



HANDICAP MADE EASY

One of the most troublesome part about playing golf is getting a handicap, without which, admittance to many golf courses is denied.

Golfers without a handicap also suffer the ignominy of not being able to play in amateur competitions where referees often require proof of ability through the only means the know how – yes, the golf handicap.

For those learning the game for the first time, it is necessary for them to go through lessons, not just on the swing but also on the rules and social aspects of playing the game.

They typically get through a series of lessons before they are ready to take their Proficiency Certificate test

Upon passing, they have six months to collect at least five 18-hole or 10 nine-hole rounds, or any combination that adds up to 90 golf holes, before being eligible for the handicap test.

Unfortunately, many amateurs decide to forego the traditional handicap test altogether and continue their golfing life without one.

For those belonging to this group, SPH Golf has innovated a way for them to get a USGA golf handicap that is fuss-free and cost-free.

Members of SPH Golf who wish to have their handicap need only submit the regulatory number of scorecards and visit their handicapping partner, Big Fish Golf, to take both a USGA Rules and Regulations theory test as well as a swing test conducted by in-house



Professional golfer and club fitter and SPH Golf handicap tester at Big Fish Golf Atiq Idris (left) with One FM's Andre Hoeden.

golf professional Atiq Idris, a former player on the PGM Tour in Malaysia.

Radio deejay and SPH Golf member Andre Hoeden recently took his handicap test at the studio and said: "It was more than I expected! It wasn't just a test, we had fitting analysis, swing assessment, putting alignment and even discussed the rules of golf."

While useful, this programme is not suited for golf beginners but rather, those who have been playing for some time.

"The idea is to encourage the regular golfer to get his handicap done and be a part of a global family of registered golfers," explained Idris, who also emphasizes the importance of knowing the rules of golf.

"Especially for those who have not gone through formal instruc-

tion, they may know the basic rules simply through playing regularly, but here at the test centre, I make a point to encourage them to better understand the USGA Rules of Golf," he stressed.

There is one other thing that Idris did not mention but can be equally important; having a handicap is essential when playing an amateur competition with hole-in-one prizes.

Sponsors can reject awarding these prizes if the golfer does not own an official golf handicap.

And while the odds to achieve an ace is stacked low, wouldn't it be sad to see the keys of that new Mercedes-Benz slip away?

Sign up for the SPH Golf Card now at www.sphgolf.com to take your free handicap test. For more information on handicap testing, call Big Fish Golf at 6471-2272.

FIRST MEDAL ON THE WAY

Members of SPH Golf can now look forward to their first medal event at the multiple award-winning Horizon Hills Golf Club in Johor, Malaysia, on March 3.

A premier partner of SPH Golf, members who have not used their complimentary voucher at Horizon Hills can even make use of it to participate in this competition, while those who have already done so, pay an attractive rate that includes lunch and prizes.

"SPH Golf is the fastest growing non-estate golf membership in the country and I am looking forward to pitting my skills and seeing where I stack up against the other members," said Leslie Lim, who has only recently signed up for the card together with his son.

The first of a year-long compet-



itive league format where members can compete in various handicap categories to win each of a series of nine medals, the final showdown in December will determine who the champion of

champions is.

E-mail SphGolfCard@sphpacom.com or call 6319-8610 to register for the event.

Guests welcome at prevailing non-SPH Golf members rate.

BLADE FOR ALL

The latest in the lauded family of PING Golf's "i" irons, the newly launched i200 is the American clubmaker's version of a player's iron for the regular golfer.

Aspiring blade players can take advantage of the thinner face to get more flex and power at impact. It also offers unprecedented forgiveness for an iron of its size due to the dampening factor of the elastomer insert.

With a muscle-stabilizing bar and deeper, longer tuning port that harmonises with the iron face, a powerful feel and sound is achieved upon impact.

Visit www.wingolf.com.sg for more information.



LACELESS COMFORT

The newest line of footwear from flashy yet functional shoemaker PUMA Golf features a state-of-the-art DISC system that removes the need to tie shoelaces.

With a right turn of the dial, internal, durable wire laces tighten the upper, quickly and easily securing the foot.

The system utilises a micro-adjusting reel that is loosened by turning left and pulling for easy removal of the shoes.

Combined with the brand's proprietary IGNITE Foam, the TITANTOUR IGNITE DISC and TITANTOUR IGNITE Premium DISC shoes deliver responsive cushioning, optimal rebound, and superior step-in comfort through every shot.

Visit www.cobragolf.com/pumagolf for more information.

