# The GolfHouse

GOLFER'S LIFE

GOLF TIPS | EQUIPMENTS | FASHION | INSTRUCTION | 19TH HOLE | TOURISM




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“

we explore a simple solution to improve our game – getting fit! While this may be painful for some, we chat to someone who has the answers. No doubt getting fit brings other benefits.



# EDITOR'S CHOICE



Golfers are familiar with injuries and conditions of the upper limbs, ranging from Golfer's Elbow to swollen wrists. According to research the wrist is one of the most common sites of injury in golfers.

## Forward

Hello and welcome to another action-packed edition of TheGolfHouse.

This month, we explore a simple solution to improve our game – getting fit! While this may be painful for some, we chat to someone who has the answers. No doubt getting fit brings other benefits. We provide some evidence with a selection of the hottest bodies – male and female – in the spotlight on the world's courses.

Of course, this push for golfers to get fit and embrace healthy living also follows the global greening trend. We learn more with an insightful chat with Tiger Woods who has described his recovery from a car crash that left him with career-threatening injuries as more painful than anything he has ever experienced and said his focus was on just being able to walk on his own again.

Woods, speaking in an interview with an American magazine published on Thursday, is no stranger to rehabilitation procedures, after several back and knee surgeries, but he admitted his latest recovery was unlike any he has undergone before.

Woods was driving above the speed limit in February when he lost control of his vehicle, which slammed into trees off the side of a road outside Los Angeles.

We also have our monthly round-up of all the hottest trends away from the greens.

Keep on swinging and see you next month! Read further and enhance your game!

*Nazrul Hosen Ayon*
*Editor*

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The GolfHouse GOLFER'S LIFE

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# 5 WORLD-CLASS GOLF COURSES TO TICK OFF YOUR BUCKET LIST

TheGolfHouse has put together a list of 5 world-class courses that you need to add to your bucket list.

It was a difficult selection process and the choices are based on course difficulty and location… you can't beat a challenge amongst a tropical beach. Check out the courses that made it onto the golfers ultimate destination bucket list.



Picture: Getty Images

Sentosa Golf Club

1

## Emirates Golf Club, Majlis Course – Dubai, UAE

**What a magical experience it is to play a round of golf with surrounding views of Dubai's city skyline! Emirates Golf Club is a world of luxury and high-class facilities, located 10 minutes away from Dubai Marina, the course is located in the perfect location and the views are epic.**

**Majlis is played by the world's top players, including Tiger Woods and Ernie Els during the European PGA Tour. The most challenging hole on the course is the par 4, dogleg 8th. If you haven't already played at Emirates Golf Club, add it onto your golfing bucket list!**



## 2

### Sentosa Golf Club (The New Tanjong) – Singapore

**Experience a course with large bunkers, set against the Singapore straits overlooking metropolitan Singapore. The New Tanjong Course was originally designed by Frank Pennink in 1972 and was redesigned in 2015 by General Manager Andrew Johnston who added Sandbelt-inspiried bunkering and sloping greens.**
**The Malay word, Sentosa translates as "peace and tranquility" which makes it the perfect location for The New Tanjong. If you need to escape the bustling port, you can find a blissful round of golf at the Sentosa Golf Club, which is why it makes on our list of world-class golfing bucket list experiences!**



## 3

### George Golf Club – Garden Route, South Africa

**George Golf Club is over 100 years old, however, this traditional course is always remained a favorite amongst golfers. The highly maintained greens and surrounding views of the Outeniqua mountains results in a world-class golfing experience for all players.**

**The course offers affordable rates with high-class service, hence why golfers always return back to George. The holes are set out in a way to test players with either a hook or a slice, the amazing thing about the course is that it's a challenge for all experience types with it's hidden gems that prove difficult for most.**



George Golf Club

Picture: Getty Images

## 4

### Bali National Golf Club – Bali, Indonesia

**The island of Bali in Indonesia is home to temples, volcanic mountains, beaches, coral reefs, and golf clubs. Bali National Golf Club is without doubt a luxurious golfing experience set in a gorgeous destination. The location is described as an Indonesian paradise that feels like a dream. Bali National is an 18-hole course featuring creeks, canyons, and tropical birds. The course was award "Best Renovated Golf Course" in Asia 2014, "3rd Best Renovated Golf Course" Worldwide 2015, and "Best Golf Resort in Indonesia 2017" by Golf Digest USA. If you love to play golf, TheGolfHouse highly recommends adding Bali National Golf Club to your bucket list!**



Bali National Golf Club

5

## Yas Links – Abu Dhabi, UAE

A course built to enrich the shoreline of Yas Island was only ever going to be stunning and Yas Links has proven it's right to be on the list of our golfing bucket list. The course and its environs are of high ecological significance with numerous new species, on land and sea, flourishing in these new settings.

The fairways running along the sea offer a spectacular view and the modern clubhouse is filled with friendly, approachable staff. As the first true Links course in the region, the course offers an unforgettable experience.

Golf offers a unique experience to any vacation, a sport that allows you to take time out of your day to appreciate your surroundings, practice your swing, and allow time for yourself.

Now that our bucket list of golfing destinations has inspired new travel experiences, we also hope it motivates you to start checking off some of the locations.



Yas Links – Abu Dhabi, UAE

# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A GOLFER

Twelve months is a long time for an amateur golfer. From optimism and success to crushing defeat and despondency, here's what to expect in 2021

## JANUARY

It all starts with a simple resolution. "I hereby pledge that I will hit at least 100 practice balls per week for the whole year!"



