



GOLFINGLY YOURS



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In this issue

President's Message	1
Editorial	2
Features	
- The Gary Phenomenon	3
- My Journey	5
- Indian Golf Steeped in History	8
- Score Better	11
- The Distractions of Golf	15
- A Remarkable Feat!	17
Committee Reports	
- Junior Golf - In its Latest Avatar!	4
Snap Shots	9
Technical	
- The Rationale Behind Hole Indexing	10
Know Your Golf Course	
- CIAL, Cochin	12
Rules & Regulations	
- R & A Local Rule	6
- Level 1 Rules School at Mauritius	16

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Here's wishing the golfing fraternity of the country, a very Happy Golfing, 2017. The year 2016 has gone by and created number of milestones for Indian golf. It was one of the best years in terms of achievements by Indian golfers. The revival of golf at Olympics and participation of Indians at this mega event created waves across the golfing fraternity.

The performance of Anirban Lahiri and SSP Chaurasia and teenage sensation Aditi Ashok, earned them a place at the Rio Olympics. Aditi has performed brilliantly during the year and is heading towards becoming Rookie of the year on the LET. SSP won his first tournament abroad and this is followed by five girls who earned cards to play on the LET tour (two will have limited starts) speaks highly of the nursery, that is the Indian Golf Union, that regularly produces these kind of players. The IGU, has over the years, created a robust junior program which is paying dividends in the form of great professionals at the world stage. Another noteworthy performance is from junior Karandeep Kochar, who won the PGTI event at Mumbai and followed it up by winning the All India Amateur Championship, against some stiff competition. His achievements at this tender age, are outstanding.

The South Africa – India test series of golf, took off just before the All India at the RCCG, where the honors were shared and this will now be an annual feature between the two golfing nations.

The 100th All India Women's championship was played at the DGC and for the first time ever, nine countries participated in the event. Once again, the focus was on the juniors, with Diksha Dagar a losing finalist, despite a phenomenal performance.

The hard work of the members of the Governing council has paved the way for establishing a Referees & TARS training program, that has received accolades from the R&A. Similarly, the NGAI is also looking to become the hub of Training the Teaching Professionals, in the Asian region.

It is just a matter of time that Indian "Tigers" will roar on the greens of the world of golf!

Jai Hind

Satish Aparajit
President


ROLEX

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OBITER DICTA



After a hiatus of over a year, we have returned! And it's good to be back, to bring to you the latest happenings in Golfing India! After an experiment with an outsourced agency, *Golfingly Yours* is now back to being edited and produced in house and I do hope this new look will find favour with all of you!

On 28th October, 2016, a new Council of the Indian Golf Union took over the reins. Led by Wg. Cdr. Satish Aparajit (Retd.), with a Vice Presidential nominee from the Army Zone, the new members are Sanjeev Rattan from Agra, H.S. Baidwan from Chandigarh, Maj. Gen. Rajesh Sahai, Maj. Gen. K.M.S. Shergill (Retd.) and Avnish Kumar to the Council. The Ladies Committee will be headed by Pauline Singh of Chandigarh assisted by Nandita Rao from the Army Zone. Welcome ladies and gentlemen and the Council looks towards you for your guidance and sagacity.

For the 1st time since the formation of the IGU, the AGM witnessed an election for the post of the office bearers. That this process went on without a hitch is a vindication of the electoral process and the faith that the members have in the age old, tried and tested methods of electing representatives.

Over the past year, there has been a marked change in the governance of the IGU. Readers are invited to visit our website and browse the document titled "The IGU's Code for Transparency and Integrity for Golf in India". It is the Council's endeavour to engage all stakeholders in the positive growth of our sport and we invite you to do, just that.

In this issue, Shaili Chopra, a renowned sports journalist writes about her encounter with the legendary, Gary Player. Mukund Padmanabhan, who recently took over as the Editor of one of India's much read newspaper, *The Hindu*, shares his thoughts with us. He is an enthusiastic golfer and has much experience in golf travel writing!

Dr. Aradhna Singh, a Ph.D. in sports psychology has her advice to golfers on how to score better. This is an area that our High Performance Managers will also be working on, as they train our squads.

Our Council Member and now Chairman of the Junior Committee, C.S. Subramanian, has established plans for the development of Junior Golf. He shares his vision with us. As a member of his Committee, I have begun to travel to various Golf Courses. Recently I visited the Sardar Golf Club in Jodhpur and also the superbly maintained, Konark AEPTA. I then visited the CIAL Golf Club, bang next door to the Cochin Airport. The ever young, Maj. Gen. Koshy (Retd.), the man behind its formation, writes about this course, which is a must visit to any aficionado.

The rookie of the year award goes to Aditi Ashok!! Her performance after, turning professional, has been outstanding to say the least. An IGU product, we are all indeed very proud of her. Read her take on what this past year has meant to her.

Recently the All India Amateur was held at Kolkatta just after the 1st ever Indo-South Africa Friendship series. The 100th All India Ladies Amateur was held at the DGC, in December and these events are reported in this edition.

An "Ace" is a rarity, the odds for an amateur to achieve this are at 12500 to 1. Imagine having "two holes-in-one" during the same round! Read about it in these pages.

A stroke given is a stroke to halve and not for a win! This mystifying statement needs an explanation and GY brings you that.

Finally, after a 6 year stint, I have stepped off the R&A's Rules of Golf Committee but not before having a say in the introduction of a new Local Rule, globally effective from 1st January 2017, including in India. This Local Rule eliminates all penalties for accidental movement of the ball, only on the putting green. As some of you may know, there is a Rules Review process underway and we can expect dramatic changes, hopefully by the end of 2018. Meanwhile, I am looking forward to serving on the Board of the Asia Pacific Golf Confederation, to which I have been nominated.

By the time, you receive this newsletter, a New Year would have dawned. Please accept our best wishes for a healthy 2017 and greetings for the festive season.

Ishwar Achanta
Editor



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President & Council members
of The Indian Golf Union
Wish the people of India
a very healthy and prosperous
2017

FEATURES

THE GARY PHENOMENON



He isn't called a legend for nothing. The only person to win golf grand slams in both pro and senior golf – over 80 wins in his career and now nearly 80 years of age, a fitness fanatic who still does 1,200 sit-ups at a go, Gary Player is a phenomenon indeed.

I got to spend more than a few hours with the Black Knight, as he is called – a moniker given to him because of his

signature black outfits on the course and courteous demeanour. It wasn't our first meeting and Gary remembered that.

He is known to be humble, down-to-earth...and remains a genuine ambassador of the game.

Which is why Gary, as promised, led the jury for the India Golf Awards, an effort he insisted was a benchmark in boosting the game in India. "We need to recognise leadership," he said at the event. "The recipients of these awards will have shown that they see the huge potential for golf in India, but their efforts need promotion and a media platform to inspire others. This annual event will help golf gain important momentum to establish itself as a prominent sport in India."

Born as a gold miner's son, he spent many an afternoon just swinging his rusty old clubs to learn the golf drive. "My dad was allowed to play the game on the gold mine's course and I was given this opportunity to play there or else I would have opted for rugby. But that was my calling and I grabbed it," recalls Gary who grew up in South Africa, passionately read about Mahatma Gandhi and believes in his principles.

