



BY  
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# THE MAGIC OF THE MASTERS

LYN AND KONG CAPTIVATED BY THE EUPHORIC AUGUSTA EXPERIENCE

It is an experience of a lifetime. So said Lyn Sen, president of the Singapore Ladies Golf Association, who made her first trip to the US Masters in March and met an elderly woman for whom it was the 62nd Masters at Augusta. For Singapore Golf Association (SGA) vice president C. S. Kong, it was the second visit, which left him with wanting more as he reflected about the unique experience.



(Above) Lyn Sen with Fred Couples.

(Left) Lyn and hubby J K Sen at Amen Corner.

Lyn went along with husband J.K. Sen, who was a fan of the Masters for 40 years, the background knowledge coming through when he impressed golf legends Ben Crenshaw and Johnny Miller during a deep conversation on a chance meeting.

What fascinated Lyn and Kong most was the efficiency with which the Masters was organised, the professionalism of the staff and volunteers so evident in the manner with which they went about their business.

And they were also animated and armed with thorough knowledge of the Masters, the history related with an easiness that floored the listeners.

As Lyn put it: "Every volunteer and service staff was helpful, knowledgeable and performed with aplomb attending to the demands of the 40,000 patrons who thronged the grounds each day. Their pride was clear for all to see and their exuberance was infectious."

Kong, who made the first trip in 2014, jumped on the offer when SGA president Ross Tan, who had another engagement, gave him the invitation.

He said: "I remember that on the last day in 2014, I was almost the last one to leave the golf course as I was fascinated by all that I saw. As I walked pensively to the car park in Augusta, I wondered if I will ever get to come back again. You can imagine my eupho-



ria when I was given the invitation."

Ecstatic was also Lyn, who chipped in: "In all the six days that we were at the Masters, our days stretched from 8am to 8pm, leaving our chairs only after the last putt of the day. How could 12 hours go by so quickly?"

"Of course, we all know about the Masters roar. Thinking about it gives me goosebumps. I remember the thunderous roar that came from the 15th hole on Sunday. It was spine-tingling as we were seated greenside on the 18th and Adam Scott had to step away from his putt as patrons stirred in excitement."

One of the biggest thrills for Kong was being seated among the Green Jacket members of Augusta National to witness the crowning of the champion, Sergio Garcia.

"The other thrilling moment was when I bumped into Tom



C.S. Kong at the front of the Augusta Clubhouse.

Watson at the clubhouse. I have been a fan of Tom since I took up golf more than 20 years ago. Still sprightly at the age of 68, he epitomised what a true golfer should be – greatness tempered with humility".

Lyn and JK also took the opportunity to catch up with as many golfing greats as pos-

sible, namely Phil Mickelson and Fred Couples.

For Lyn, the 15th hole was the most pivotal as tournaments can be won or lost on it. "Here, we witnessed the shot that drowned Couples' hopes on Saturday," she added.

For Kong, Amen Corner, taking in holes 11, 12 and 13, is a great place to position oneself as "much of the drama unfolds there."

Couples was the player who impressed Kong the most. He said: "I have been his fan for a long time. He is a real cool guy, always with a smile. He can relate well with players and spectators. At the ripe age of 58, he still plays good competitive golf. It is remarkable that he finished tied-18th."

If Kong is to make another trip, he would leave earlier to catch the Par-3 action and practice sessions. "I love the informality," he adds.

As for the over-awed Lyn, she would wake up earlier each day, "maybe at 6am and get to the club by 7am when the doors open".

## 1984 WINNER MURU GIVES THUMBS-UP FOR JUNIOR C'SHIP

If you need an endorsement for the Singapore Junior Golf Championship, go to M. Murugiah, the Singapore Professional Golfers' Association president.

As a winner of the popular event in 1984, six years after its inauguration, Murugiah, 52, says winning the event was a launchpad that convinced him to turn professional three years later.

"It was a great tournament with a strong regional field. I remember winning it at the old Tanjong course in Sentosa."

Singapore had to wait 19 years for another home victory when Quincy Quek won it in 2003. After that it was bonanza for Singapore as Choo Tze Huang, Goh Kun Yang, George Foo, Johnson Poh, Gregory Foo, Edgar Oh and James Leow triumphed.



Seletar captain Mohd Ismail Taha.

But with Thailand sweeping both the boys' and girls' (started in 2010) titles in the last two years, there is belief that they would make it a hat-trick this time.

So far the Thais have submitted eight entries in a field of 69 names which is expected to soar to about 100 when the entries close on Monday.

This year's event will be hosted by Seletar Country Club from June 5 to 8, and club captain Mohd Ismail Taha is looking forward to great event.

"It's a competitive field, the course has been prepared well, also in time for our charity event two weeks later," said Taha.

The foreign field includes golfers from Australia, China, India, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Taiwan, New Zealand, Thailand and the United States.

The tournament is over three days, with a practice round on June 5. After the second day, the top 60 per cent for each event will advance to the final round.

— Godfrey Robert