



WHY SEAGULL GAYATRI ARE TOPS

Single-handicappers perfectly blended with steady mid-handicap players, and garnished with elderly high-handicappers. The resulting dish is a palatable one that gives true meaning to Gayatri, the popular South Indian restaurant.

The topping – better still greasing – is provided by Seagull Pte Ltd, a company which offers all kinds of repair work for marine and heavy structural fabrication works for offshore and subsea industry, in the form of star golfers Raju Vijayvargaiya (handicap index 2.2), Jason Ng (7.8), Robert Teo (8.2), Patrick Chua (9.7) and Bernard Chia (9.8), who shot an impressive 82 at Sentosa Golf Club's Tanjong course in the first game on July 6.

This palatable combination is also surely potent when it comes to golf.

That is why Seagull Gayatri are leading the Business Times Corporate League after two of six rounds in the popular annual Singapore Press Holdings event (see table).

Said the team's captain G. Shanmugam, a 13 handicap index player: "We have a two-fold motive in entering this great event.

"First, we want to use this tournament as a networking opportunity with our business partners and new friends.

"Second, we love golf and this event provides a great platform for us to mix and enjoy the game."

Seagull Gayatri have strong and committed players, and the teamwork is excellent.

In fact, teamwork is a great asset to the format of the competition, now into its sixth year, where at each leg, the best three of four scores (stableford) count.

So the selection of players for each



leg is crucial, especially so because the handicaps are adjusted after every leg.

Shanmugam added: "We will try and rotate the players, hoping to give each of our 12 players at least one game. But it also depends on the availability of the players, most of whom are busy with work commitments and travel.

"Being regular kakis, our players understand each other, and those not on the competition playing roster will be offered slots for the social round."

The five single-handicappers and Shanmugam aside, the other players are M.S.Maniam, Hanafi Khan, Sebastian Cheng, Ajaib Haridass, Zainuddin Lee and Sean Pang. The two reserves are V. Krishna and Singa Raju.

Of the lot, Maniam, the managing director of Seagull Marine, is a major contributor to the team's points.

A 14-handicapper, who plays at least twice a week, Maniam is a natural talent who also works hard on his game. In the first leg he shot 83, three below his handicap.

Having professional Vikkash Babu as a son helps too as the father-and-son pairing have regular games together to hone their individual games.

Maniam has a decent drive and his biggest asset is his short game.

Apart from playing, due to the strong passion for the game, he also helps local golf with his company's involvement in corporate events and also its staging of an annual event.

Patrick Daniel (far left), editor-in-chief English, Malay, Tamil Media Group SPH, with four members (from far right) Sebastian Cheng, G. Shanmugam, Bernard Chia and M.S.Maniam of the Seagull Gayatri team.

HOW THEY STAND

Pos	Team	Sentosa (Tanjong)	RCC (Lake)	Total
1	Seagull Gayatri	108	100	208
2	Boustead	105	97	202
3	Team CITI	103	98	201
4	Bank of Spore (OCBC)	101	97	198
5	The Crane Boomers	97	98	195
6	Emerio	103	90	193
7	Team Cerebos	101	87	188
8	DBS Vickers	87	100	187
8	Abeo Electra	91	96	187
10	Singapore Pools	92	93	185
11	Audi quattro	76	100	176
12	Team Centurion	90	80	170
13	OMG!	80	81	161
14	Team Parkway Hospitals	79	76	155
15	Team KPMG	90	58	148
16	Team Walton	53	91	144

Note: Teams from Architects 61, DHL, Lian Beng Group, RHT, Seah Construction, SPH, and SunMoon Food play under a non-competing level.