What makes Gary a spectacular personality, besides his beaming face, is that he has a philosophy. He believes in goodness and in people's ability to learn. With a struggle in early life, Gary values opportunity, praise and success. "People like to think we are born equal and that's not true," Gary says, reflecting his wisdom from life's lessons. "We have got to incentivise people. We have to ensure they have equal opportunity and are not discriminated on race or colour."



The author with Gary Player

Next, he discusses criticism that golf tends to be elitist in India. "The spectacular showing by Indian caddie-golfers is going to change that perception soon." Recalling that some of the world's best professionals like Ben Hogan started off as caddies, he says, "Golf's not an elitist sport anymore, because staying fit lets him enjoy his life longer."

Gary is renowned as much for his dedication to the principles of excellence as he is for his golfing accomplishments. After an interview with him, you take back not just brilliant golf tips but feel enriched as a person.

Shaili Chopra

Award winning journalist and founder of golfingindian.com

IGU COUNCIL MEMBERS 2014-16



Sitting (l to r): Lt. Gen. Mukesh Sabharwal, Lt. Gen. Sanjiv Talwar, Lt. Gen. A.K.S Chandeale, Wg. Cdr. Satish Aparajit, Mr. Anirudha Seolekar, Mrs. Manisha Jaitha, Mr. C.S.R Reddy, Dr. Satbinder Singh, Mr. Prakash Bhandari

Standing (l to r): Mr. Ishwar Achanta, Mr. Farzan Heerjee, Mr. Ajit Parmar, Wg. Cdr. Arun K. Singh, Mr. C.S. Subramanian, Mrs. Pauline J.M. Singh, Mr. Dilip Thomas, Mr. S.K. Bhatia, Mr. Devang Shah

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JUNIOR GOLF - IN ITS LATEST AVATAR!**THE AIM: To effectively promote Golf and establish Driving Ranges in Schools & Colleges**

The game of golf is experiencing a boom, with more and more youngsters discovering excitement at the golf course. To tap this, new facilities that offer affordable access to play the game need to be constructed throughout the country.

One of the keys to getting Junior Golfers interested in golf is finding a programme they enjoy participating in. Many schools also have golf programmes and these are a great way for the serious junior golfer to develop his or her interest. Ultimately, parents are the catalyst to the growth of their child's interest in golf.

It is an established fact that Driving Ranges are greatly successful in all parts of the world, so why not in India? To encourage the growth and popularity of the game, the starting point must be the schools and colleges.

The 3 models suggested are as under, where Models 2 and 3 will be purpose designed for institutions.

Model-1

To begin with, each State Golf Association needs to involve at least 20 schools and colleges throughout the State. Minimum infrastructure to be created is a Practice Net, 10 Driving Bays, Synthetic or Regular Green with 2 Bunkers at the Pitching Area.

IGU will assist in providing practice nets, mats, balls, equipment and coaches at a concessional rate. We will request the Clubs to permit these students to play on their golf courses at concessional green fees.

Institutions need to be encouraged to pay capital expenses and a part of the

salary/remuneration for Professionals who will work with an Assistant Professional at each institution. The IGU has a large pool of trained A, B, C & D category professionals who can be hired. We will work closely with the SGA to establish a lead partner for taking care of the running/operational cost.

Five Kiosks will be put up at each of the institutions which will be hired to banks, balls manufacturers, equipment manufacturers, cycle / motorbike companies, consumer goods, sports goods companies, etc.

Arjun wins in Malaysia

New Delhi: Arjun Bhati, a student from Green Valley School, Greater Noida, defeated South Africa's Matthew Danish in the B-12 category of Kids Golf World Championship in Malaysia. Arjun secured the first position by two shots. During the three-level final match, Arjun scored a total of 234 points.

The Driving Range will also be operational in the evening for the people living nearby, which will also create a fantastic revenue model. During the day, the Driving Range will be used exclusively by the students of the institutions.

Model-2

Some of the schools and colleges may be prepared to put-up full scale Driving Range. Whereas, others are prepared to put up lights and use them as a night Driving Range, in the playgrounds of the premises of these schools and colleges.

Model -3

Some of the larger schools and colleges will put up a 6 or 9 Hole Course cum

Driving Range. This whole project is conceived with captive participants available in institutions plus land and financial resources that are, currently, available.

Further, the State Association will, through the IGU, also provide the schools and colleges with duty-free sports goods and bear the maintenance expenses.

Since the running cost is variable, it can be easily covered and the business partner will have enough remuneration to sponsor tournaments and expand the promotion of golf activities in the country.

We will also be inviting the Equipments Manufacturers to participate. Each of the participants will get kiosks in the schools and colleges to market their products. As we expand our promotional activities, they will also get more revenue.

The State Association will be inviting all other stakeholders like Golf Professionals, Coaches, Equipment Manufacturer and other like-minded individuals to become members of the Association.

The IGU looks forward to working with such stakeholders and to grow this game to the levels that are required to showcase to the world that Indians are world beaters.

C.S. Subramanian

*Council Member & Chairman,
Junior Golf Committee*

The Indian Golf Union acknowledges the contribution of parents & their commitment in building the career of the golfers. The IGU also thanks our promoters & sponsors for various IGU events.

FEATURES

MY JOURNEY

It has been a great start to my journey as a professional golfer from being one of the top amateurs in the world, to having a successful year as a rookie on The Ladies European Tour.

I relinquished my amateur status on 1st Jan 2016 to join the Ladies European Tour and entered the Ladies European Tour as No. 1 in the Category 8a (Top 30 from Q school) and finished the year as the Rookie of the Year and 2nd on the order of merit. I will go into 2017 as a full member, Category 3A (LET Ranking Tournament Winners) and have full status on LET for next 2 years.

Winning Back to Back Titles

Hero Women's Indian Open: While it was my sixth appearance at the HWIO, 2016 was my first as a professional. I had some good finishes in past (two top 15's and a top 10 as an amateur) but I wanted to better that as a professional and it was exhilarating to win my home event.

Qatar Ladies Open: I am really happy that I won the inaugural Qatar Ladies Open and winning back to back on the LET was the best part of my season.

Rio Olympics: Qualifying for the Rio Olympics was my goal from 2012 and so as an amateur I made a lot of effort to plan my schedules and play in professional events, which counted for the World Rankings.

I was one of the last few players entering the field for Rio, which had some of the best players in the world. After two rounds, I was in the top 3 at the Olympics.

I was also the first woman golfer from India to play at the 2016 Olympics in Rio. However, for the actual event, I approached it like any other tournament where I prepared and tried to do my best that week.

The IGU & I

I also now have the unique achievement of being the only golfer to have played in the Asian Youth Games, Youth Olympic Games, Asian Games and Olympic Games. I thank the Indian Golf Union for helping me achieve this milestone.

I have also represented team India and participated in Junior and Amateur events, through the Indian Golf Union, from 2010 till 2014 and this experience has added to my growth as a golfer.

