha Dagar and Vrishali Sinha.

Aditi had a dream round on day 2 of the stroke play, carding a 5 under 67 to take a three shot lead over Ridhima Dilwari. Overnight leader Nishtha Madan slipped to third position after shooting a 2 over 74.

In the third round, despite shooting an error strewn 74, Aditi laid her hands on the Biloo Sethi trophy for the third time. Aditi also clinched the All India Junior Girls title for the second time in a row. Arshia Mahant picked up the Category B girls title while Anika Varma triumphed in the Category C girls. Top 16 girls with the likes of Aditi Ashok, Ridhima Dilwari, Vrishali Sinha and Anisha

Padukone qualified for the match play rounds and all eyeing the prestigious 98th year old trophy.

Pre-quarters of the match play turned out to be easy going for the top players with Aditi defeating Mehak Sharma 5 up and Ridhima Dilawari beating Diksha Dagar 4 up. The upsets in the Round 1 were Seher Atwal being defeated by Bangalore Girl Suchitra Ramesh 4 up. This was the first time Suchitra qualified for the match play and made the most of it. Round 1 also saw one of the top amateurs Tvesa Malik being defeated by another Bangalore girl, Trisha Sunil.

The quarter finals were played on the same day and making the most of the home course advantage Anisha Padukone produced one of her best performances to date

in defeating Nishtha Madan 3 up. In the semi-finals, the 23-year-old took on Suchitra Ramesh, who held her nerve edging past Trisha Sunil 2 up. Top seed Aditi Ashok stayed on course, with a 9 up trashing of Vidushi Sinha while her semi-final opponent Ridhima Dilwari defeated Amandeep Drall 3 up.

While title favourite and 2011 champion staged a brilliant rally in downing Ridhima Dilwari 1 up, Anisha Padukone dished out another strong performance to defeat Suchitra Ramesh 2 and 1. Aditi, the stroke play winner found herself in a deep hole against Ridhima but the extremely talented 16-year-old regained her composure during her journey to script another superb triumph.

In the finals of the 98th All India Ladies Amateur, Aditi set the course on fire as she swept past Anisha Padukone to emerge the champion. Aditi hardly faced any challenge from Anisha as the pressure from Aditi rose, Anisha tried coming back in the game by winning the 17th and 18th holes being just 3 down after the first 18 holes.

But, Aditi, however returned from the break hungrier, seemingly in a mood to wrap things up at the earliest, Aditi won the 19th, 20th, 21st and 24th holes to go 7 up. Facing a herculean challenge, Anisha delayed the inevitable, winning the 25th. But Aditi then claimed the title by winning the 28th and 29th sinking a brilliant 20 foot birdie on the final hole for a much cherished win.

Tusshar Malhotra



FEATURES

Tata Steel 114th Amateur Golf Championship of India, KGA, Bangalore, 01 - 07 December 2014



Winner of the 114th Amateur Golf Championship of India Mr Trishul Chinnappa

The Tata Steel 114th Amateur Golf Championship of India got underway at the Karnataka Golf Association, Bangalore from 01-07 December, 2014. The event which was first held in 1892, is one of the oldest tournaments in the world which includes team and individual contests. The first two days will witness a stroke play competition which served as the qualifying round for the match play where top 32 golfers qualify.

Viraj Madappa from Kolkata carded a composed three under 69 to take a one-shot lead on the opening day. Madappa led the trio of Yashas Chandra, Samarth Dwivedi and Trishul Chinnappa after day 1. Udayan Mane the pre-tournament favourite and the leading amateur of the country had a disappointing day shooting a 4 over 76.

After day 2 of the stroke play, Viraj Madappa emerged the top seed for the match play round after a recording a two day gross score of 4 under -140. Samarth Dwivedi finished the two rounds at 2 under becoming the second seeded player for the championship. The International team event was won by the India Team "C" consisting of Samarth Dwivedi and Arjun Sharma.

The Round 1 of match play saw a couple of major upsets when one of the veteran golfers of Indian golf, H.S. Kang from Chandigarh defeated the top ranked amateur Udayan Mane on the 23rd hole. Round 1 also saw defending champion Pratap Atwal being defeated by local lad Syed Saqib Ahmed 2 up.

Round 2 of the match play saw the No 1 seed for the championship Viraj Madappa being defeated by Tapendra Ghai from Gurgaon,

2 up. It was easy going for the local boy Syed Saqib Ahmed who defeated one of the top amateurs of the country Aman Raj in the morning session of Round 2 and then went on to defeat Tapendra Ghai on the 19th hole to set up a semi-final clash with Pukhraj Singh Gill from Punjab. Trishul Chinnappa mounted a late comeback to defeat Harimohan Singh and advance to the semi-finals. Two down with two holes to play, the local golfer clawed his way back to force a playoff where he triumphed with a fine approach shot. Chinnappa now faced another local boy from Bangalore, Rahul Ravi.

The ninth seed Saqib recovered from 1 down and 2 holes to play against Pukhraj Singh Gill in the first semi-final match. Saqib eventually won on the playoff hole with a birdie.

In the other semi-final, between Trishul Chinnappa and Rahul Ravi, Chinnappa emerged the stronger between the two and set up an all-Bangalore final to be played on Sunday with Saqib Ahmed.