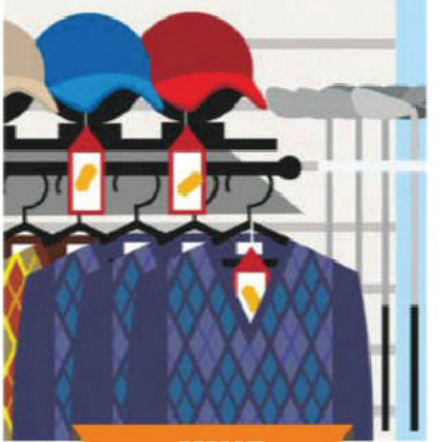
## FEBRUARY



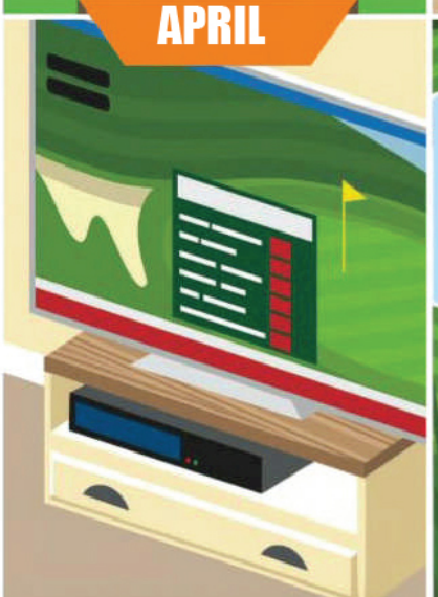

Sliced tee shots, duffed chips, three-putts – that was the old you. A package of lessons will almost certainly banish your oldest golfing foes. This time next year, you'll have the technical prowess of Faldo in his prime!

## MARCH

A new swing needs new clothes. Your confidence is high and your wardrobe needs to reflect that. "Bring me the Rickie Fowler collection..."



## APRIL



A mystical concoction of Augusta National, late night sporting drama and red wine combine to send you into a golfing frenzy.

## MAY

Time to put your hard work to the test. You sign yourself up for a spate of club competitions.



## JUNE

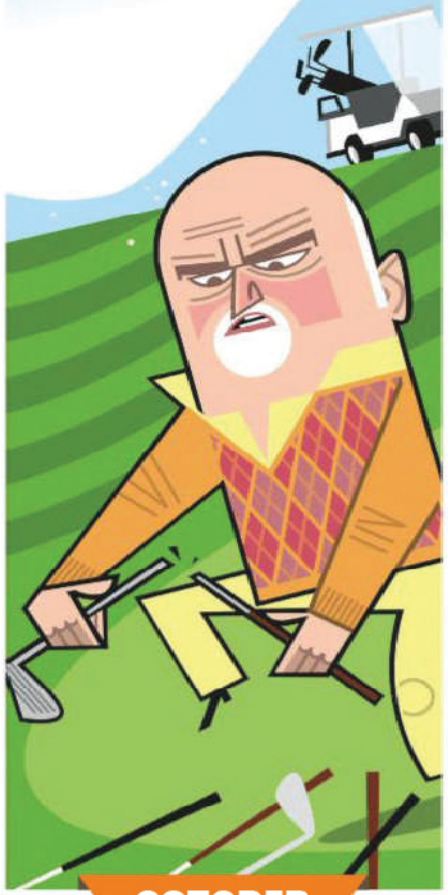


Vindication! Your effort and optimism are rewarded with some early success. A low round to start the year should help you kick on nicely. Life is good.

Story : Syndicated content

## JULY

Without warning, your worst golf returns. Whatever your emotional expression of choice – venomous rage or wallowing self-pity – it all comes pouring out.



## AUGUST



A much-needed break provides perspective – "go easy on yourself, you're not a tour pro after all" – and you soon readjust your golfing goals.

## SEPTEMBER

Once again, the driving range becomes an important fixture in your life. Ball after ball dispatched into the distance – that should do the trick.




## OCTOBER




You're shrewd enough to know that a multi-layered approach is key. You dust off your Bob Rotella book in a bid to regain control of your mind.

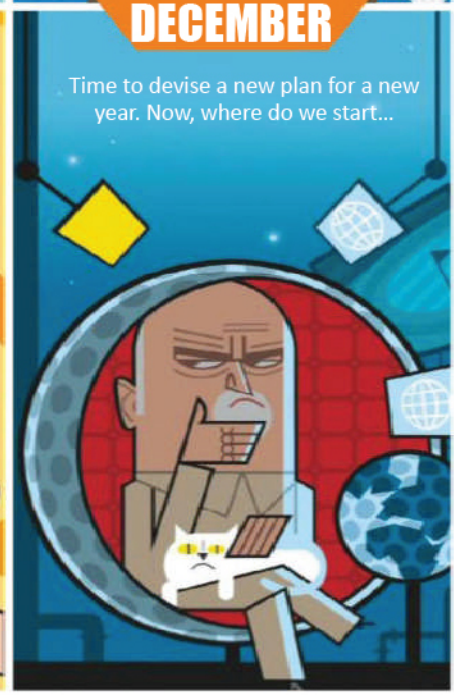
## NOVEMBER

Your new laid-back approach yields success, but you're leaning heavily on your playing partner. Still, there's no 'I' in team.



## DECEMBER

Time to devise a new plan for a new year. Now, where do we start...





# TIGER'S BACK!

## AFTER A SUCCESSFUL RETURN AT THE HERO WORLD CHALLENGE, WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE 14-TIME MAJOR WINNER IN 2019?