South Zone Junior Golf Tour: In my younger years, I used to look forward to the summers because I got to compete with the boys on the South Zone junior golf tour and that helped me

gain not only the tournament experience but also learn the importance of matters like pace of play, rules, values like honesty, responsibility and the spirit of the game.

Rookie of the Year

It was my goal to win "Rookie of the Year" as well. I was playing really good through the year and I was consistently in the top ten, giving myself chances to be in winning positions.

It was an affirmation of my decision to turn professional a year ago. It helps to know that I'm on the right track. I felt like I was improving with every event and that added to my confidence. My good performance throughout the season not only gives me a great sense of satisfaction but also immense confidence going into next year and I hope I can do better.

Finishing second on the LET Order of Merit: I had a great rookie season on the Ladies European Tour and two wins which were thrilling. I had seven top tens out of the thirteen tournaments. I got to play in my first major – the Ricoh Women's British Open, and it was a great experience for me, playing with the best in the world.

2017: Rookie Year On LPGA: It will be my Rookie season on the LPGA and I have a conditional status so that should get me into a few tournaments next year. My goal is to play well in as many events that I can get into. I am very excited to play on the LPGA tour next year.



With the HWIO 2016 trophy

Atwal: Aditi is fantastic for Indian golf

Kolkata: At 18, Aditi Ashok has taken Indian golf by storm. So it came as little surprise when veteran golfer Arjun Atwal put her in the front row for inspiring the next generation of female golfers. "I have never met her or seen her play. But I have watched her scores and the tournaments she has played in and I think it's fantastic for Indian golf, more so for women's golf," Atwal said.

Advice to Juniors

Have fun and work hard because there is no shortcut to success.

Aditi Ashok

Professional Golfer

RULES & REGULATIONS

R & A LOCAL RULE**Local Rule for Accidental Movement of a Ball on the Putting Green****THE NEW LOCAL RULE EFFECTIVE 1ST JANUARY 2017****Accidental Movement of a Ball on a Putting Green**

Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1 are modified as follows:

When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment.

The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1.

This Local Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

Note: If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced."

Note: Readers are advised that the Indian Golf Union has adopted this Local Rule in full with effect from 1st January, 2017 for all events held under the aegis of the IGU.

**SOME FAQ'S****How does the Local Rule operate?**

The Local Rule eliminates the penalty for any accidental movement of a ball or ball-marker on the putting green. If the ball was accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment, there is no penalty and the ball is to be replaced and played from its original location.

Does the Local Rule apply to a ball moved by the wind?

No. If the ball was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause (including gravity), the ball must be played as it lies from its new location without penalty.

Why is the Local Rule being introduced?

The movement of a ball on a putting green has been one of the many topics discussed as part of The R&A's and USGA's ongoing Rules Modernisation initiative to consider comprehensive changes to the Rules of Golf. For these particular situations, it was noted that the shape, slope and condition of many putting greens today increase the chances that a ball at rest on a putting green will move and it can be difficult to determine whether a player caused the ball to move or whether the ball was moved by wind or other natural causes. Furthermore, when a ball moves while the player is doing nothing more than taking normal actions to prepare for a stroke, it may seem unfair for the player to be penalised.

Why not apply this Local Rule everywhere on the course?

As part of our continued review of the Rules related to ball movement, and in particular our Rules Modernisation

initiative, it was noted that almost all "ball moved" instances occur on the putting green, and involve very minimal movement. Frequently, the movement occurs as the player is simply taking reasonable actions in preparing for a stroke and the ball can easily be replaced. These considerations are not the same when the ball lies off the putting green and we believe it is important to retain the penalty for those instances to reinforce the principle that the ball should be played as it lies.

Rule 18-2 was just changed. Why are you now making an additional change through the Local Rule?

The Rules of Golf are an ever-evolving code, and Rule 18-2 is a good example. The most recent revision was the withdrawal of Rule 18-2b (ball moving after address) in January 2016. This change removed the presumption that the player caused the ball to move when it moved after being addressed. However, while this change was for the benefit of the player as it removed the automatic penalty, it has led to increased questions on what caused the ball to move, especially on the putting green. The Local Rule is now being introduced to put less emphasis on the cause of the ball's movement on the putting green.

Is the Local Rule only recommended for tournaments and elite level play?

No. While it is anticipated that the Local Rule will be widely adopted throughout the professional and elite-level amateur tournaments (including all USGA and R&A championships, qualifiers and international matches), its use is recommended for all levels of play. The adoption of the Local Rule is ultimately up to each individual committee's discretion.

LOCAL RULE: ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT OF A BALL ON THE PUTTING GREEN

WHAT IT MEANS: *The committee in charge of a competition or course now has the option to adopt a Local Rule that eliminates the penalty for **all** circumstances when a player, an opponent or either of their partners, caddies or equipment **accidentally** moves a ball or ball-marker on the putting green.*

HOW IT WORKS | The following are examples where the Local Rule would apply:

IF: When preparing to make a stroke, a player accidentally causes the ball to move...



THEN: No penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

IF: A player accidentally drops his/her ball, which hits and moves the ball-marker...



THEN: No penalty, and the ball-marker must be replaced.

IF: A player accidentally drops his/her ball-marker, which hits and moves the ball...



THEN: No penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

IF: A player accidentally kicks and moves his/her ball...



THEN: No penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

HOW IT DOESN'T WORK | The following are examples where the Local Rule would not apply:

IF: A player intentionally moves or lifts his/her ball on the putting green without first marking its location...

THEN: One-stroke penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

IF: A player accidentally moves his/her ball that is lying on the fairway, in the rough or in a bunker...

THEN: One-stroke penalty, and the ball must be replaced.



FEATURES

INDIAN GOLF STEEPED IN HISTORY



The recently concluded Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro saw Golf make a comeback after 112 long

years. Anirban Lahiri, SSP Chawrasia and Aditi Ashok, the Rookie of the Year on the Ladies European Tour, proudly represented the country.

India is forever perched in the annals of golf history. The game is very much a British import, just like cricket, railways and the bureaucracy, even though we have never really lapped it up as part of the social fabric like the other three.

It was the British East India Company that brought the game to these shores after setting up Calcutta as an administration and mercantile port in the mid 18th century. About three quarters of a century later, a few officers set up, what was then called the Dum Dum Golf Club and subsequently Calcutta Golf Club.

It is the oldest golf course outside the British Isles and was granted the Royal warrant in 1911 by King George V and his Queen Mary, upon their visit, just after it relocated to its present location in Tollygunge from the Maidan.

The imperial overlords, particularly those of Scottish origin, did their best to feel more like at home. The Royal Bombay Golf Club was established in 1842 but it did not survive.

Plantation Courses

It was around the same time, the British East India Company started large-scale commercial production of tea in Assam after taking over the entire region from the Ahom Kings. Early 1876 saw the opening of the Jorhat Gymkhana Club of which some



Baroda Golf Course around the historical Gaekwad Palace

of the original greens are still in play! This would be the first of the many plantation courses that would later adorn the magnificent tea gardens.

