



BY
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GOLF QUARTET RECEIVE **ASIAN GAMES BOOST**

VICTORIES FOR FOO AND HO GIVE SGA STRONG HOPES OF TEAM MAKING QUADRENNIAL EVENT IN INDONESIA

Singapore's participation in the men's golf event for the Asian Games received a big boost when two of the nominees scored resounding regional triumphs this month.

First the country's top amateur player, Gregory Foo, claimed the 49th Sarawak Amateur Open Golf Championship by a massive seven strokes after a six-under total of 210 over three days at Kelab Golf Sarawak.

Leading by three strokes going into the final round, Foo finished strongly with a four-under 68 to win the championship by seven strokes over Casper Loh from Sabah.

A stroke behind Loh was Foo's 2017 SEA Games team gold-medal member Joshua Ho, who recently returned back from the United States after a three-month university exchange programme.

While Foo, the 88th world-ranked amateur, strung scores of 70-72-68, Ho shot 73-72-73. Another SGA Elite Squad member Lucius Toh settled for

eighth spot with a 225 (73-78-74) total.

A week later, Ho sealed victory at the MPI Saujana Amateur Championship at the Bunga Raya course at Saujana Golf & Country Club.

Ho headed into the final round with a two-stroke lead and played almost flawless golf, until a bogey on the last hole to settle with a four-under 68.

He finished the tournament with all three rounds under par – 70 and 69 in the first two rounds – for a nine-under 207 total.

He won by two strokes over the highest world-ranked amateur, at 23, in the field, Thailand's Sodom Kaewkanjana (72-70-67).

Ho played superb golf from tee to green, only missing two greens in the final round with five birdies and a bogey.



Gregory Foo (centre) steals the limelight at Kelab Golf Sarawak.

Second best local performer was another Asian Games 2018 nominee Abdul Hadi who finished at tied-eighth with a 220-total.

Hadi recently completed his National Service in May and will be full steam ahead in his preparation for the events to come.

While all four players, including Asian Games trials winner Low Wee Jin, seem to be shaping up well, the SGA pins its main hopes on Foo, who delayed his decision to turn pro for a year to help Singapore score in the

amateur tournaments.

And to put himself into tip-top shape for the Asian Games in Indonesia in August, Foo is continuing his hectic schedule with six important tournaments.

They are: Thailand Open (June 7-10), The Amateur Championship in Scotland (June 19-23), European Amateur Championship in Holland (June 27-30), Players Amateur in the United States (July 10-15), Porter Cup in the US (July 18-21) and the US Amateur (Aug 13-19).

SGA LAUDS CLUBS FOR SUPPORT TO PROMOTE JUNIOR GOLF

Laguna National will stage all six legs of the SGA Junior Golf Challenge at the Masters course from now until the end of the year.

The nine-hole tournament during weekdays teed-off last Tuesday and will continue until November.

And Laguna National's executive director Kevin Kwee is planning to stage at least two of the legs on Sunday afternoon to enable the juniors to play 18 holes as they do not have to attend school at the weekend.

Kwee said: "Our club had conceived this idea to promote junior golf, and when we heard that the Singapore Golf Association had a similar plan, we decided to work closely with the national body."

The opening of the reputed Masters course for the event is deeply appreciated by the SGA which is leaving no stone unturned in its efforts to boost junior

golf.

In fact, all 12 clubs in Singapore, including Raffles Country Club which is scheduled to close at the end of next month, are supporting the SGA in its drive to encourage more juniors to take up the game.

In a sign of total support, all the clubs are working hand in hand to help the development of the game, providing a platform for junior development, high performance, seniors and ladies golf.

A total of 30 tournaments are on this year's schedule at the various clubs.

Sentosa Golf Club has been hosting major tournaments, namely the completed HSBC Women's World Championships, the SMBC Singapore Open and Women's Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship, in addition to the Asia-Pacific Amateur Men's Championship later this year.

The Singapore Island Country Club

hosted the Singapore Open Amateur Championship and the SICC Junior Invitational while Warren Golf and Country Club continued with their ever-popular Warren Amateur Open.

Sembawang (HSBC Youth Challenge), Orchid (National Ranking), National Service RCC (NSRCC Junior and Faldo Series), Keppel (HSBC Youth) and Changi (National Ranking) have also played their parts to support junior golf.

Raffles CC hosted the Singapore Ladies Amateur Open last March while Tanah Merah Country Club will stage the Singapore Open Senior Amateur Championship this year.

Seletar Golf and Country Club will open its tough and challenging course for the Singapore Junior Golf Championship next month and for the first time, they will have a main sponsor for the tournament in Yang Foundation.

— Godfrey Robert

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— LAGUNA NATIONAL'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEVIN KWEE

photo by Singapore Golf Association