After his performance in the Hero World Challenge, Tiger's odds were slashed for this year's Majors – to as low as 20-1 for The Masters. Given his last win came more than four years ago and his best finish in a regular PGA Tour event since then is a tie for tenth, this would surely seem over the top. But Tiger is not a normal case. He has achieved golfing feats of the most fantastic nature and consistently dominated fields containing the best players in the world. He has been brilliant. The question is, can he be brilliant again?

Anyone who truly loves the game hopes he can. Like him or not as a person, it's undeniable that his presence in any tournament adds hugely to its atmosphere and appeal. The Hero World Challenge wouldn't have garnered much interest beyond the golfing media had it not been for Woods' entry. As it was, intrigued sports fans across the globe kept tabs to monitor the progress of a man who was World No.1 for 683 weeks.

Tiger was always compelling to watch but now perhaps even more so because we know of his physical and emotional struggles. Watching him in the Bahamas was like tuning into a golfing soap opera, with cliff-hangers from the outset. At first, we were watching for signs of that telling wince. It didn't come. Then we saw him giving it the full treatment off the tee and slashing at long-irons. The questions started to escalate: will he make it through four rounds? Can he finish in the top ten? Can he make a comeback?

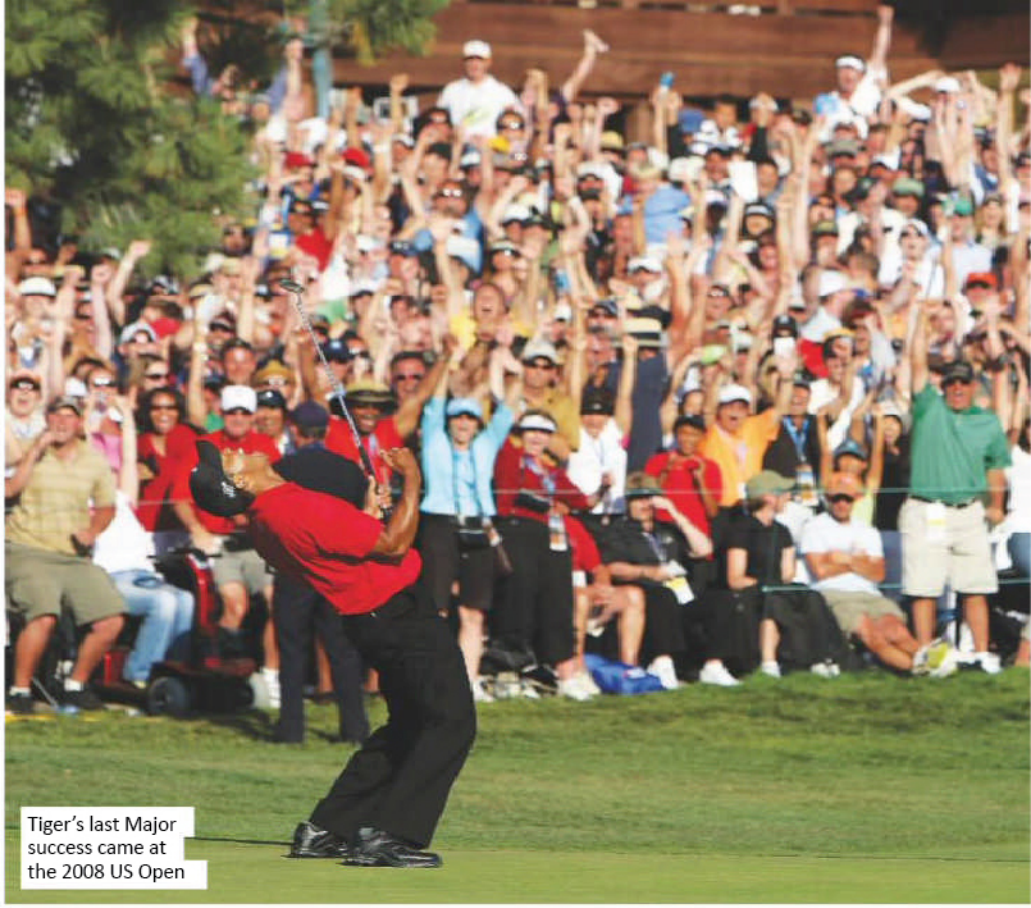
Tiger is one of the most competitive sportsmen of the last 100 years and certainly someone who has never lacked self-belief. He clearly feels he can make that meaningful comeback in 2018 and is aiming high.

"My expectations are we'll be playing next year. We're going to figure out what's the best way for me to build my schedule for the Major Championships," he said after the Hero World Challenge. "I don't know what golf courses I'll be playing and what's the best way to go about it. We'll sit down with the whole team and we'll figure it out – where I'm

going to start, how much I'm going to play, rest periods, training cycles, the whole nine yards."

It all sounds good, but we shouldn't get carried away at this stage. Yes, he looked fit and was swinging well in the Bahamas. But one ripped 2-iron does not a comeback make.

In last year's Hero World Challenge, Tiger recorded as many birdies as eventual winner Hideki Matsuyama. Many felt that, with a bit of rustremoval, Tiger could be back. Two months later he withdrew during the Dubai Desert Classic looking a broken man. Three months on from that, Tiger looked a ruined man when he was arrested on a DUI charge and then admitted he had a problem with prescription medicines. At that stage, many wondered if we'd ever see Tiger on a golf course again.



Tiger's last Major success came at the 2008 US Open

**Biggest test to come**

But we now have, and Tiger showed in the Bahamas that he's looking physically and mentally well again. He also showed that he can hold his own against a limited field of players in relaxed, end-of-season mode. The real question will be, can he compete in full fields on a regular basis? Not only will he have to rediscover his best game, but he will also face a swelling cohort of supremely talented youngsters who don't fear an ageing Tiger. His air of invincibility is undoubtedly gone. If he's to beat the world again, he'll have to do it solely through golfing prowess – intimidation is no longer a factor.