With the spread of colonization in India, there was the accompanying spread of golf courses. In the south, the Bangalore Golf Club started operations in 1876. A year later, the Madras Gymkhana Club took to golf and shortly after, it challenged the BGC, today the oldest surviving, Inter-Club Championship. Back in the day, the British with their innate love of horses chose this mode of travel to cover the distance between the two clubs for these contests.

Designer Courses

The opening of the Classic Golf & Country Club marked a milestone in the Indian golf space. It represented a paradigm shift in the outlook of how golf courses would be laid out in the future.

Led by the “Golden Bear” Jack Nicklaus, the rest of the “Big Three” also put their signatures to the green, blue and white landscapes set up by their design teams. DLF Golf & Country Club opened with the Arnold Palmer Design Company’s layout which very recently was renovated to Gary Player’s, Black Knight Design.

Gujarat has emerged as a serious golf destination with Ahmedabad being the epicenter. Being a major manufacturing hub, Nicklaus Design has gone on and laid out the magnificent Kalhaar Blues & Greens Golf Club, along with the Imperial Golf Estates in Ludhiana.

Army Courses

The biggest stakeholder in Indian golf has undoubtedly been the Indian Army. Around 70% of the total number of golf courses in the country are service courses. Having had the pleasure of traversing the country, both as an amateur and then a professional, one has great memories of regular visits to Mhow, Udhampur, Mauribagh in Lucknow, the beautiful deer park and stunning golf course in Bhatinda and Meerut, which at one stage, was the best maintained course in India.

India’s best professionals have honed their skills, at these courses, including Jyoti Randhawa, Digvijay Singh and Mukesh Kumar who now has the distinction of being the oldest winner on the Asian Tour when he recently won the Panasonic Open.

Brandon de Souza

SNAP SHOTS

SNAP SHOTS

LYDIA KO & DAVID LEADBETTER SPLIT WAYS

On December 6th, 2016 World Number 1, Lydia Ko and celebrated coach David Leadbetter parted ways. Ko won 15 times in her three years under Leadbetter, including two major championships, and she has held the Rolex No. 1 world ranking for 78 weeks. "These things happen in the world of coaching," Leadbetter said to Golf Channel. "We did a great job together."

Source: www.golfchannel.com



THOMAS BJORN NAMED 2018 RYDER CUP CAPTAIN



Thomas Bjørn has been named as the European captain for The 2018 Ryder Cup at Le Golf National in Paris, France, from September

28 - 30, 2018. He will become the first Dane, and the first Scandinavian, to lead Europe when The Ryder Cup returns to mainland Europe for the second time at Le Golf National. This will be his 8th Ryder Cup, three as a player and four as the Vice-Captain.

Source: www.rydercup.com

JUSTIN ROSE, OLYMPIC CHAMPION

Modern golf waited 112 years to see Englishman, Justin Rose become golf's first Olympic champion since 1904 by beating

Henrik Stenson at Rio 2016. Rose, 36, was level with Stenson on 15 under par after 17 holes but the Swede bogeyed the last while Rose sank a birdie putt to win by two shots. American, Matt Kuchar picked up the Bronze Medal.

Source: www.skysports.com



THE R&A AND LADIES GOLF UNION (LGU) MERGE

The merger of the Ladies' Golf Union (LGU) and The R&A has been finalised and will come into effect from 1 January 2017. The heads of agreement between the two organisations was signed in June leading to the integration of the LGU's business operations and its members of staff into The R&A group of companies. An agreed governance structure has also been implemented to give LGU Board members representation on relevant R&A Committees.

Source: R&A Press release



THE TIGER RETURNS



Tiger Woods recently announced that he has committed to play in the 2017 Genesis Open, Feb. 13-19, at The Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, California. Tiger made

this announcement following his return in early December at the Hero World Challenge after more than 15 months away from competitive golf. Lots to look forward to!

Source: www.tigerwoods.com

TECHNICAL

THE RATIONALE BEHIND HOLE INDEXING



Recently, I was involved in the review and re-indexing of the hole indices at my club. After the exercise was completed and the new hole indices (sometimes also referred to as stroke index) were made public, I received a lot of feedback from members giving their views on why so and so hole should have been

index 1 and why another one should have been 18 and so forth. While receiving this barrage of 'expert opinions', I realised that very few golfers, irrespective of how long they have been playing the game, actually knew or understood the rationale behind hole indexing. Thus the need for this explanation, also aimed at a larger audience.

Level Playing Field

Golf is one of few sports in which a player of superior ability is able to compete against a player of lesser ability, on equal terms. This is achieved through the means of a handicap (explanation of this complexity better left for another day!) in conjunction with the system of hole indices. This mechanism levels up the playing field and enables golf to be enjoyed by a lot more people, irrespective of playing ability.

As we all know, if Player A with a handicap of 9, plays against Player B with a handicap of 14, the latter receives a stroke from the former on those holes with hole index 1 through to 5. The common perception is that the more difficult a hole, the lower will be its index and therefore, the easiest hole will be index 18 and the toughest hole - index 1. This is not entirely correct.

To Halve, not to Win

According to the USGA Handicapping Manual, a higher handicap player should receive a stroke from a lower handicap player to **halve** a hole, not **win** it. This concept is very important to understand the rationale behind hole indexing.

Taking this concept forward, we can see that a tough hole, say a 485 yard Par 4, would be a 3 shot hole for most amateurs. Player A above, the 9 handicapper, will in all probability make a bogey on this hole, as will Player B, the 14 handicapper, as the hole will be a 3 shot hole for both golfers. By statistical analysis, this

imaginary hole is the hole that has the highest average score, over par, compared to all the other holes on the course. So, if we assigned this hole an index of 1, Player B will almost always win this hole from Player A, considering he receives a stroke on this hole, much against the "halving" principle!

From this example, it can be seen that a stroke is to be given by a lower handicapper to higher handicapper when the lower handicapper is sure to make a lower score than the higher handicapper and not on holes where both are likely to make the same score. So we need to determine the index of **relative** difficulty between low & high handicappers instead just referring to the index of **absolute** difficulty of a hole.

Relative Difficulty

Statistically, the way to do this is to compute average hole by hole scores separately for low handicappers and high handicappers on all holes. Say the low handicappers (0-8)

average 4.2 on a hole and the high handicappers (20-28) average 5.5 on the same hole, the differential is 1.3 between the two groups. If we rank all the holes in order of the differentials, we can assign index 1 to the hole with the highest differential and index 18 to the hole with the lowest differential. This gross order of difficulty is adjusted for odds & evens on the two nines. Also, the closing and opening holes should not have low indices.

By assigning the hole indices in this way we give cognizance to the relative difficulty of the holes and not just the absolute difficulty and this is indeed the correct way. As a point of interest, the USGA's empirical analysis reveals that distance is the biggest challenge to golfers, especially to high handicappers. Therefore, it is not surprising that if hole indexing is done in the right way, par 5's would usually bear low indices.

So next time you're out on your golf course, pay attention to the hole indices on the score card and try to reason out if they have been assigned in the right way in the light of the information provided in this article. If you think not, ask your club committee to review the matter and have the indexing done in the prescribed manner.

