

BY GODFREY ROBERT

# CHOO BOUNCES BACK TO EDGE OUT YAP

KEPPEL MEMBER PLAYS STEADY ROUND BUOYED BY FIVE BIRDIES ON THE MASTERS COURSE

The finish was heading towards a tie, with three players in contention.

Overnight leader Koh Dengshan was fighting it out with Choo Tze Huang in the penultimate flight at Laguna National's Masters course.

Leader over Choo by two shots after Thursday's first round, Koh and his close buddy were tied with three holes to play in the professional section of the Pasir Ris Central Charity Golf event.

But Choo, buoyed by birdies on the second, third, ninth and 11th holes, bagged another birdie on the challenging par-four 16th to sneak ahead by one.

And he was aware that Koh is a tough rival as the pair stood on the tee-box of the interesting 175-metre par-three signature 17th hole over water. Sadly, Koh saw his tee-shot find water on the right of the green while Choo found the "dance floor".

So Koh's challenge fizzled out as he slumped to a double-bogey to trail Choo by three going into the relatively easy par-four finishing hole. Then when everyone thought that the title was Choo's, Jesse Yap emerged as a strong competitor from the last flight.

Choo too believed that it could end up in a tie while sitting in the clubhouse. Then when Yap walked into the Nest dining area and congratulated Choo, only



Winner Choo Tze Huang is flanked by sponsors James Koh (left) and Kelvin Chng.

then did the affable Keppel Club member discover that Yap had bogeyed the 17th and finished one shot behind for the \$3,000 prize.

Choo, lying a four-way joint-third after the first day with an even-par round, shot a two-under 70 yesterday in wet conditions to finish on a 142 total for the \$4,000 prize as Ftag champion, while Yap finished on 143 after yesterday's 71.

Koh finished third, tied with Mardan Mamat and Abdul Hadi in the nine-

player professional section, specially carved out from the amateur event to give the leading local professionals competitive rounds in preparation for big events coming up.

Businessmen James Koh and Kelvin Chng, co-founders of Chrono95 watch company, stepped forward to help the local professionals who have been left stranded with no events since March because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The two "godfathers"

who had pledged their sponsorship in March to Choo and Koh for major events in the region by committing to take care of their travel expenses and offer of a retainer, have now widen the benevolence with the announcement that similar monthly events for local playing professionals will be staged. The next one is slated for Tanah Merah Country Club's Tampines course.

Choo said: "Winning an event is always great, but

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— CHOO TZE HUANG

the bigger bonus is the opportunity for stiff playing experience. All the professionals are thankful to James and Chng for providing us such games to keep us in tune.

"We can't be just practising all the time, and as you know some of these professionals are also spending some time teaching to break the sequence. Such events go a long way to help us hone our games and our playing standards are quite even."

## CHANG PLEASED WITH COACHING COURSE

Chang Ren Chiat, a longtime teaching pro, is pleased that he signed for a coaching course despite his years of experience on the driving ranges.

Chang, also the Singapore Professional Golfers' Association vice-president, has just completed a four-day SG-Coach Level 1 Integrated Curriculum for golfing pro-

fessionals at Sembawang Country Club.

The course, with the blessings of SportsSG and the Singapore Golf Association, is to help teaching professionals keep up to date with the modern systems of coaching and upgrade their knowledge on various aspects of the latest techniques of teaching.

There were seven modules; namely, Coaching Philosophy & Practices, Sport Development System, Safe Sport and Sport Safety, Sport Science, Theories of Coaching, The Coaching Process and Building a Positive Culture.

It was conducted by national coach Matt Ballard, a qualified teacher from Aus-

tralia, and the SGA General Manager and professional golfer Jerome Ng, done over half-day sessions for 35 participants.

### NEW PERSPECTIVES

The popular Chang, who teaches at Orchid Country Club, said: "I am happy that I attended this course. It has

given me new perspectives about coaching and has put me in alignment with the latest techniques.

"Sports science was an interesting module and I learnt a lot about it. I would encourage all teaching professionals to attend future sessions."

— GODFREY ROBERT

Photo: Ftag