Getting the scheduling right will be important for Tiger this year. He'll need to play enough tournament golf to find his sharpness, but not too much to risk over-stressing his ostensibly recovered but surely still easily breakable body.

Roger Federer proved in tennis through 2017 that veterans can continue to enjoy significant success if they manage their seasons carefully. The Swiss star played just 12 singles tournaments in 2017 and won seven of them, including two Grand Slams. Although tennis applies different physical pressures, Tiger will have taken note.

Let's not forget, in his glory years Tiger was known for playing a relatively limited schedule – targeting key events and focusing on the Majors. That's what we can expect this year – providing he stays fit.

Without exemptions to the WGC events, the Majors will be Tiger's focus again, and he'll look to build a schedule that leads him into the big tournaments. He'll likely play the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey



Was this Tiger's final Major triumph?

# 10 YEARS OF TIGER

**JUNE 2008** – Wins his 14th Major title in the US Open at Torrey Pines. He beat Rocco Mediate in a play-off despite playing through the pain of a double stress fracture to the left tibia NOV

**2009** – Crashes his SUV and in the following furore his serial adultery becomes public, his marriage ends and his golf suffers

**2010-2011** – A series of injuries to neck, knee and Achilles tendon hamper Woods and he drops to 52nd on the Official World Golf Ranking

**2012** – Three wins on the PGA Tour see Woods climb back up the rankings

**2013** – Wins five times, moves back to No. 1 and is voted Player of the Year

**MARCH 2014** – Back spasms lead to surgery and a limited, unsuccessful schedule

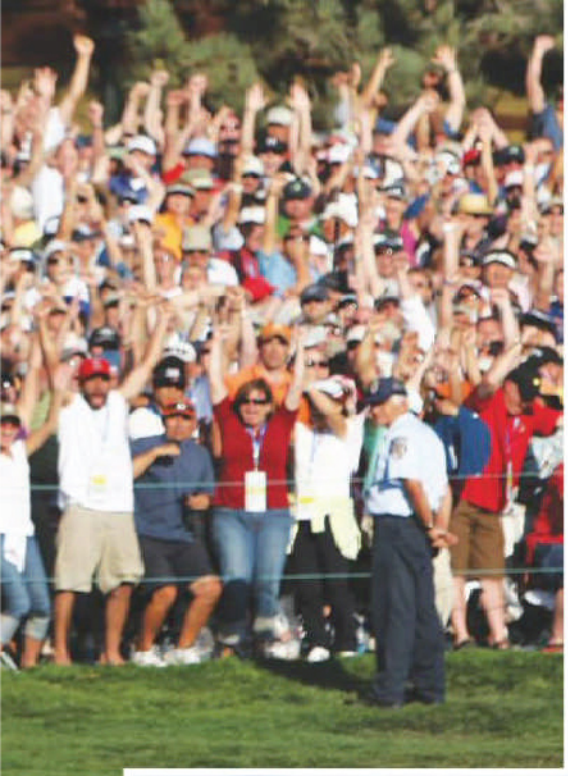
**2015** – Another limited playing year involving two further back operations

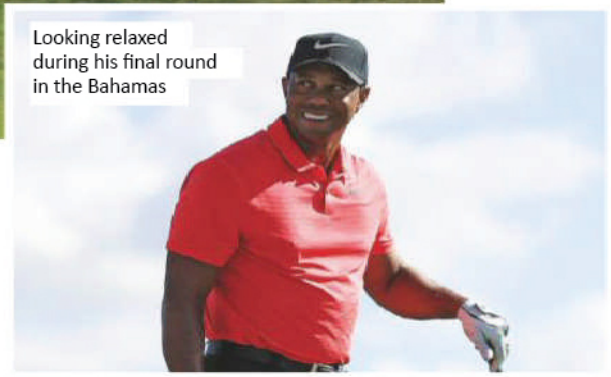
**DEC 2016** – After 15 months out he returns in the Hero World Challenge

**FEB 2017** – More back trouble in Dubai and another operation results

**MAY 2017** – Woods arrested on a driving under the influence charge

**DEC 2017** – Returns to golf, finishing tied 9th in the Hero World Challenge





Looking relaxed during his final round in the Bahamas

Pines – a venue where he's won eight times. The Arnold Palmer at Bay Hill should also be a target – he's won there eight times too. He'll probably aim for one or two more select events in the lead-up to The Masters.

**Major focus**

And what about the Majors? Tiger fans haven't totally given up on his quest to reach Jack Nicklaus' total of 18 Major titles. Tiger will be 42 next year and Jack won his 18th and final Major title at the age of 46. But it shouldn't be forgotten that Jack won his 15th aged 38 and his 16th and 17th at the age of 40. Tiger, who for so long was on a swifter rate of accumulation than the Golden Bear, is now a long way behind. And, in 2018 it will be ten years since Tiger won his last Major – the 2008 US Open. That's not to say Tiger is too old to win a Major. Not by any stretch. Jack won at 46, Darren Clarke won The Open just before turning 43 and Tom Watson nearly won a Major aged 59! But is Tiger too old to win four, or five more to beat Jack's record? Perhaps.