Hari Achanta

Chief Course Rater, IGU

DATE/TIME	START HOLE #	COMPETITION	FORMAT	NAME	CLUB	CODE NO	GROSS SCORE	H'CAP	NETT
				PLAYER A					
				PLAYER B					
				PLAYER C					
				PLAYER D					

HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	TOTAL
CHAMPIONSHIP	415	177	683	195	405	200	528	400	425	3347	396	106	479	368	363	475	412	216	485	2343	8699
REGULAR	487	180	583	187	400	182	494	458	428	3198	370	148	470	357	315	415	365	205	400	3045	6244
LADIES	347	155	511	159	349	179	431	371	356	2857	351	121	444	334	287	308	293	185	364	2717	5574
PAR	4	3	5	3	4	3	5	4	4	38	4	3	5	4	4	4	3	4	35	70	
INDEX	7	13	3	11	1	5	17	15	9	OUT	14	6	18	4	16	2	12	10	8	IN	TOTAL

FEATURES

SCORE BETTER



Better scores on the golf course can start now with the right mental attitude!

I know its true that having a technically sound game is a key to good golf but you still might not have the lower scores. It's very important that along with the techniques of your game, you manage your thoughts and emotions. Change of your thoughts and emotions causes physical reactions in your body. The body always responds to the images in your mind. So it's very much required that you use repeated positive imagery or visualization for your mind which helps in creating neural pathways, helping with a better game.

Along with this, smart hard work in the practice range is also required. This positive imagery is our mental hard work and along with the physical hard work, it creates better scores in the



Bryson DeChambeau takes pride in standing out with this unique side-saddle putting stroke



Aditi Ashok's mental strength, wins her a back to back, LET, Qatar Open title

score cards. It is said that whatever you want, you first create it in the mind and thereafter it comes in the physical form.

All accomplished players, in different sports understand the importance of mental training in their respective games. They know how important it is to have clear, positive images in the mind, especially during a tournament. The negative thoughts in the mind causes chemical reactions in the body. Norepinephrine and adrenaline are released in the body that causes an increase in breathing, the heart rate, anxiety and muscle tension. All this causes the mind to get clouded and results in poor decision making.

Don't get into a habit of making excuses for your bad shots and don't pay too much attention to your mistakes. Have confidence before starting a tournament by reminding yourself that you have done your homework by practicing enough.

Talk to yourself positively, use all positive and encouraging words on yourself that lets you remain in a

positive, happy and stress free state of mind.

After practicing physically in a golf range, do a lot of practice in your mind also. Our subconscious mind cannot differentiate between a real and imagined event, it executes what it has practiced many times whether in the imagination or in a physical world.

Keep telling yourself "yes, I can do it", "I am a champion", "I am a great player" etc. Don't get into a trap of thinking about winning or losing. Just focus on the process of playing the shot, correctly.

To be victorious in a tournament is all about staying in the present moment and enjoying the process of competition to the best of your ability.

Whenever you have a bad shot, instead of thinking negatively, immediately shift your mind to the next shot.

And finally never ever give up. Learn new skills to improve your game. Keep chasing your dreams and one day you will shine like a star. Happy Golfing!

Dr. Aradhna Singh, Ph.D.
Sports Psychologist

KNOW YOUR GOLF COURSE

CIAL, COCHIN

The CIAL Golf and Country Club was established in the year 2010. Having recognized a pent up demand for a Championship-level golf course in Cochin, CIAL took upon itself the task of designing and developing a golf course adjacent to the International airport.

It was a significant challenge to develop a golf course from scratch, using mainly home-grown talent but the first 9 holes were completed within a span of 2 years. The remaining 9 holes were added on after a period of one year, without interrupting play and seamlessly integrating all 18 holes, to form one of the finest golf courses in the country. Even now, it remains the only 18 hole golf course in the state of Kerala.

I had the privilege of designing the course, keeping in mind the necessity of blending into the surrounding environs with minimum ecological impact.

To remain an all-weather course in the legendary monsoon rains of Kerala, a good deal of thought went into designing fast-draining fairways and greens. Likewise, rainwater is harvested extensively in water bodies that also double as water hazards on the course. The overflow of water from these water bodies is utilized by the farmers in the vicinity for irrigation. The native flora was disturbed to the minimum and supplemented by significant quantities of plants, shrubs and trees endemic to Kerala. Indeed, as one takes off or lands at Cochin Airport, the sight of the lush green of the course is truly invigorating.

Amenities at the club include a driving range, practice green with bunkers, coaching services provided by a full-time coach, pro shop, bowling green, croquet, gym, swimming pool, restaurant, large club house with changing rooms, lockers, etc.

Monstrous Length

At 7401 yards from the Black tees, with a slope rating of 128 and a course rating of 74.8, this is not a course for the faint hearted. There are numerous challenges for even the best and tight fairways need accurate hitting. This is the 2nd longest course in India after Kalhaar, which is at 7425 yards!

All these factors have resulted in the course being selected for conducting prestigious professional (PGTI) and amateur tournaments for the last three years. The fourth edition is scheduled in Feb 2017 and negotiations are on with PGTI for holding this prestigious tournament for another three years.

Sustainable Golf

CGC continues to play its part in sustainable golf and in the last six years, more than 10,000 plants and 1,000 trees have been planted around the course, to a plan. A variety of spice plants have been added on, with an accompanying increase in fauna. Treated water from the sewage treatment plant which is of portable quality is being used to irrigate the fairways and greens. The sprinklers are all automated to conserve water and reduce the use of power. Water is drawn from the water bodies which are large enough to supplement irrigation needs. Importantly, only organic fertilizers and fungicides are used, to prevent contamination of water. While, the Club has facilities to convert solid bio waste into fertilizer, use of plastic is banned on the course and only battery operated carts only are used on the course.

Come, join us at Cochin and enjoy Golf, year around. Contact Sabu Thomas, Administrative Officer, CGC +91 9539700727, Reception - +91 4842611117 E mail : aocgcc@cial.aero

Last but not the least, this project would not have materialised without the whole hearted support of the M.D, Mr. V.J. Kurian, I.A.S

Maj. Gen. K.J. Koshi, AVSM (Retd.)

EVENTS



Leaving aside the British Ladies Open (1893) and the USGA's Ladies Open (1895), the All

India Ladies Amateur Golf Championship is one of the oldest tournaments in the world, having first been played in Calcutta in 1906. With Golf's popularity reaching new heights in the country recently, there was, understandably, a sense of excitement around the Delhi Golf Club between 12th-18th December 2016, as the Indian Golf Union hosted the 100th All India Women's Golf Championship, bringing together the top Women Amateur Golfers in the country, versus keen competition from International players from Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the R&A represented by players from Ireland and England. Usha International who have supported women's golf in India tremendously, were the Principal Sponsors.



Siddharth Shriram lighting the lamp

The first two days were played as a stroke play, qualifying event known as the Billoo Sethi Championship. India's Ananya Barthakur took the lead on day one with a score of one over, tied with Nur Durriyah Dammian of Malaysia. Seher Atwal, Sifat Alag and Diksha Dagar were amongst the other Indians in the top ten. The final day of the qualifier saw Nur Durriyah and

A LANDMARK CENTURY



The Internationals

Seher Atwal in close contention, with a couple of tense putts on the 18th green, which had the Malaysian winning the Billoo Sethi Championship by one stroke, with a two day total of 146.

