



BY  
GODFREY ROBERT

IN TIME WITH  
  
ROLEX

# RECENT DISCOVER GOLF CARNIVAL SHOULD BOOST GOLF PLAYING NUMBERS

KIDS AND JUNIORS ENJOY SESSION AT MANDAI EXECUTIVE COURSE

The foresight shown by the Singapore Golf Association in its implementation of forward-looking plans is an admirable move. With golf facing a gloomy outlook on two fronts (closure of golf clubs and millennials and youngsters not taking up the game), the

SGA has moved in to catch the bull by the horns.



While commissioning a study on the golf industry here to a reputable foreign firm, the SGA is working in tandem to organise events to take the game to the local population, focusing on the young.

One such programme was the recent SMBC Singapore Discover Golf Carnival at the Mandai Executive Course last Sunday from 1 pm to 5 pm where almost 600 children and adults gathered to participate in many activities, in an event organised by sports marketing company Lagardere and the SGA.

Among the events were main stations such as a golf clinic at the driving range, Chip for ARC Charity (9-hole green), Totts Golf-sponsored Kids' Zone (Foot-Golf, SNAG Golf and other family-friend-

ly activities), Skills Challenge and a stop at the Food Zone where food trucks offered popcorn, popsicles and drinks.

At the Kids' Zone, the game was promoted with exciting golf-themed activities in which the children were introduced to golf through games such as FootGolf and Giant Golf Pong.

The "Introduction to Golf" clinic involved Elite/Development Squad players and rookie professionals, totalling 17, who each facilitated for about half an hour to show the kids how to swing the club.

There were also some experienced golfers who were given tips to work on their game. Later the facilitators engaged with the participants.

The Skills Challenge was an interesting affair with a series of six different challenges played on holes 2, 6, 7 and 8 of the Mandai course.

It was based on a points system where participants who hit the ball close inside the bulls-eye or hit through a set of goal posts won prizes.

The session was in sync with the findings in the Golf Industry Report which specified that for a Singaporean golfer, there is a large social value to the golf experience, with the physical environment, level of socialisation and general activity undertaken being of greater importance than the status that may come from being a golf club member.

The report also stated that the main motivations were to have fun, relax, and to interact with friends in an outdoor setting.

And it warned that future participation levels will likely suffer heavily if the level of junior programmes or junior access to golf facilities falls.

**'IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE THE BIG TURNOUT OF YOUNGER KIDS. THIS SHOWS THERE ARE MANY PARENTS OUT THERE WHO ARE KEEN FOR THEIR CHILD TO LEARN THE GAME.'**

— LYN SEN, SGA VICE-PRESIDENT

## S'PORE'S TOP AMATEUR FOO HAS HOME COMFORTS

Sentosa Golf Club stepped forward to bid for the 10th Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship next month so that local fans can make a beeline to the resort island.

And to attract fans, the organisers have decided to allow free entry so they can watch, close-up, the best amateur talent from the continent from Oct 4 to 7 at the New Tanjong Course.

Said Singapore Golf Association general manager Jerome Ng: "The Asian Amateur Championship has changed the dynamics of Asia-Pacific amateur golf and the development of golf in the region. It is a world-class event and a game-changer for the eventual champion."

Singapore's top amateur Gregory Foo is banking on his good form, home comforts and strong motivation to help him become the first Singaporean winner of the prestigious four-day event.

At No. 111 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking, Foo is the highest-ranked player in the field from Singapore. The 25-year-old leads a strong contingent of six players from the host nation. The other five are Joshua Ho, Low Wee Jin, Abdul Hadi, Lucius Toh and Donovan Lee.

The champion of the 120-player field from 39 countries will receive a dream invitation to The Masters at Augusta National Golf Club and a place in The 148th British Open at Royal Portrush in 2019, provided he retains his amateur status. The runner(s)-up will gain a spot in The British Open Qualifying Series.

Foo goes into the championship in top form, having finished tied for the eighth place in the individual leaderboard of the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta and tied for 19th in the recent World Amateur Team Championships in Dublin.

"I am feeling great. I am feeling very confident. This is the best that I have been playing this year. So, I am very excited for the AAC and just can't wait to tee it up," said the affable Foo who has featured in seven out of nine editions, only missing out on 2012 and 2013 because of national service commitment. — **Godfrey Robert**

photos courtesy of Lagardere Sports

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