



BY
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SICC'S GREAT **TEAMWORK**

Club's A Div team play leading role in overall triumph in drama-filled SGA League

It has always been dramatic – ecstatic for some and heartbreaking for many – on the final day of the English Premier League football season.

We have seen shots of multi-screen television exciting viewers, fans pressing ears to handphones and some listening to old-fashioned radio broadcasts.

Simultaneous matches (on the last day of season all games kick off at the same time) produce many ups and downs, and titles have been decided by late goals.

A tinge of those facets was replicated on the final day of the Singapore Golf Association League on Oct 11.

While the overall title was headed towards Singapore Island Country Club (SICC) because they had a healthy lead over their 12 rivals, the race to the A Division crown was a nervy, tight affair.

SICC and National Service Resort and Country Club (NSRCC) went into the 13th and final leg all square at 24.5 cumulative points. SICC played Orchid CC at Sentosa's Tanjong course and NSRCC took on Jurong across the mainland at Seletar Country Club.

Although the matches were played far apart, effective communication through handphones meant the players knew what was happening at the other location as they worked their way through each hole.

In the first fourball match, NSRCC's Tan Teck Lee and Lee Tian Beng were 3-up with four holes to play against Jurong's Michael Lee and Gene Kwek.

On hearing this, SICC captain Ivan Chua groaned "gosh, it remains tight" as he relished his teammates' (Ong Chuon Ren and Vrun Taneja) thumping 7 and 6 triumph in their first match at the other end of Singapore.

Suddenly there was a big turnaround at Seletar, as the Jurong pair won the next four holes to seal a 1-up victory.

It put SICC in the driver's seat, but before they could celebrate, the second NSRCC pairing made it all square against Jurong while SICC's duo lost 2 and 1 at Sentosa.

That left the SICC's final pairing of Chua and Andrew Low in a must-win situation as NSRCC's Andrew Cher and Henry Lim scored a 1-up win at Seletar in the third and final match.

"The gods were on our side," said

SICC skipper Chua as his partner sank an eight-foot birdie putt on Tanjong's par-four 17th while both their Orchid opponents, Francis Ong and Benjamin Seah, missed makeable birdie putts.

With the 2 and 1 victory, Chua's team won the A Division title, rounding off the tournament with an impeccable record of 11 wins and a half.

It was a record of sorts for SICC's A Division team for they remained unbeaten in two years – last year they finished the league with nine wins and three draws.

Said Chua: "It was a great team effort from 12 players" – the other 11 being Dion Teo, Andrew Low, Carl Chay, Ong Chuon Ren, Gerald Tan, Rajiv Maliwal, Ron Teo, David Sze, Chris Sim, Warren Lee and Varun Taneja.

The 44-year-old director of an investment company added: "The A Division team's sensational run helped SICC to the overall title, an accumulated points tally derived from nine divisions over a six-month period."

The club's Ladies Evergreen team also contributed with an unbeaten run – 10 wins and two draws.

That saw SICC score 32 cumulative and 112 CRP, ahead of Raffles CC (28, 102.5) and Seletar (28, 101.5).

Chua elaborated: "Great teamwork aside, our players stayed focused, trained hard and chipped in to work out strategies for each match.

"We studied our opponents, scanned the venues and fielded players according to their strengths, depending on whether the venue called for long-hitting, good short game and course familiarity. We will have grand celebration on Nov 4, when it will also be a time for great reflection and good banter."

TOP 3 PLACINGS:

OVERALL:
1 SICC 32 cumulative points 2 Raffles 28 3 Seletar 28
PREMIER DIV:
1 Seletar 20.5 2 TMCC 19 3 National Service Resort CC 16.5
A DIV:
1 SICC 26.5 2 National Service Resort CC 26 3 Jurong 23
B DIV:
1 Raffles 28.5 2 National Service Resort CC 25.5 3 TMCC 22
SENIORS' DIV:
1 Keppel 27.5 2 SICC 27 3 TMCC 24
LADIES' DIV:
1 Warren 29.5 2 SICC 23.5 3 Seletar 23.5
LADIES' A DIV:
1 Seletar 10.5 2 Warren 9 3 Orchid CC 9
LADIES' B DIV:
1 Warren 11 2 Raffles 9 3 TMCC 8.5
LADIES' EVERGREEN DIV:
1 SICC 11 2 Sentosa 10.5 3 Warren 9.5



(Above, from left) Warren Lee, Varun Taneja, Ron Teo, Ing Chuan, Ivan Chua, Dion Teo, Gerald Tan, Wee Jun, Chris Sim and David Sze of 'A' Division.



(Left, from far left) Francesca Kirkham, Susan Hussain, Jin Jia Rui, Shen Qiong, Liao Jian Qin, Chia Hwee Siang, Chia Siang Plo, Lai Set Fah, Jessalynn Chen, Low Siew Foong, Glenis Lee and Tan Sai Eng of Ladies Division.

INTER-CLUB LEAGUE

Participating Clubs	Cumulative				Rank Overall	
	C Pts	CRP	Win	Loss		
S'pore Island Country Club	32	112	10	-	2	1
Raffles Country Club	28	102.5	9	2	1	2
Seletar Country Club	28	101.5	9	2	1	3
Tanah Merah Country Club	27	107.5	8	1	3	4
NS Resort & Country Club	25	105.5	8	3	1	5
Warren Golf & Country Club	17	90.5	5	5	2	6
Keppel Club	17	85	5	5	2	7
Jurong Country Club	14	85.5	4	6	2	8
Orchid Country Club	14	74.5	4	6	2	9
Sentosa Golf Club	10	70.5	3	8	1	10
Sembawang Country Club	6	51.5	2	10	-	11
Changi Golf Club	5	55.5	1	9	2	12
Laguna National Golf & CC	1	50	-	11	1	13

photos courtesy of SICC