The International, Agarwal Team event also concluded on the 2nd day with Malaysia A taking the first place and Singapore coming in second over tied, India B, losing out on a count back. Nine International Teams participated. The top 32 players qualified to go into the match play segment. The major upset of the first round was the unseating of India's number two, Tvesa Malick by unfancied Shagun Narain, on the 18th hole. As expected, the number one seed Nur Durriyah won her match from Gursimar Badwal on the 18th hole. The other upset was the defeat of Ananya Barthakur by young Gauri Karhade who was playing her very first match play event!

The pre-quarters had two tough matches which finished only on the 21st and 23rd hole respectively. Seher Atwal had a tenacious opponent in Sifat Sagoo. The youngest player in the tournament, 12 year old Anika Verma, who had never played match-play before, took on Singaporean Callista Chen to a five hole playoff, before she lost on the 23rd hole.

Diksha Dagar cruised into the semi finals after beating Gauri Kharade 6&5. The other semi finalists were Nur

Durriyah, Maria Dunne of Ireland and Tsai Wei Chia of Taipei. India had a finalist when Diksha beat Tsai Wei on the 20th hole by sinking a 20 foot putt for a birdie! Nur Durriyah was the other finalist, continuing with her unbeaten run.

The final day of the 100th All India Ladies Amateur Golf Championship dawned, cold and foggy. The 36 hole match play event between Diksha and Nur Durriyah however, started hot, with the pair making six birdies between them in the first 8 holes. Diksha turned after 9 holes in the lead by one but after 18, she was 4 down.

The final 18 holes were over, in a short span of time, with Diksha being able to win back only one hole before going on to lose Nur Durriyah on the 30th hole. Nur's experience, being a several time winner, with a 355 WAGR ranking, helped her cruise to an easy victory.

The experience of being able to play against world ranked players on home soil, is something the Indian Team and the rest of the players will cherish. For the Ladies Section of the IGU, delivering such a prestigious event was a feather in our cap and many thanks to our sponsors and all those involved in running the event.

Pauline Singh

Chairperson, Ladies Committee

EVENTS

116TH ALL INDIA AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP OF INDIA

The 116th edition of the Amateur Golf Championship of India was held at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC) from December 6 – 11, 2016. Five countries competed, namely Poland, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, South Africa and India with a total of 75 participants.

The format of the Championship is a two day stroke play followed by the top 32 players qualifying for the knockout stages.

On day 1 of the stroke play event, Sunit Chowrasia carded a four under 68 to take the lead, followed by HS Kang, one of the top veteran golfers in the country, trailing by three shots.

On day 2, city lad Udayjit Bhalotia had a flawless, 3 under 69 and Day 1 leader Sunit Chowrasia came in with a two over 74.

Round 1 of Match Play saw a few upsets with local boy Sunhit Chowrasia losing to one of the top juniors of the Country, Khsitij N Kaul. Udayjit held on to his nerves defeating Sri Lanka's, number 1 player, Sisira Kumara on the 19th hole. Round 1 also saw 40-year-old Mid-Amateur player from South Africa, Shaun Stapleton, defeating Amit Luthra, 2&1.

Pukhraj Singh Gill beat Simarjeet Singh, 5&4 and secured a position in semi-finals. Yashas Chandra won against Udayjit Bhalotia (7&6) and Arjun Prasad joined the others, after defeating Kshitij Naved Kaul, 3&2. For the last spot in the semi's, Karandeep Kocchar beat Aalap on the 19th.

In the Semis, Arjun Prasad beat Yashas Chandra and Pukhraj Singh Gill lost to Karandeep Kocchar. The Finals which is played over 36 holes saw two junior prodigies, Arjun Prasad and Karandeep Kochhar, eyeing the title. In a closely contested final, there was a which midway fight back from Arjun Prasad but it was not enough to stop Karandeep from winning the title 2 & 1 and was thus declared the National Amateur Champion for the year 2016.



Tusshar Malhotra
Asst Director-Operations

Karandeep receiving the trophy from
Aditya Khaitan, Captain, RCGC

INDIA SOUTH AFRICA TEST SERIES



South Africans: Francois Le Roux, Steve Williams, Gerlou Roux, Stefan Blommaert, Morgan Phillips, Josef Fourie, Shaun Stapleton, Jock Wellington.
Indians: Amit Luthra, Anil Jule, Sanjay Kolhatkar, Vijay Kumar Bhadana, HS Kang, Simarjeet Singh, Aditya Khaitan, Kailash Dhiwar.

The Indian Golf Union has along with the South African Golf Association embarked on a path-breaking partnership as the two competed in the first-ever 'Golf Test Series'. A strong eight-member amateur team comprising Mid and Senior Amateurs from South Africa took on hosts, India, who were led by an Asian Games gold medallist and Arjuna Awardee, Lakshman Singh.

The three-day series was played from December 2 to 4 at the historic Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC).

The series was played on the Ryder Cup format and featured four matches of foursomes on the first day, followed by four matches of

fourballs on Day 2. The third and final day featured eight singles matches.

The first Golf Test Series in India, which the South Africans won 11.5 to 4.5, was also dedicated to the memory of two senior players, from South Africa and India. Mellette Hendrikse, unexpectedly passed away, just days before the team travelled to India. IPS Mann, who had also represented India, multiple times at the Asia Pacific Seniors Championships, passed away due to prolonged illness.

Tusshar Malhotra
Asst Director-Operations

FEATURES

THE DISTRACTIONS OF GOLF

It's about where you play it and not always how you play it that matters



Like many boys of my generation, cricket came first and then tennis. The switch to golf came relatively

recently, which could – on the face of it – appear like a typical middle-aged decision to settle for a more sedentary sport.

My friends on the tennis court acted as if another one had bitten the dust, had forsaken a real sport where the heat of exertion and the soak of a sweet summer sweat were disowned in favour of an indolent walk.

But my switch to golf had little to do with a wearying frame or a middle-aged compact with my body. In fact, it had little to do with the game of golf itself. It had everything to do with golf courses.



A peacock at Delhi Golf Club

As a boy of barely eight, a few schoolmates and I at our Ooty boarding school would be ferried by old Morris Minor taxis to the Wenlock Downs where we learnt to ride mid-horses. The expansively open grasslands in this area lay close to the Gymkhana golf course. On misty winter mornings, the contours of the golf course would assume a surreal character, and I would wonder what it would feel like to amble along a fairway or tread messily on a green covered in a tidy bed of frost.

Golf courses, seen and imagined from pictures, remained etched as exotic places in my mind. Then some years ago, a friend urged me to spare some time to see whether I would enjoy swinging a club. I did that for an hour or so before we decided to play a couple of holes.

The first, a three par, I remember vividly. I was on the green in one after hitting an unexpectedly fine tee shot, missed a birdie by a distance as small as a crab scuttle, and tapped in for a par. It was enough to be hooked.

