

BY GODFREY ROBERT

# NATIONAL PLAYER LEE STEERS CAR TIMES TO BT LEAGUE GOLF CROWN

KUDOS ALSO TO GREY EMERIO FOR BRILLIANT  
COMEBACK FOR TEAM TITLE IN FINAL LEG

With a professional showing at the final leg of the Business Times Corporate Golf League, it was no surprise that national player Donovan Lee was inundated with questions about when he was going to turn pro.

Lee's response was a familiar "soon" because the 19-year-old is still a student at the Singapore Institute of Management and studies has a priority.

But golf remains close to his heart because the game has taken him places and the interactions he has had has given him good education.

A winner of the China Amateur and Johor Amateur titles this year in addition to being a gold-medal winning Putra Cup team player for Singapore, Lee shot a phenomenal six-birdie three-under 69 to receive the FJ Player of the Round trophy from Business Times editor Wong Wei Kong at Tanah Merah Country Club's Tampines course on Sept 20.

No doubt with his presence, Lee took some fight off individual title hopefuls for they knew they would be competing to be "second best" in a competition where Lee was a previous winner of a leg.

In the final leg of the league, presented by Audi Singapore, Lee beat the field by "a mile" and amassed 42 points (capped at 40) to propel Car Times to the overall team title from 19 other teams.

His contribution, coupled with former national amateur Vincent Khua's 37 points, helped Car Times to win the 10th edition of the series by five points from Team Citi, whose most reliable player Joey Chang bagged 38 points after a 79 gross.

But the main talking point was the brilliant comeback of Grey Emerio, whose four players, Rafmat Jamat (38 points), Clinton Ang (38), Winston Baptista (37) and Gopal Banerji (36) combined effectively to propel them to the Team of the Round crown with 149 points.

And this magnificent showing also



Car Times team of (from left) Donovan Lee, Genevieve Lee, Eddie Loo and Vincent Khua with the BT Golf Trophy.

pushed them up to third in the overall table with 375 points after languishing in mid-table for the previous legs.

Grey Emerio captain Harish Nim credited their new belief on Nirvik Singh, recently appointed global COO of advertising network Grey Group, who joined hands with Emerio, a leading IT solutions and services organisation which has been competing on its

own from the second edition onwards.

Nirvik, a single-handicapper who is based in Singapore, has strategised with Nim on how the joint-team should decide on player combinations for each of the six legs.

Car Times captain Eddie Loo lauded the contributions of Lee, who played in three legs. A winner of the Warren leg, Lee tamed the challenging Tamp-

ines course with six birdies, the best coming on the par-five 18th hole when good drive helped him to lay up comfortably and hit a 56-degree wedge shot to a mere foot from the flag for a tap-in birdie.

Lee also won the Hugo Boss Longest Drive Challenge when he hit a 288-metre tee-shot on the 407-metre par-four second hole.

photo by Tharm Sook Wai