



BY
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SGA CHARITY EVENT RAISES **ALMOST \$550,000**

CHAIRPERSON LYN SEN THANKS SPONSORS, SPELLS OUT PROGRAMMES TO GROW THE GAME, AND RAISE CURRENT NATIONAL STANDARDS

There were many sexagenarians and septuagenarians, some millennials and a few youths. It reflected Singapore's profile of today's golf playing population with the average age set at 55 years.

It also told of challenging times and the hard work facing the Singapore Golf Association (SGA) in its task of redressing the situation if it wants to see the game of golf regaining its place as among the leading sports in Singapore.

With that being the backdrop, the SGA showcased what it could do during an exciting fund-raising event at Sentosa Golf Club on a glitzy night of song, dance and prizes galore in front of a turnout of almost 200 people last Wednesday.

And what is heartening to note was the theme-filled event at the New Tanjong course raised almost \$550,000. Special thanks to the generous donors in the Solitaire, Diamond, Platinum and Gold categories alongside other cash donations.

Every guest of the SGA Fundraiser, the third since the new committee took over in 2016, went home with something to carry. Many thanks to the numerous prize sponsors who generously supported the fundraiser with the common goal to grow the game of golf.

Guest-of-honour Prof S. Jayakumar (former DPM and Senior Minister) congratulated chairperson Lyn Sen for her dynamism and vigour in successfully organising the Fundraiser. He also complimented on SGA's long-term vision and leadership provided by the association's president, Ross Tan.

Lyn says that this worthy cause has two dimensions: to help Singapore's elite golfers raise their game and face the challenge posed by rivals in the region and beyond in the pursuit of national glory in the various competitions like the Putra Cup, Lion City Cup, South-east Asia Games and the Asian Games.

And to create a bigger pool of young golfers who will be the future of the sport. It also includes provid-

ing more opportunities for all Singaporeans to experience the sport, a game of a lifetime. The SGA endeavours to engage the community and facilitate more activities to promote and develop the game across all ages.

Video clips of some of these youngsters shown on the big screen tugged at the heartstrings of the onlookers mainly because apart from the tough training and regimen they went through, they had to strike a balance between their golf and studies in a meritocratic society which discourages laggards.

Therefore, the monies raised will also go towards granting the worthy golfers monetary help in meeting the expenses for competitions and training abroad as well as securing places in institutions of higher learning for the deserving few who look towards carving out for themselves a good career.

The funds will also help defray the cost of training expenses like strength



SGA Fundraiser chairperson Lyn Sen (above, fifth from right) and participants give the thumbs-up while a spectator joins in with a flight at a tee-box.



and conditioning programmes and running of a first-ever High Performance Training Centre to provide state-of-the-art facilities and equipment to enhance the skills of the national golfers.

SGA head honcho Tan also appreciated the help local clubs have given, sometimes even not charging green fees, to the many youngsters who need much game practice and use of facilities.

There was a big cheer when Lyn stated that in the long-term the SGA hoped to unearth a Joseph Schooling (Singapore's Olympic gold medallist in swimming) in golf and provide the aspiring youngster with all the help in attaining Olympic glory, now that the sport is back in the quadrennial.

To that dream, says Lyn, the journey begins as the SGA sets the path towards the growth and national development of golf.

S'PORE JUNIORS SHINE AT OPTIMIST QUALIFIERS

Singapore produced nine out of the 12 qualifiers for the 2019 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships in Miami, Florida in July.

Over 100 youngsters from the Asia-Pacific region competed in the qualifiers on March 11 and 12 at Sentosa's New Tanjong course and Singapore's positive showing was attributed to Singapore Golf Association's junior development initiatives.

The Optimist event is one of the largest and best-known junior events that attracts more than 600 golfers for the Finals.

The qualifiers (S'poreans unless

mentioned): Girls' 10-12: Thitaree Visavapattamawan (Thai) 70-81, Guo Junxi 81-75. Girls' 13-14: Jillian Kuk 81-79, Angel Lim 78- 82.

Boys'10-11: Brayden Lee 81-73, Jayden Loh 77- 86. Boys' 12-13: Nor Haqeim (Mal) 79-71. Ethan Lim 80-79. Boys' 14-15: Ng Wei Jun 73-74, Daryl Low 76-74. Boys' 16-18: Nor Heikal (Mal) 74-72, Eng Wei Jin 74-81.

Meanwhile the SGA will be organising the first Asia-Pacific Junior Amateur at Laguna National (Masters) from May 6 to 10.

It is an invitational event which will consist of two top boys and two top girls from each coun-

try. The invitation will include 15 countries and special sponsor invites.

The event is sponsored by PXG, New Balance and The Yang Foundation and sanctioned by the Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation.

Also the SGA will also be participating in the SPH Golf and Travel Fair at Takashimaya Basement 2 from March 21 to 24.

It will have a booth which will be opened to everyone who is interested to find out more about golf and also mini-golf activities for adults or children to have a taste of the game."

— Godfrey Robert

photo courtesy of Singapore Golf Association