

BY
GODFREY ROBERT

IT WILL BE A SEVEN-CLUB CHALLENGE AT SEMBAWANG

To inject greater fun into the event, the third leg of The Business Times Corporate Golf League at Sembawang Country Club on Aug 7 will be a seven-club competition.



Team Boss members celebrate their top-of-the-table showing.

Ven Sreenivasan, executive editor of SPH Radio, announced this to mixed reactions at the presentation dinner after the second leg at the SICC Island course last Tuesday.

“Basically, it is to have some fun, namely squaring the holes so that there is a measure of levelling the field for the 11 teams in the competition,” said Sreenivasan.

G. Shanmugam, of sponsors Gayatri, – also a team in the social side of the event – found this to be an interesting idea, saying: “This will give the competition a good twist, and there will be so much of decision-making during play. It should be fun.”

Tan Lee Hong, of new team Proelect, agreed with the fun element of the idea, but said that “for competitive golf this idea does not resonate. It may be better not to do this.”

Joey Chang, of longtime supporters Citibank, was against the idea. “I don’t like it. Definitely not for a course like Sembawang where every of the 14 clubs is needed.”

A random check with many other competitive golfers, however, found support for this idea as it can introduce an element of surprise for the team because course management is vital. “Isn’t course management key to golf, so

we welcome the seven-club challenge,” said one player.

After the second leg at the Island course, Team Boss soared to the top of the table with good teamwork from Ben Fones (35 points), John Lim (34) and Andre Huber (34), who combined for a 103 total to take perch on 213 points after two legs of the popular event, presented by Audi Sport.

A key sponsor of the unique event, Team Boss, moved up from second to topple first-leg leaders Proelect whose trio of Ben Chua (35), Tan Lee Hong (32) and Eric Tan (31) managed just 98 points to trail by four with 209 points.

Defending champions Team Boustead took sole third spot on 203 (106-97) points in the 16-holes-to-count format for the second leg.

The Island course’s Hole 2 which featured a surprise event of hitting-the-gong with the drive at 170 metres which had a cash prize of \$888 and the Macallan Flag 17th hole that offered the Fine Oak 12-years and 15 years’ whisky as prizes were not counted for the event.

After Sembawang, the event moves to Seletar Country Club (Aug 23), Warren Golf and Country Club (Sept 5) and Tanah Merah Country Club, Garden course (Sept 21).

LIM AND SENG FOR AUSTRIA

FROM RUNNERS-UP TO CHAMPIONS

Following a day of intense competition, Henry Lim and Seng Tick Yang emerged as winners of the 11th Audi Quattro Cup 2018 Singapore at Sentosa’s New Tanjong course.

The duo will be representing Singapore in Kitzbühel, Austria, where they will compete against teams from 47 countries at the Audi quattro Cup World Final from Sept 23 to 27.

In 2014, Lim and Seng lost in a play-off, but this time around they proved too strong for 69 other teams.

Audi Singapore’s managing director Jeff Manning said: “It was great to see Audi owners

bring their A-game to the competition, revealing elements of precision and sportsmanship throughout the tournament, echoing the Audi spirit.

“Globally, more than 90,000 golfers compete in 700 tournaments in the Audi Quattro Cup. The winning teams from these regional tournaments move on to the World Final in Austria.”

The attendees were given a special preview of the all-new Audi A8 L, ahead of its official launch scheduled in the coming months.

— Godfrey Robert



A LEGACY OF SPORT

Sven Tumba is an avid sportsman who owned the unique position of having competed in three different sports – ice hockey, football and golf – at the highest level for Sweden.

With an Olympic bronze (1952) and silver (1964) in hockey, he has also won the Swedish championship and represented his country in football in the 1950s. In golf, he had won the Scandinavian International Match Play of Golf and played at the Eisenhower Trophy and the World Cup in the 1970s.

On the 100th anniversary of the Swedish Golf Federation in 2004, Tumba was named the most influential person in the history of golf in the country, ahead of even such luminaries as former women’s world number one, Annika Sörenstam.

In 1995, Sven had an idea to create a golfing tournament that lets amateur golfers around the world compete in various handicap divisions in a professional setting. That became the start of the World Amateur Golfers Championship (WAGC).

Played at the finest golf courses around the world, the event that began at the PGA National in Florida has travelled to the Dominican Republic, Thailand, Turkey, South Africa and Malaysia.

With the late Arnold Palmer previously supporting as patron and the late Severiano Ballesteros once serving as honorary chairman of the advisory board, the championship had all the right names in place to be successful. It even found an ardent fan in the person of HRH Princess Birgitta of Sweden.

When he passed away, aged 80, in October 2011, Tumba’s legacy was continued by his wife Mona. And with the passing of Palmer and Ballesteros, a new generation consisting of Champions Tour player Jasper Parnevik and Annika emerged to take over as patron and honorary chairwoman respectively.

This year, the World Amateur Golfers Championship presented by PERODUA World Final will see a global avalanche of golfers from 45 countries across six continents, visiting The Els Club in Desaru Coast, as well as Palm Resort Golf and Country Club.

Held from October 20 to 28, the visiting national champions can look forward to staying at the brand new Hard Rock Desaru Hotel with official functions held at The Westin Desaru, which will also be recently opened.

A competition that complies with the USGA and R&A rules of amateur play, the field will consist of five handicap divisions competing in two rounds at the Ocean and Valley courses of The Els Club and another two at the Allamanda and Cempaka courses at Palm Resort.

The five divisions are A (0-5.4), B (5.5-10.4), C (10.5-15.4), D (15.5-20.4) and E (20.5-25.4).

In order to play, participants need to take part in the national qualifiers of their resident nation. In Singapore, the qualifying event will be held at The Els Club Desaru Coast on October 5 and 6.

The SPH-World Amateur Golfers Championship Singapore Qualifiers presented by Under Armour sees golfers play one round at the Valley course, followed by a second round for the top-30 to play off at the same course. Those who do not make the cut will play a leisure game at the scenic Ocean course.

Apart from golf, the packaged experience also consists of hotel stay at Amansari Hotel Desaru, goodie bag including Under Armour golf shirt and cap, return ferry, golf bag handling, land transfer in Desaru, meals, and prizes to be won, all under \$500 per head.

There will also be a pre-qualifying round for members of nine golf clubs in Singapore where a member of each will be selected via a SPH-WAGC Monthly Medal to represent their club at the Singapore Qualifier, fully paid for.

— Benny Teo

• Interested applicants can sign up at www.sphgolf.com/wagc or enquire at sphgolfcard@sphpacom.com, or call 63198610.