Of course, it took many days of stubborn practice and trying before I got my second par. The first hole remains a teasing reminder of how easily we can be beguiled by golf. Like a fickle lover, it can entice you into believing that you have achieved a level of healthy wholesome steadiness, before it buries your hopes in a string of messy 3-overs or leaves you stranded in a pesky unyielding bunker that seems intent on retaining the ball.

But at the end of the day – and this is the best thing about golf for me – is that my mediocrity at the game doesn't really matter so much. I suspect this is because the pleasure of being enveloped in green outweighs the pain of a really bad round. Those who dislike (or like to dislike) golf may whinge about its so-called sluggishness (which incidentally I prefer to describe as deliberate leisureliness), but even they cannot deny a simple truth – no other game is played on grounds that are so expansive and beautiful.

It has become something of a cliché to describe golf as a good walk spoiled, but Mark Twain, who this saying is attributed to, was probably thinking about the wrong kind of interruptions.



Hyderabad Golf Club - Golconda Fort

Yes, the game involves some preparation and some waiting before putting or playing a stroke, but to my mind, it is another kind of disruption that lends the game its real magic.

On my home course at the TNFG-Cosmopolitan Club, this is sometimes the sight of the Baobab, bulky and ungainly in its stocky majesty, as one walks towards the first green. Or the imposingly tall Tabubia that flanks the third fairway and sheds its flowers profusely on fairway. There is birdlife if you care to keep your eyes open – kingfishers, tree pies, drongos, bee eaters, more. But it could bereally anything anywhere – the sight of a bison at the Kodaikanal golf course; a magnificent peacock dance display at the Delhi Golf Club, or the Golconda fort complex darkening slowly as the day dies out at the Hyderabad Golf Club.

As amateurs, I think it is a huge mistake to follow the coaching advice to forget everything to focus on the game. The game is only a part of the whole that makes up golf. Golf can drive you to distraction warn those who aware of its addictive quality. But I suggest that golf must drive you to distraction, in a way that makes you appreciate where it is played and not merely how it is played.

Mukund Padmanabhan

(The author is the Editor of The Hindu)

RULES & REGULATIONS

LEVEL 1 RULES SCHOOL AT MAURITIUS

In 2014, at the request of our then President, Mr. Raian Irani, the IGU initiated a meeting with Mr. Christophe Cure, President of the Mauritius Golf Federation on the possibility of the IGU providing assistance to the MGF in Rules Education. After much discussion, the R&A approved 2 instructors from the IGU to travel to Mauritius and conduct 2 Level 1 schools.

In a red letter event, on August 4th and 5th, 2016, the IGU instructors, Shalini Malik and Ishwar Achanta conducted 2 Level 1's at the Mauritius Gymkhana Club for 61 participants.

The fact that the IGU, which is from the Asia Pacific region, assisted the R&A in delivering Rules education in the Africa



region, is a huge plus for the confidence that the R&A continue to have with their affiliate, the Indian Golf Union as reflected in an e mail written by David Rickman, ED of R&A Rules Ltd.

The Editor

Dear Delegate

Mauritius Golf Federation Level 1 Introductory Rules School – August 2016

On behalf of The R&A may I take this opportunity to thank you for attending the recent Level 1 Introductory Rules School conducted by the MGF in conjunction with the Indian Golf Union. I hope that you enjoyed the School and found it fun, interesting, worthwhile and educational.

Rules education is very important to The R&A and we are proud to work with our affiliates, like the MGF and IGU, in seeking to increase the knowledge and understanding of the Rules and etiquette. Our grateful thanks and appreciation to the instructors – Ishwar Achanta and Shalini Malik - for delivering the School. If you did not do as well in the exam as you may have hoped, contact the MGF about re-taking the exam.

For some of you, attending a Level 1 School is ideal; for others it may just represent the beginning. I would urge those that are interested to continue to develop their knowledge, e.g. by reading the Rules and Decisions on the Rules of Golf, or to consider becoming involved on the Committee at your Club. Perhaps, in due course, you may wish to consider attending a Level 2 Rules School.

Regardless of what your ambitions may be, we would very much appreciate your assistance in promoting our online Rules and etiquette course, the Rules Academy - www.RandA.org/RulesAcademy. So please tell others about it, ask your Club to put a link to it on its website or mention it in its newsletter, etc.

Lastly, if anyone has any feedback on any aspects of the Level 1 School, please send them to the MGF.

Thank you once again for attending the Level 1 School and good luck in the future in applying your Rules knowledge and playing the game.

Yours faithfully

DAVID RICKMAN

Executive Director – Rules and Equipment Standards

FEATURES

A REMARKABLE FEAT!

23rd November, 2016 was just another bright and beautiful day at the Rajender Singhji Institute (RSI) Golf Course, Poona when the regular four ball of retired officers, Lt. Gen. S.S. Jog, Brig. R.K. Sharma, Maj. S. Ashok and Capt. N.S. Rawat teed it up at 1230 hours.

Little they did they know or expect that 3 of them would be witness to a spectacle, hitherto, not seen in India.

On the par 3, 133 yard 9th, Suneel Jog took out his 9 iron and hit a perfect shot, only to watch in amazement, as it bounced once and dropped into the hole. His second ace in his golfing career and he was over the moon! The celebrations had hardly died down when, in somewhat a daze, he reached the 15th tee and for this 156 yard, Par 3, took out his 6 iron and smashed one more into the hole! His second ace in the same round was something that neither he nor his playing mates believed could have ever happened, for the odds of achieving this is 50 Million to 1, thus spake Ladbrokes!!!!

Golf Digest, U.S.A records a 73 year old Margery Hadar having 2 in the same round using a driver, having started Golf, just 3 years prior to this feat. Golf Digest's research also reveals that Margery is the 111th recorded golfer to make two holes-in-one in one round, two golfers have made three aces in one round and Margery is not the oldest golfer (male or female) to record



Lt. Gen. S.S. Jog (Retd.), second from the right

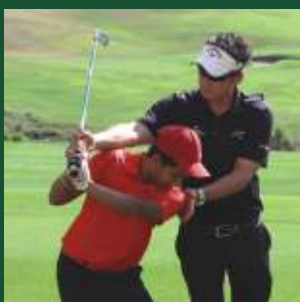
two aces in one round, that honour goes to a pair of 85-year-olds, Phyllis Semple and George Canney.

In any case, it does appear that Lt. Gen. S.S. Jog (Retd.) is the 1st Indian (unless anyone can prove us wrong!!!) to achieve this remarkable feat.

Congratulations General and do tell us the secret of your success. Having personally known Suneel and interviewed him, I hope that shaking hands with him, would give me some luck, for 42 years on and counting, I still haven't found that "Ace"!

The Editor

THE DAVID LEADBETTER ACADEMY IN INDIA



Laurence with a junior at Pune

It is such an honour and a pleasure to be setting up the first Leadbetter Golf Academy in India at the Oxford Golf Resort in Pune. With 30, worldwide Leadbetter Academies, ours is the very latest and probably the most exciting in terms of growing this game further.