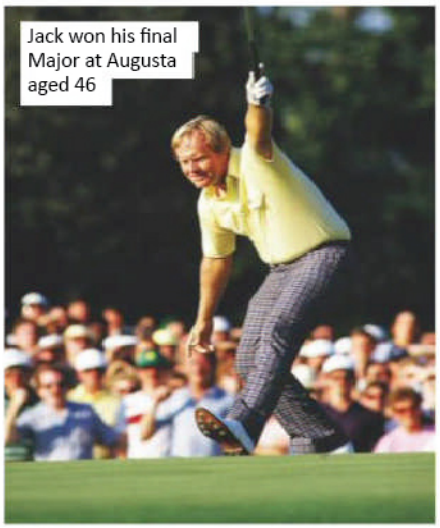
The Masters is generally considered Tiger's best shot at winning another. He's won at Augusta four times and has nine further top-ten finishes. He might have won as recently as 2013 had it not been for the incident with the pin and the incorrect drop on the 15th.

He knows how to work his way around the course and it obviously suits his game. However, a principal area of weakness we saw from Woods in the Bahamas, and on other recent comebacks, has been touch shots around the greens. He's been prone to the odd deceleration and duff. That simply won't do around the challenging green complexes at Augusta. If Tiger is physically fit enough to compete in next year's Masters, he'll also have to iron out the kinks in his short game.

**"Tiger fans have not totally given up on his quest to reach Jack's total of 18 Majors"**

It should be possible – we all remember what invention and feel he possessed at the peak of his powers – but he will need a few successful competitive starts to acclimatise to the nerves that inevitably creep in during any Major and are heightened when a deft touch is required.

The US Open returns to Shinnecock Hills for the first time since 2004. In that event, conditions were famously brutal with lightning-quick greens and high winds. Tiger finished in the top 20 then, but he was 14 shots back from winner Retief Goosen.



Jack won his final Major at Augusta aged 46

The USGA has promised those type of conditions won't be repeated, although it won't want another winning score of 16-under, as per Brooks Koepka in 2017. Tiger has won three US Open titles and knows what it takes regarding patience and determination to come through the exacting examinations.

When thinking of Tiger at Carnoustie, images of him hacking about in the rough in 1999 spring to mind. But he actually only finished four shots out of the play-off that year. He was only five shots back in 2007. If he's fit, he can't be discounted on the links.

The USPGA will be something of an unknown. Bellerive in Missouri hasn't hosted a Major since Nick Price won the USPGA there in 1992, and this one looks likely to resemble a regular PGA Tour event: a full field bombing it long and firing at pins. The winner will be the player who finds top gear in the right week. That means an expanded list of potential champions, but why can't Tiger be the one to find top gear at the right time?

**What will count as success?**

What, then, would be a good year for Tiger in 2018? Realistically, completing a competitive season without suffering any serious physical setbacks would be pleasing both for him and the golf-viewing public. Recording enough solid finishes to re-establish a legitimate, competitive position on the PGA Tour would be impressive. Securing a victory would be incredible but certainly not impossible.

Given his experience in the biggest events and his inevitable focus on these next year, it wouldn't be wholly surprising if he won one of the big ones. That might sound like a huge overestimation of potential, but the bookies clearly think it's a possibility and... this is Tiger we're talking about.

Ariya Jutanugarn

# Rad Thai

The uber-talented 22-year-old Bangkok native might be the hottest thing in golf these days, with a second major victory in the books and dominance in seemingly every stat category that matters. Her secret? The girl's got a ton of them. You can start with the four moves on display here.




**1**

**HARD CORE**

Like all great ballstrikers, Ariya utilizes her glutes to power her swing, aggressively rotating her backside to open up her hips so they're nearly square to the target. This provides her core and arms with the momentum (and room) to deliver the club with max force.



## 2 IT'S YOUR FLING

It looks like Ariya is throwing the clubhead into the ball and the ground here. That's the most ef ective way to gain consistency and power. It's counterproductive to hold on or to try to steer the club; it never works. Fling that clubhead into the ball with abandon!

## 3 BEND, BUT DON'T BREAK

Ariya employs a structured and stable left arm that is slightly bent at impact. This frees up her swing to dynamically deliver the club to the ball. When you force the lead arm to be straight, it can create tension and reduce clubhead speed.

## 4 FORCE FIELD

Driving the hips, core and chest up and around in the downswing starts with the legs. Ariya is fully extended here, which is an indication that she's pushed forcefully from the ground and transferred that force through her body and into the ball.

**56**

**The percentage of Jutanugarn's LPGA 2018 starts that ended with a top-10 finish (including two wins).**

Photography by **CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES**



Story : Syndicated content and Picture: Getty Images

# WHY GOLF CLUBS NEED TO CREATE NEW PLAYERS

For golf clubs to survive and prosper in the future, we have to overcome the current supply and demand problem.

There are only two solutions this problem. We either close golf courses until the remaining ones all have enough golfers or we create more golfers to fill up the courses that we have.

None of us want the first option to become a reality, so that leaves us with creating new golfers. With the correct vision and action plan, we can start to really grow the game once again. By retaining golf courses, we already have the infrastructure in place to manage the future growth of the game. Through the nineties and early 'noughties' as golf boomed, there were golf courses sprouting up all over the place as developers and landowners tried to cash in on the game.

The rate of this expansion was rapid and as the participation numbers began to level out and then started to drop around a decade or so ago, we have been left with an oversupply of golf courses and not enough golfers to fill these memberships.

Over the past few years, all I keep seeing are golf courses battling it out with each other for the membership base that is currently in their geographical area. The problem with this approach is that in many areas, there are just not enough golf members to go around – the pie is just not big enough to feed everyone. This can leave us in a situation where nobody gets the share that they need to survive and prosper.

