

BY GODFREY ROBERT

WHY THE BT LEAGUE IS A MUST FOR COMPANY GOLFERS

The World Cup drama, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's moves, the Singapore economy and the pounding of local stocks.

These topics were aired and discussed by more than 100 company executives and management staff at the Business Times Corporate Golf League Networking Night, hosted by Zenith Watch, on Wednesday at the Park Hotel, Clarke Quay, Cocobolo Poolside Bar + Grill.

With free flowing The Macallan, Highland Park and Glenrothes whisky as well as Draft Denmark beer, the conversation and banter often swung to the merits of the BT League, a unique annual event into its ninth year that brings together companies and corporations in a relaxed setting of six golf clubs for networking, competition and fun.

This year, the six-leg event tees off at Sentosa Golf Club's New Tanjong Course on July 11, and already there was a buzz of excitement among participants from 24 teams (11 for the competitive category and 13 for the social section) at the Networking Night.

When SPH consultant Patrick Daniel, the man who pioneered the event in 2010, addressed the gathering in the presence of Business Times editor Wong Wei Kong, he spoke with a passion about how the league has grown in stature and fine-tuned into one of the major golf events on the local calendar which golfers look forward to.

Later on, SPH deputy managing editor, EMTM, Murali Subramaniam, explained the rules of this year's competition and highlighted some changes. This includes rewarding staff participation of the competitive teams during league play as well as adding elements of fun in selected rounds of the tournament.

The convivial atmosphere at Cocobolo Poolside Bar + Grill continued with a putting game sponsored by FootJoy and

Titleist, and an ice-breaker game with attractive gifts from Zenith Watch.

The Swiss luxury watchmaker also brought along a showcase that included selected timepieces for the viewing pleasure of all who attended the Networking Night.

Company bigwigs have been known to have gone to the extent of postponing their overseas trips just to make sure that they play in the event which offers sporting competition and a huge dose of fun, marked by goodie bags, fabulous prizes, surprise lucky draw prizes and local food at the halfway houses.

Among the teams this year are OrangeTee, back in the competition after several years, and newcomers Proelect and United Overseas Bank.

The other teams are Audi, Boustead, Centurion, Citibank, Emerio, Team Boss, Proelect, Tat Hong, Deloitte and KPMG for the competitive category.

For the social section, Edrington will enter three teams. The other participants are: DHL, PWC, Radio Gagas, SPH Eagles, SPH Reit, SunMoon, UOB, Singapore Pools, Gayatri/Tru-Colobro and Banyan Tree/Pacom.

The defending champions are Boustead, who are heavily backed by its amiable chairman F F Wong.

From Sentosa on July 11, the event moves to Singapore Island Country Club, Island course (July 24), Sembawang Country Club (Aug 7), Seletar Country Club (Aug 23), Warren Golf and Country Club (Sept 5) and Tanah Merah Country Club, Garden course (Sept 21).

• Entries are still open and Interested parties can contact Ms Eunice Seah at eseah@sph.com.sg or call 63194078.



SPH consultant Patrick Daniel (left) and Business Times editor Wong Wei Kong unveiling the challenge trophy.



Nick Yeo (right), senior wholesale and marketing executive at Zenith Watch and his colleague posing with their finely-crafted masterpieces.



(Above, left) Master-of-ceremony Benny Teo playing an ice-breaking game with guests. (Above, right) Guests enjoying the free flowing beer and whisky sponsored by Draft and Edrington respectively.

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