Our main objective, here in India, is to provide world class premium coaching combined with the ultimate training facility. Bringing our LGA coaching system, state of the art teaching technology and diverse coaching programmes to an Award Winning location like Oxford Golf Resort is the perfect recipe for an outstanding learning experience for all students. Here at LGA, we cater to all levels and abilities, thus our programmes are varied and diverse, whether a beginner, mid handicapper or elite professional, we have a programme to suit all needs.

Growing the game and developing juniors has been my main coaching passion. Having served over 10 years as one of David Leadbetter's Senior Directors (in Europe and also the US) my elite, junior programme in Spain helped, develop a Ladies European Tour professional, Alps, Ecco and Europro Tour Members, a Spanish National Team Member, an AJGA winner, various European Junior National Team Members and even PGA Teaching Professionals.

I am looking forward to instilling the same junior programmes, here at Oxford Golf Resort, with the long term goal of building the next wave of elite Indian players from Western India and to help popularise golf, in India, as a whole, going to the next generation. Our approach is purely holistic, identifying areas of improvements in the mental, physical and technical, and course management aspects to achieve peak performance. By providing juniors in India a domestic destination for world class golf tuition and advanced technology, we will be able to eliminate those frequent, long and tiring trips abroad! Instead, you need only fly to Oxford Golf Resort in Pune!

Hope to meet you all in the near Future.

Warm Greetings

Laurence Brotheridge

MOVIE REVIEW

THE GREATEST GAME EVER PLAYED



"The Greatest Game Ever Played" was a particular game of golf, in case you haven't guessed and no, I am not referring to that superb round of golf that you and I have played and considered to be the best ever!

It is a story about a middle class, 20 year old, American amateur, Francis Ouimet, who through sheer talent and grit beat the great Harry Vardon, who was his inspiration, in a playoff to win the 1913 U.S Open!

This amazing story, by Mark Frost, became a movie in 2006 featuring Shia LaBeouf and it is such a treat that I have watched it over and over.

This is a movie that tells it as it was and ESPN can learn a thing or two on how to create a superb telecast by the way in which the movie's Director, Bill Paxton has woven the plot, particularly focusing on the final rounds of Golf played.

Harry Vardon

The movie opens at the humble Vardon cottage, in Jersey, U.K, with young Vardon who, when he asked "what is Golf", was told "Golf is a game played by gentlemen, not for the

likes of you". From here, Vardon became a Golf superstar and a professional to boot winning the 1900 US Open and six Open Championships in 1896, 1898, 1899, 1903, 1911 and in 1914, a record that has never been broken. Peter Thomson came close by winning 5.

Such were his exploits that the PGA of America, the largest working sports organization in the world had in 1937, the year of his demise, instituted the Vardon Trophy, an annual prize for the golfer with the year's lowest adjusted scoring average. Dustin Johnson is the 2015 winner of this prestigious trophy.

Vardon famously carried 24 clubs in his bag and a young "flapper" Lawson Little carried 31, prompting the authorities in 1938 to restrict the maximum to 14, a rule that still stands!

Francis Ouimet

Francis was a poor lad, born to a working class couple, who lived in Brookline, Mass across a golf club. Discouraged by his father who said "A man should know his place" and encouraged by his mother, Francis is asked by the Club Committee to play the National Amateur Championship after paying 50 dollars as the entry fee. When asked to lend it to him for just a game, his father, famously remarks "a game doesn't give a man what he needs to make a life, feed his family".

This is a heart warming story of Francis breaking his promise never to play golf again, to being asked by the President of the USGA to play the 1913 U.S Open as a local amateur, to his caddy backing off at the last minute on account of a better offer from another player and to the arrival of podgy 10-year-old Eddie Lowery, whom one spectator likens to a "pygmy", played by lovable, Josh Flitter, who caddies for Francis for

free and offers him sound advice with unshakable self-confidence.

The scenes are replete with his sage, mature advice like "keep your head down, I'll watch the ball", "that's the stuff, one shot at a time", "nice and steady now, make it roll, it'll seek the hole" and 'easy peazy, lemon squeezy".

The movie also involves a romance with a young woman who begins a friendship with Francis that somehow loses the plot in the run up to the finale. This does not stop the worldly-wise 10-year-old saying "Dames, who needs them".

This is a movie that explores the tradition of good sportsmanship and generosity while unobtrusively exposing the great class divide of the times. Vardon and Francis not being "gentlemen" overcome bigotry, wealth and pedigree issues to become legends.

The 2014 U.S. Open

Being privileged to be the 1st Indian to officiate at the U.S Open at the historic Pinehurst, I was assigned a locker in the men's room of the Clubhouse that was named after Francis Ouimet, celebrated as America's National Champion.

To me this was icing on the cake that I just could not believe, tasted that good!

Why you should Watch the Movie

The Championship was decided in an 18-hole play off (unique to the U.S Open) and as the reporters put it, it was "one David against two Goliaths". To me, this subtle movie teaches the viewer about life from different angles and this is a lesson that we, modern day humans, need to be constantly taught.

Ishwar Achanta

MERIT LIST

GENTLEMEN



Yuvraj Sandhu

Rank	Name
1	Yuvraj Sandhu
2	Yashas Chandra
3	Tapendra Ghai
4	Aalap IL
5	Sunhit Chowrasia
6	Harimohan Singh
7	Anant S Ahlawat
8	Shubham Narain
9	Jaibir Singh
10	Pukhraj Singh Gill

LADIES

Rank	Name
1	Diksha Dagar
2	Tvesa Malik
3	Sifat Sagoo
4	Pranavi Urs
5	Anika Varma
6	Amrita Anand
7	Seher Atwal
8	Ridhima Dilawari
9	Shagun Narain
10	Gurjot Badwal

JUNIOR BOYS A



Karandeep Kochhar

Rank	Name
1	Karandeep Kochhar
2	Kartik Sharma
3	Manav Bais
4	Aadil Bedi
5	Jay Pandya
6	Kshitij Naveed Kaul
7	Karan Pratap Singh
8	Saarthak Chhibber
9	Shubham Jaglan
10	Harsheet Singh Sethie

JUNIOR GIRLS A

Rank	Name
1	Diksha Dagar
2	Sifat Sagoo
3	Pranavi Urs
4	Anika Varma
5	Amrita Anand
6	Shagun Narain
7	Arshia Mahant
8	Vasundhara Thiara
9	Ananya Barthakur
10	Tanirika Singh



Diksha Dagar

The World Amateur Golf Rankings - December 2016

This	Last	Player	Country	Points avg.
1	1	Maverick McNealy	USA	1399.3408
2	2	Curtis Luck	AUS	1305.6967
3	3	Sam Horsfield	ENG	1188.3159
4	4	Matthias Schwab	AUSTRIA	1170.8879
5	5	Joaquin Niemann	CHILE	1142.5469
6	6	Scott Gregory	ENG	1106.4815
7	7	Brett Coletta	AUS	1086.001
8	8	Cheng Jin	CHINA	1076.757
9	9	Dylan Meyer	USA	1076.6488
10	10	Noah Goodwin	USA	1073.735

IGU COUNCIL MEMBERS 2016-18



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