

# AWESOME CHEMISTRY

TEAM SINGAPORE SHINE AT WAGC FINALS IN TURKEY

hey will never play in fiercely-contested international golf tournaments such as the Ryder Cup or

Cup. But for a week recently, a local quartet of amateur golfers felt like top pros slugging it out on some of Turkey's best courses as they represented Singapore at the World Amateur Golfers Championship (WAGC) Finals in Antalya, Turkey, from Nov 28 to Dec 5.



(From left) Frankie Lim, Willy Teo, Patrick Goh, Sushminder Singh and Ron Totton of Team Singapore.

Ron Totton (0-5.4 handicap), Sushminder Singh (5.5-10.4), Goh Chuan Chin (10.5-15.4), Willy Teo (15.5-20.4) and Frankie Lim (20.5-25.4) had emerged winners in the National Final of the Singapore Press Holdings WAGC in October to earn their ticket to Turkey.

Ultimately, they finished second in the team event with a total of 858, seven shots behind Malaysia, and all five golfers finished in the top seven of their respective divisions.

"We were disappointed we didn't come in first for the team event," said 40-year-old Goh, who shot a three-round nett score of 223 to tie for sixth place in Division C.

"But we still had a wonderful week in Antalya, making many friends, enjoying interacting and playing golf with players of different nationalities."

"The hospitality was great and the chemistry within the team was awesome. The Lykia Links golf course was very beautiful, intimidating and challenging."

"Everything from the Singapore qualifiers to the WAGC Finals was very professionally run and overall it has been a great lifetime experience for me to live a week feeling like a professional golfer competing for a top prize for my country, my team and myself."

Teo, who tied for third in Division D after carding a nett total of 217, particularly enjoyed the "great camaraderie" Team Singapore had.

The 51-year-old, who also finished third on the Gloria New course, said: "It was a big competition and for social golfers like us, it really was a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

"I thought we kept good discipline and did very well even though we were not used to the weather and I caught a cold on the final day which affected my play."

"We took turns to make big contributions and card good scores and could have won the team title, but we just didn't perform well enough on the final day."

"Still, it's a great achievement to

finish second out of 29 teams and I didn't expect we will do so well on courses we were not familiar with."

"It's a great honour and memory. I really felt the heat of the competition as my flight mates "marked" me. For example, when my ball went into the rough, they would watch me closely as if to hope I would miss a stroke."

**'VERY GOOD EXPERIENCE'**  
"Overall, it's a very good experience, and I would definitely want to take part in the SPH-WAGC qualifiers again to try to make next year's finals."

Another golfer who will also be back for the local qualifiers in a heartbeat is Lim, even if he is still aching after falling on the icy steps on the way to the driving range on the final day of competition in Turkey.

The 45-year-old also had to endure a heated dispute with Vietnamese champion Nhu Nguyen as the race for the Division E title went to the wire before Lim lost by four shots to finish second with a nett total of 213.

He said: "I was trailing by six shots in the final round but by the 15th hole, I had closed to within one shot of the Vietnamese winner."

"Then there was a dispute on the 16th hole, which affected my morale. This is the first time such a thing has happened to me."

"Furthermore, I had suffered a very bad fall. I'm still hurting now and at that point I was limping. But no choice, I wanted to play on for the team."

"It's a shame because while it is a competition, I feel the friendship should still be there."

"But I definitely still enjoyed myself and I had a great time getting to know Team Singapore."

"Of course I will be back to try and defend my title as winner of my division in the SPH-WAGC."

"In fact I have already told my friends about next year's competition because it is a very well-run event with the possibility of representing the country in a global tournament."