Traditionally, (well certainly here in Scotland), most people have been introduced to the game of golf via a parent or close family member. There have not been the schemes in place to introduce new adults to the game from non-golfing backgrounds.




I say, adults, because there are lots of great junior golf programs in place and these are going to be key to the long-term future of the game, but for many golf clubs they need a more immediate fix.

The reason I am highlighting adult golfers is because it's these guys who are going to help a golf club grow in the short to mid-term and get back on to a sure financial footing. We need to get more people playing golf, of an age who will be in a position to pay a full membership fee within a year or two taking up the game.
So, what is stopping more adults from taking up the game?

For me it's simple, there are simply not enough golf clubs operating schemes to help introduce new adult golfers to the game (They are all still trying to win the membership battle!).
We need to look at club membership from a different angle and start creating our own members rather trying to steal them from another club. There are some great schemes starting to show real results like 'Get into Golf', a UK-wide initiative. This way you create new members who will be loyal to your club as you have invested the time and effort in getting them started at this great game.

Finding potential new golfers is not that difficult, there are lots of places to find them. You can try making contact with the areas large employers or taking stands at non-golf related public shows and gatherings. This is where you will find non-golfers. You can also try High impact sports clubs like football and rugby, where participation often drops off at mid 30's once the body can't take any more punishment.

There are lots of targets out there, you just have to put a little thought into it.

Golf Club's need to offer an affordable starter membership category that can be accessed for just a year or two, allowing a 'newbie' golfer to get to grips with the game, before upgrading to full membership.

Build up a stock of rental clubs that your beginners can use on the course. These don't need to be fancy, just ask your existing members to donate their old unused sets (golfers always have these!). Most new players will not want the burden of having to invest in all the gear before they even know if they will like the game.

**Your Golf Pro is a major asset**
Engage your golf clubs golf pro in the whole process. Any new members that you create at the golf club, will be potential new customers for his pro shop and coaching business. I have found that 'Get into Golf' memberships are most successful when some level of coaching is included, but this has to be affordable and is best done as a group.

**Make your Golf Club friendly and approachable**
As a golfer, you may be unaware that the general non-golfing public sees golf clubs as unwelcoming places where badly dressed old men spend their time, with rules and regulations from the dark ages.

As a golfer, you also know that to be completely untrue (well for most clubs anyway!)

Golf clubs have to shake off the old stereotype and promote themselves as a place where you and your family would want to go, play some sport and spend your free time.

If someone walked into your golf club tomorrow and enquired about taking up golf with the outlook to join your club, would they be able to walk away with all the information and an action plan to do so?





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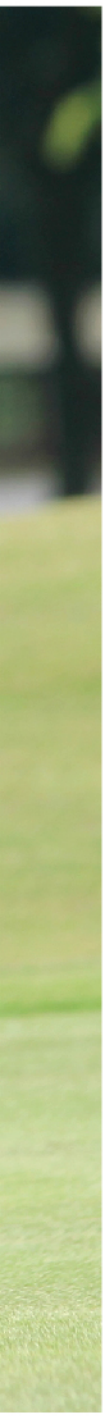
# REASONS WE LOVE THE GAME OF GOLF!

Valentine's Day is often seen as a day for couples. But, the true reason for the day is to celebrate love, in all its many forms. It could be the love you share with your spouse and family or the love you have for your best friends or the love you have for golf. Whatever your reason is to celebrate, choose to spread the love anytime here at Coal Creek. These are just a few of the reasons we love the game of golf.



We ♥ golf

**You can play as many holes as you want:**
Of course you can choose to play the standard 18-hole or 9-hole round. Don't have that much time? Hit some ball in the driving range. In just 60-minutes you can get outside, exercise, and practice your game on the green. Want to play more? Play 72 holes, just get on the course early.

**You can practice anywhere (literally):**
You can practice at the club, on the range, the garden, the living room – anywhere. So don't let that weather stop you from improving your game and starting strong.

**You can compete with anyone despite contrasting abilities:**
Thanks to the handicap system; golfers of all different abilities can compete against one another on a level playing field. You can compete against a professional or a novice!

**You can love the challenge of the day whatever it may be:**
Golf challenges us. It is unpredictable and an inherently imperfect game. It is a game of shanked drives, missed putts, sudden gusts of wind, unfortunate bounces, and imperfections in the turf. The essence of the game of golf is reacting well to inevitable mistakes and misfortunes. Your success is achieved not by perfecting your game (not even the greatest golfers have done this!) but by constantly striving to improve your game while learning to accept and react to challenges that are happening on that day during that round.

**It's fun and rewarding:**
Golf keeps you fit and engaged. It can be a friendly competition against friends or with yourself. It challenges both your mind and body and allows you to look inward and work towards improvement. Whether you shoot a 72 or 144, there's nothing like spending a couple hours, or even an afternoon, out on the golf course. And that feeling when you first break 100, 90, 80 or even 70 is a momentous occasion and makes you realize how much you love the game.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# SOHEL AIMING HIGHER

# Q&A

Golfer Shakhwat Hossain Sohel (SHS) broke his long-standing jinx on the international circuit by winning the PGM Miri Championship in Malaysia on Saturday. The 33-year-old golfer from Kurmitola, who has had a similar past to the country's premier golfer Siddikur Rahman and many others, had been knocking on the door of success for quite some time. He endured heartbreak in Malaysia only three months ago when he lost in a playoff in one of the Asian Development Tour (ADT) events. This time though, the golfer made no mistake as he eagled the first hole of the playoff to take the title by the scruff of its neck. Sohel shared his winning experience and future targets during a conversation with The Daily Star's Atique Anam yesterday.

