



BY
GODFREY ROBERT

BIG BOOST FOR JUNIOR GOLF, ELITE SQUAD

SPONSORS, PARTNERS AND FRIENDS HELP SGA
RAISE MORE THAN \$400K FROM GOLF EVENT

It was a novel idea. And an imaginative one that struck a responsive chord with the golfers. “Beat the Juniors” was a novelty game — a Par-3 contest and a Long Drive challenge — at the Singapore Golf Association’s (SGA’s) Fundraiser 2017 at the Raffles Country Club’s Lake Course on Oct 7.

And while competing against the kids, 14 of them, including Brayden Lee, 9, Jayden Loh, 8, Kimiko Ang, 8, and Ethan Lim, 10, in the exciting contest, a message was hit home to the golfers.

The telling message: Singapore has junior talent, but that has to be nurtured the right way.

So as the golfers took on the juniors, the results were predictable. Some won and laughed about it while others lost and were not embarrassed about it.

But, more importantly, the golfers left the hole with the feeling that more must be done to help the juniors.

And the more than 150 golfers, comprising esteemed guests, sponsors and friends not just talked but also acted, their benevolence helping to raise more than \$400,000 for the association.

The response was heartwarming and received the endorsement of the guest-of-honour Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, who also played in the event, which also enabled players to meet and play with the gold-medal winning South-east Asian Games team.

And it was heartening to see ESM Goh’s arrival being welcomed by members of the Junior Squad, among the officials from the SGA Board and volunteers from the Singapore Ladies Golf Association.

Rain and lightning interrupted play and the event had to be halted, but even that did not dampen the spirits of all present as they helped to



Young golfers from the national junior squad with Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong (in blue) and Singapore Golf Association (SGA) board members at the annual fund-raiser.

make the dinner an eventful one.

ESM Goh aside, other VVIPs at the dinner included SGA Governing Council chairman Khoo Boon Hui, Singapore Sport Institute chief Toh Boon Yi, SGA president Ross Tan along with Council and Board members.

‘BUILDS CHARACTER’

Organising committee chairman and SGA Junior Squad chief Lyn Sen said: “The golfing community and public will slowly come to realise that golf builds character and teaches valuable life skills to the young.

“It is no longer a game for the privilege elite as the game

is played by many aspiring golfers who do not belong to any clubs.”

She added that the money raised would go to junior development and towards expenses for the Elite Squad, who have a series of big events coming up.

Ms Sen, also Sentosa Golf Club’s lady captain, thanked all present and had special mention for platinum sponsors Eddie Loo, owner of Cartimes, Kevin Kwee, Thomas Tan, Timothy Yong, Jacqueline Chew and Patrick Tan, who have always been forthcoming in supporting golf.

The energetic lady official also offered special thanks to individual donors Sam Goi

and Patrick Tan and SGA partners, Cartimes Automobile, Leonian, TaylorMade, Mari-gold, MST and Footjoy.

Tokens of appreciation were given to platinum sponsors and the partners of SGA.

But what was notable — and a rare phenomenon — was that everyone present at the dinner walked away with fabulous lucky draw prizes donated by generous sponsors. Many also walked away with more than one prize.

The food was sumptuous and the entertainment was superb, and everyone returned home with smiles as wide as the par-five first hole that runs parallel to part of the Ayer Rajah Expressway stretch.

LOW, YAP DO S’PORE PROUD



(Top) Low Wee Jin and (above) Jesse Yap.

It was his biggest showing in 18 years as an amateur golfer.

And while the triumph in Mauritius strengthened his belief that he could consider turning professional in the future, Low Wee Jin is keeping his options open.

Low, 24, a business management student at the Singapore Institute of Management, recently won the MCB Indian Ocean Amateur Open in Mauritius with a steady, consistent showing.

He shot rounds of 73-73 for a three-over 219 total to finish four shots ahead of South African Louis Albertse of South Africa in a field of 45 golfers.

Low picked up the game at six through the encouragement of his parents, especially dad Low Yeow Boon, who works in the finance industry.

His previous best performances were winning the Tanah Merah Country Club’s club strokeplay and match-play titles and the Keppel Club’s championship.

There was another feather in the cap for local junior golf when Jesse Yap finished a close second in the Singha Thailand Amateur Open with a 15-under total of 269 (71-64-67-67), just one stroke behind Thailand’s Witchayanon Chothirunrungrueng.

Said Yap, 25: “It was a breakthrough of sorts for I have always shot scores of between 70 and 74, that became a syndrome. But this time I strung three rounds in the sixties and I am extremely proud of the way I played the entire week.

“Second is great, and there is nothing much you can do when you fire a bogey-free final-round 67 and get beaten by a bogey-free 68.”