

BY JEREMY THESEIRA **FOREIGNERS DOMINATE** 10TH WARREN-MST AMATEUR OPEN

he Warren-MST Amateur Open has been mainly dominated by local players since it began in 2008. A decade into the event, the streak is finally broken. With each edition, the R&A World Amateur Ranking event has seen an increasing number of international participants from Australia, France, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, USA and Vietnam.

Yet our local male players have put on a strong front against the best amateurs from around the world and have won every edition prior to this year's event.

Past champions of the men's division include Jonathan Woo, Jonathan Leong, Marc Ong, Koh Dengshan, Joshua Ho and Gregory Foo.

In 2010, the first year the event included a ladies division, Ines Putri Tjiptadi Chandra from Indonesia took home the trophy.

The following year, Koh Sock Hwee bagged the first local Ladies'

Division win and subsequently in 2015 as well. Fariza Izzanie Zain and Shannon Tan, both members of Warren, took first place in 2014 and 2017 respectively.

This year represents a first in the tournament's history, with both the Men's and Ladies' Division champions landing in the arms of foreign players.

Jonathan Wijono from Indonesia took the overall men's title after posting a score of 70, 74 and 67 to end with a total score of 211.

He was three shots adrift of Abdul Hadi and James Leow, two of the six local players to make it to the top 10 in this tournament.

Joshua Ho, who was the overall champion in 2014, finished in eighth place on 220.

LADIES DIVISION

In the Ladies' Division, Sifat Sagoo from India emerged as the champion with scores of 70, 73 and 74, to make a total of 217.

Top ranking local amateur Callista Chen, who won the 12th Faldo Series Singapore Championship last year, finished in sixth place on 226.

For Wijono and Sagoo, their victories at the 10th Warren-MST Amateur Open are special, as it is the first time that both are participating in the tournament.

Warren is honoured to have Muru Golf Academy as the main sponsor and MST Golf (S) Pte Ltd returning as the tournament's title sponsor who, on top of cash sponsorship, also generously sponsored the hole-in-one prize of a limited edition Yamaha Classic Gold golf set worth \$25,000.



photos courtesy of Warren Golf & Country Club

This year's winners Jonathan Wijono (right) from Indonesia and Sifat Sagoo (far right) from India.



Prize winners of the Warren-MST Amateur Open 2018, along with the overall champions and Marc Ong, three-time winner of the event (2nd from right).

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