**TDS: How was your feeling when you eagled that first extra hole in the playoff in the PGM Miri Championship?**

**SHS:** It was an excellent feeling. I was so excited if you see the pictures of that moment you would know. Doing something good for the country and winning the first international title is something not possible to describe in words.

**TDS: You had lost in a playoff in Malaysia just three months ago. What was going through your mind when you tied the game and went into another playoff?**

**SHS:** I didn't even think of sinking an eagle. It just happened; you can say there was a bit of luck. Since I lost the playoff earlier, I tried not to take any pressure. I said, whatever happens will happen. I had lost in the playoff three months ago, so maybe I was a bit tensed inside, but I **think that experience helped me in this instance.**

**TDS: Describe the winning shot.**

**SHS:** It was a chip shot from 44 yards. The opponent's shot had fallen within 12 yards of the hole. So I tried to hit it around 40 yards and thought I would putt it in the next shot. But somehow the ball dropped in from 44 yards and the victory was sealed.

**TDS: You had gone close to winning titles on a number of occasions. How much will this victory help you overcome that mental barrier?**

**SHS:** It usually takes time to win the first time. But once that is done, things get much easier. I am in good form and I hope I can do better if I keep my hard work going.

**TDS: How competitive is the ADT compared to other international tours?**

**SHS:** The competition is undoubtedly lower than in the Asian Tour, but you will get many Asian Tour players on the ADT, so it's not that easy either. Some of the ADT players come out of good colleges and work under good coaches. I think the ADT is much better than the Indian circuit as it is the platform to the Asian Tour and higher. Our ultimate target is the Asian Tour and the European Tour.

**TDS: You are in sixth position in the ADT Order of Merit currently. You will earn a card for the Asian Tour if you finish within the top seven. How confident are you about that?**

**SHS:** I am confident that if I can continue with my current form, I will definitely earn the full Asian Tour card next season. There are three more events in October and a couple more then and I will try to do my best to earn the card.






Shakhwat Hossain Sohel
Professional Golfer

# IRON GIANTS

Irons might not garner the attention and love bestowed upon a golfer's favourite driver or putter, but a good set often stays in the bag longer than many other clubs. It's just a matter of picking the right one. The following pages feature some of the best of best from the biggest names in golf, from pure muscle back blades designed for complete control to forgiving technology packed models that get the ball moving faster and higher. ▸




## CALLAWAY ROGUE

The Standard Rogue model employs numerous face technologies and innovative multi-material design to deliver a combination of outstanding distance, forgiveness, control and feel.

Armed with the knowledge that many high-COR irons produced high ball speeds at the expense of fell-and the soft materials commonly used to dampen the resulting' clicky' sound had a similarly negative effect of slowing the face – Callaway's engineers incorporated Urethane Microspheres.

The microspheres are thousands of tiny air pockets that flatten at impact to allow the material to flex delivering improved feel, while not hindering the face's flexing, which is enhanced by Callaway's '360 Face Cup' and 'Variable Face Thickness' technology.

## CALLAWAY X FORHED

The single-piece x Forged offers a combination of the feel and look expected of a forged player's cavity back iron in a slightly larger head size,

offering increased forgiveness compared to traditional blade irons. Created through the use of a 'Triple Net' forging process, centre of gravity (CG) progression throughout the set produces optimal ball fights from each iron and the trajectory control required by the world's best players and skilled amateurs. Playing tribute to some of the company's most popular forged irons of years past with its look at address, the x Forged incorporates a '20v' shaped groove pattern for increased spin regardless of life or conditions.






# COBRA F8

Cobra refined its technologies in the F8 iron to deliver performance improvements and specialised iron loft design, which is proven by the Cobra Connect powered by Arccos system sensors embedded in every grip. The sestem automatically records distance and accuracy to provide detailed analytics to help golfers improve.

'E9 pwrshell' face technology with a 20 percent thinner forged face and 'E9 elliptical Sweet Zone" deliver improved ball speed across the face, While precisely placed carbon fibre medallions ensure great fell.

Cobra's "Tecflo' progressive set construction incorporates hollow long irons, cavity back short irons and speciality wedges all with varying groove shapes and hostel lengths to produce optimal flight and performance.

# COBRA F8 ONE LENGTH

Utillising the same technologies as the standard F8 irons, the Tecflo construction is where the F8 One Length improves on the previous F7, with every iron not only the length of a 7-iron but the head weigh as well.

Long irons with wider soles, shorter hosels and a lower CG help get the ball in the air, with the opposite in the short irons offering control.

To further address the need for different performance from each iron, despite being the same length, one length specific flighted shafts that are softer in the long irons for increased launch and distance and firmer in the short irons for lower launch and control come standard in the F8.



# MIZUNO MP-18

Described by the company as "the craftsmen's muscleback" the MP-18 is a return to the style of blade iron that made Mizuno famous, and collected multiple major championships.

Mizuno's master craftsmen sculpted the moulds of the iron to their extremely high standards to deliver a classic muscle back iron with thin, cambered top lines, shorter blade lengths and a more compact wedge.

As with all Mizuno MP irons the MP-18 is 'Grain Flow' forged, which keeps the grain of the 1025 E Pure Select mild carbon steel tighter together for incredibly soft feel of the clubface.




# MIZUNO MP-18 MMC

The MP-18 MMC is the first multi-material MP iron built under the watchful eye of Mizuno's master clubmakers. Resulting in a high perfomance iron with suprising forgiveness and a classic 'tour' profile.

Lightweight titanium and heavy tungsten combine with carbon steel to form an extremely stable design that minmises the negative efects of-centre strikes, while maintaining the feel of the clubface Mizuno irons are renowned for.

