

editor's  
**letter**

BY  
**S. MURALI**

IN TIME WITH



**ROLEX**

kid grows up a lot quicker on the golf course. Golf teaches you how to behave.

— JACK NICKLAUS

## MODERN GOLF AND GETTING KIDS INTO THE MIX

I usually ask my golf kakis if their kids have started to play golf.

What I often hear is that their kids have been to the range, but soon gave up after finding the game too boring or slow moving.

And that is a serious problem facing the game today.

A new generation with the attention span of a neurotic gnat.

That is why some golf clubs out there are coming up with innovative solutions.

Last month, I played in a corporate golf event at Laguna National's World Classic where the golf holes were the size of dinner plates.

It was meant to speed up the game and give players more chances of making birdies and eagles.

It turned out to be a fun and innovative way to spend the day.

Last week, I played at a golf course in Bangkok that was designed with modern lifestyles in mind.

Rather than having two nines that loop back to the clubhouse, Nikanti has crafted three beautiful sixes that all start and end at their magnificent clubhouse.

And that allows you to play six, 12 or 18 holes, depending on how much time you have.

I know the purists among you are bewildered, wondering

why on earth anyone would just want to play six holes of golf.

But it is an option, and you can still play the full 18 if your heart desires.

Another unique thing about Nikanti, which is about a 45-minute drive from Bangkok, is that each six comprises two par-threes, two par-fours and two par-fives.

### REFRESHING

That means it is still a par 72 but you play six par fives and six par threes and fewer par fours than most regular courses.

I found the experience refreshing and very enjoyable and I do think that Nikanti has given

plenty of thought to making the game more relevant to modern lifestyles.

With the current review on golf courses in Singapore and usage numbers, I do think more clubs in Singapore also have to give thought to making the game more relevant and accessible to a bigger group of golfers.

Too many courses look like vacant park land on weekdays and this should change.

Let's try to pry the kids away from their mobile phones and computers and onto the golf courses.

Once they sample the beauty of the game, I'm sure even some of the gnats will be transfixed.

**Nikanti, a par-72 course, comprising three six-hole layouts each with two par-threes, two par-fours and two par-fives.**

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