In the finals, Chinnappa defeated Saqib Ahmed in a closely contested final to win the Tata Steel 114th Amateur Golf Championship of India. Chinnappa set up the foundation for his victory in the 36-hole final with a splendid first 18, where he went 5 up. Notwithstanding a stutter on the second 18 where his advantage had shrunk to one at the turn, but Trishul held firm to win the 114th edition of the Amateur Golf Championship of India.

Tusshar Malhotra



MERIT LIST

Gentlemen	Ladies	A&B Category Jr Girls	A&B Category Jr Boys	B Category - Boys
1. Udayan Mane	1. Aditi Ashok	1. Aditi Ashok	1. Viraj Madappa	1. Kartik Sharma
2. Aman Raj	2. Ridhima Dilawari	2. Ridhima Dilawari	2. Shubham Narain	2. Sarthak Chibber
3. Pratap Atwal	3. Amandeep Drall	3. Seher Atwal	3. Karandeep Kochhar	3. Kshitij Naved Kaul
4. Samarth Dwivedi	4. Gurbani Singh	4. Vrishali Sinha	4. Kartik Sharma	4. Aadil Bedi
5. Simarjeet Singh	5. Astha Madan	5. Gaurika Bishnoi	5. Varun Parikh	5. Sunhit Bishnoi
6. Viraj Madappa	6. Tvesa Malik	6. Vidushi Sinha	6. Saarthak Chhibber	6. Karan Pratap Singh
7. Vikram Rana	7. Seher Atwal	7. Nistha Madan	7. Arjun Prasad	7. Manav Bais
8. Trishul Chinnappa	8. Vrishali Sinha	8. Suchitra Ramesh	8. Mohan Sardar	8. Ranveer Grewal
9. Syed Saqib Ahmed	9. Gaurika Bishnoi	9. Siddhi Kapoor	9. Yuvraj Sandhu	9. Yuvraj Singh
10. Arjun Sharma	10. Vidushi Sinha	10. Gurjot Badwal	10. Tutul Ali	10. Daksh Shokeen



Udayan Mane



Aditi Ashok



Feroz Singh Garewal



Kartik Sharma

YES BANK IGU All India Junior Boys Golf Championship, Eagleton Golf Club, 26 - 29 November 2014

The cream of India's juniors gathered at the Par 72 Eagleton Golf Resort for the Yes Bank All India Junior Boys Golf Championship and watched Viraj Madappa dominate proceedings and blitz to a twelve stroke wire to wire victory at the most awaited event of the year.

Riding a victory wave over the past three weeks, the Kolkata lad came to this event hoping to erase the heartbreak of the previous year where he finished runner up to Manu Gandas, he began with an opening round five-under par 67. He was brilliant from the word go as he went eagle-birdie-eagle from the Par 5 6th hole to the Par 4 8th hole. He led Chandigarh lad Feroz Singh Garewal (69) by two strokes while Manav Bais and Sunhit Bishnoi shot identical 74s to lead the Category B event.

The 16-year-old played out a sedate second round by his standards with a one-under par 71 but managed to extend his lead to three strokes over Feroz who carded an even par 72 for the day. However, Sarthak Chhibber who climbed up the Category B leader board with a brilliant five-under 67 brought in the best card of the day.

The third day of a tournament is often called the moving day and Viraj took the bull by its horns and virtually assured himself of the title with another five-under par 67. He started putting daylight between himself and the rest of the field from the 1st hole itself with a birdie and he hit a further five birdies on the front nine. He played the back nine one-over to lead K. Surya Kumar by a whopping nine strokes. Sarthak meanwhile had a twelve stroke Category B lead of his own by the end of round 3.

Viraj made sure he consolidated and preserved his lead when he went for the final round and his appetite for the fourth consecutive red digits was clearly visible as he shrugged off his shaky front nine with three birdies in nine holes to sign out a two-under par 70 for the day and a thirteen-under par 275 for the week. Sarthak, meanwhile dropped four strokes but still made to win Category B by a comfortable eight strokes.

On winning, Viraj exclaimed, "I am really happy to have won this event which had eluded me last year." He added, "I have been playing really well and I hope to carry this form into the Tata Steel 114th Amateur Golf Championship of India next week."

The World Amateur Golf Rankings - December 2014

This	Last	Player	Country	Points avg.
1	1	Oliver Schniederjans	USA	1411.59
2	2	Jon Rahm-Rodriguez	Spain	1286.50
3	3	Lucas Herbert	Aus	1263.33
4	4	Robby Shelton	USA	1254.25
5	5	Bradley Neil	Scotland	1243.45
6	6	Marcus Kinhult	Sweden	1242.57
7	7	Will Zalatoris	USA	1221.94
8	8	Corey Connors	Canada	1218.01
9	9	Doug Ghim	USA	1217.12
10	10	Brian Campbell	USA	1215.97



The Indian Golf Union

Launches

NATIONAL HANDICAPPING SERVICE

The IGU's National Handicapping Service (NHS) is open to all golfers in India, whether they are members of golf clubs or not and is based on the USGA's GHIN software used in over 60 countries. **Online registration, submission of score-cards and handicap verification** will usher in a new era of convenience, transparency and consistency for Indian golfers which is at par with similar services offered by other national governing bodies of golf across the world.

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