

21-22 JANUARY 2017 | THE BUSINESS TIMES WEEKEND

Swing

by sphgolf

Ria's READY

BINTAN GEM GETS
AN EXCITING MAKEOVER

RON SIRAK

THE 50 BIGGEST
EARNERS IN GOLF

LYN SEN

SGA'S NEW DYNAMO READY
TO KICK-START JUNIOR GOLF



OYSTER PERPETUAL
DAY-DATE 40




ROLEX


Cortina watch
高登钟表

MARINA SQUARE, #02-38. TEL: 6250 7712
CHINATOWN POINT, #01-08/09. TEL: 6702 0081
PARAGON, #01-13. TEL: 6235 0084
RAFFLES CITY, #01-36A. TEL: 6339 9185

WATCH FEATURED SUBJECT TO STOCK AVAILABILITY



RIA BINTAN GOLF CLUB RENOVATED

Being consistently rated as one of the best golf courses in Bintan over the past 20 years has not resulted in the Keppel Land Limited owned Ria Bintan Golf Club resting on its laurels.

In fact, the award-winning Gary Player designed Ocean Course has recently undergone a 12-month renovation to update itself and provide golfers with a better experience than ever before.

Officially reopened in August 2016, golfers can now look forward to a smoother and shorter local grass called *Digitaria* sp. (commonly known as Serangoon grass) replacing the previous *Zoysia Eltoro* from tee to greenside apron that will make the grounds harder and bouncier, resulting in more distances off the tee and compact action around the short game.

As an indigenous grass type, it will also ultimately make for less maintenance hassle and more consistency throughout the year.

The course is also renovated with commuting in mind and now has



gentler sloping buggy paths, especially along areas that once twirl dangerously up or down steeper elevations.

This improvement is further enhanced by drainage lines in and around the bunkers to tackle the ravages of the monsoon rains that pelt through its tropical grounds. This will help alleviate fears of accidentally skidding into a bunker and players also be able to enjoy proper sand play without the fear of standing in a water-logged hole.

Known for its environmental

friendliness, Ria Bintan's status as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary means that irrigation and retention ponds are set aside to breed and preserve the indigenous fish, *Systemus Banksi* (commonly known as Saddle Barb), and shrimp.

The ponds are located along Ocean Course holes 1, 16 and 17 though one should generally try to avoid playing towards the water hazards.

But as an easy stroll, Ria Bintan presents a bio-diversified range of fauna such as mousedeer, flying lemurs, owls, bats and civet cats that makes it one of the most fantastic nature walks within a 45-minute ferry ride from Singapore.

As a premium partner of SPH Golf Card, a complimentary 18-hole round is given as one of the welcome gifts for members who sign up for the Singapore's latest preferred golf and lifestyle programme.

Nature calling, or a golfer's dream-come-true: Either way, Ria Bintan Golf Club beckons all to come visit and take on its beauty and puissant challenge.

FIRST MEDAL AT HORIZON

In a short six weeks after its official launch, the new SPH Golf Card has garnered almost 600 members with new applications streaming each day owing to the wonderful array of welcome gifts that accompany each new sign-up.

Now, the members of the latest Singapore Golf Association (SGA) Associate Member's club can look forward to a year-long series of medal competitions leading to a league placing spanning various categories of play according to their official USGA handicaps.

The first medal is slated for March 3 at Horizon Hills Golf Club, one of SPH Golf's premium golfing partners, which will kick forth a series that will provide members with plenty of opportunities to network as well as enjoy some competitive fun.

To sign up as an SPH Golf member, go to www.sphgolf.com.

Members interested in joining our first medal event at Horizon Hills may register their interest by emailing SphGolfCard@sphacom.com or calling 6319 8610 during office hours.

HANDICAP FLIGHTS

Premier Div: Below 5.4

A Div: 5.5 – 10.4

B Div: 10.5 – 15.4

C Div: 15.5 – 20.4

D Div: 20.5 – 24.0



tried & tested

GOLF GREEDY POWERS SPH GOLF CARD TEETIME BOOKINGS

Online teetime booking service provider GolfGreedy.com recently merged with GolfLAN, a similar company with strengths in India and the Middle East, to enhance its spread of products spanning Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and now the other two regions as well.

Started back in 2009, the official tee time service provider for the SPH Golf Card programme, has 10,000 members under its fold be-

fore the merger and is now poised to grow even bigger and with more offerings.

Working as a backend fulfillment service, Golf Greedy's easy to use tool is found on the SPH Golf website (www.sphgolf.com) where members can book tee times at all of Golf Greedy's fast expanding selection of golf courses, as well as enjoy preferred rates on SPH Golf's premium partner courses

that are guaranteed to be the best in the market.

This service is currently under development and will soon be made available to all members of SPH Golf Card.



NEW TITLEIST PRO V1

Now, Titleist has launched their latest Pro V1 ball with Next Generation 2.0 ZG Process Core with a new spherically tiled 352 tetrahedral dimple design. For faster players, the Pro V1x's dual core comes with a lesser 328 dimples for lesser spin.

A soft Urethane Elastomer cover used on both models delivers supreme greenside control with soft feel.

● The new 2017 Pro V1 and Pro V1x golf balls will be available in golf shops beginning Feb 1 at S\$74.00.