The lack of tungsten in the MP-18 MMC short irons mean workability where it is needed most is not sacrifi ced for unnnecce-sary forgiveness.

# PING G700

The multi-material, hollow-body construction of the G700, ping's longest, highest-flying iron to date, allows for increased distance without sacrificing the other key elements of iron play-consistency forgiveness and feel.

Internal weight is positioned away from the face of each iron to provide flexing similar to that of metal woods, generating extremely high COR for ball speed and launch improvements,

To further fulfil the modern golfer's need for distance, while also helping to raise ball flights, the G700 features a face made of Maraging steel, an allay among the strongest in the world know for both its strength and flexibility.




# PING G400

The G400 is engineered to increase distance as well as launch and forgiveness, to not only travel further but land softer, helping players to hit more greens.

A face made from Hyper 17-4 stainless steel, achieved through heat-treating that makes is 40 percent stronger than 17-4 stainless, is thinner for increased flexing, which is also enhanced by the combination of' COR – Eye' technology and a new top rail undercut, that work together like a catapult launching the ball long and high.

Aluminium and elastomer are used in the cavity badge for improved sound and feel, and a 'Hydropearl Chrome' finish completes the G400, improving turf interaction.

# TAYLORMADE P790

The p790's 8620 carbon steel body and forged 4140 carbon steel 'Wrap Face' combine to form a hollow-body design, aimed at delivering a player's iron look and feel with increased distance and forgiveness.

The hollow-body is injected with 'Speed Foam' which both dampens vibrations from improved feel and supports the ultra-thin 1.75mm face to increase ball speeds.

A new smaller version of Taylor Made's 'Inverted Cone' technology reduces the thickness of the clubface towards its edges for increased flexibility, raising forgiveness and consistency.

Also inside the hollow head is metal-injection-moulded tungsten weighting, which raises moment of inertia (MOI) and optimally places CG for the workability expected of a player's iron.

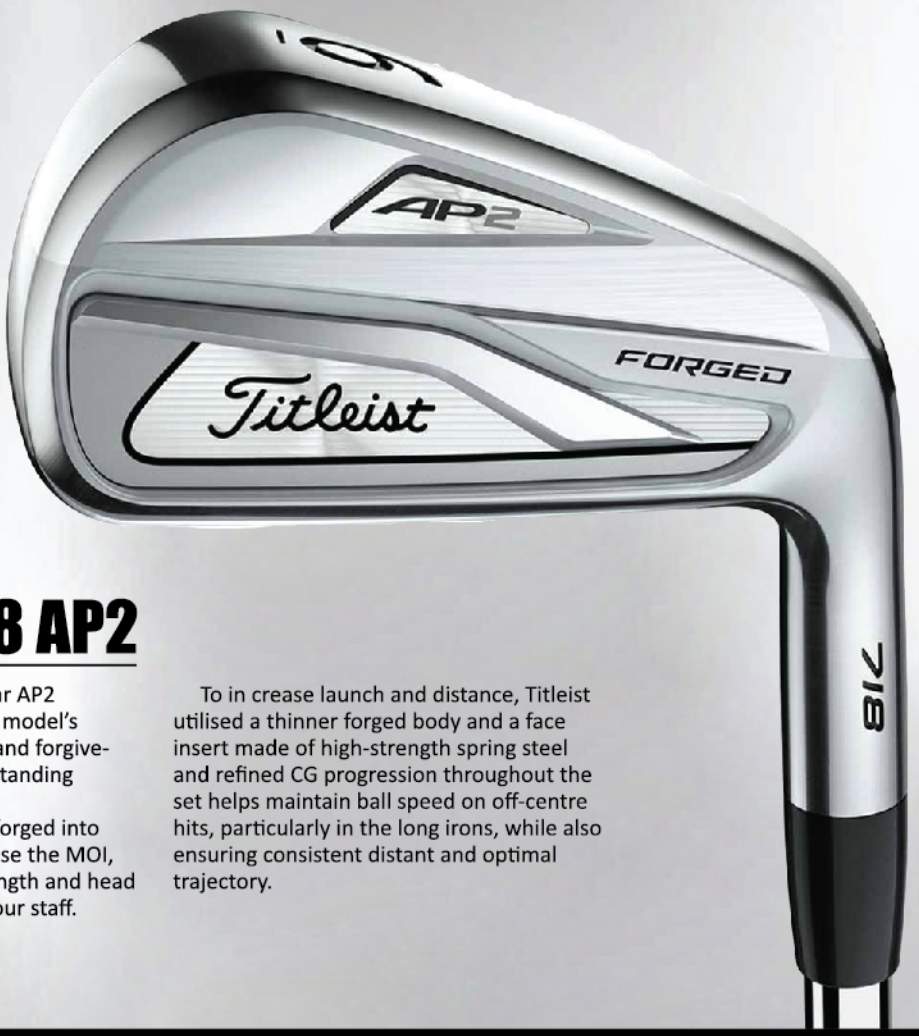



# TAYLORMADE M4

Designed for distance and forgiveness, the M4 irons feature Taylor Made's new Ribcor technology, which stiffens the outer areas of the iron head while maintaining flex where impact occurs to minimize energy loss.

The technology uses an internal ribbing structure to achieve the increase in stiffness that allows the M4 to "push the boundary of COR limit" according to Taylor Made, and also enable the company's engineers to place more weigh in the heel and toe of the M4 irons to raise MOI by 24 percent when compared to the 2017 M2.

In addition to the new Ribcor, the M4 incorporates specifically re-engineered versions of the company's Face Slots, Speed pocket and Inverted Cone technologies.

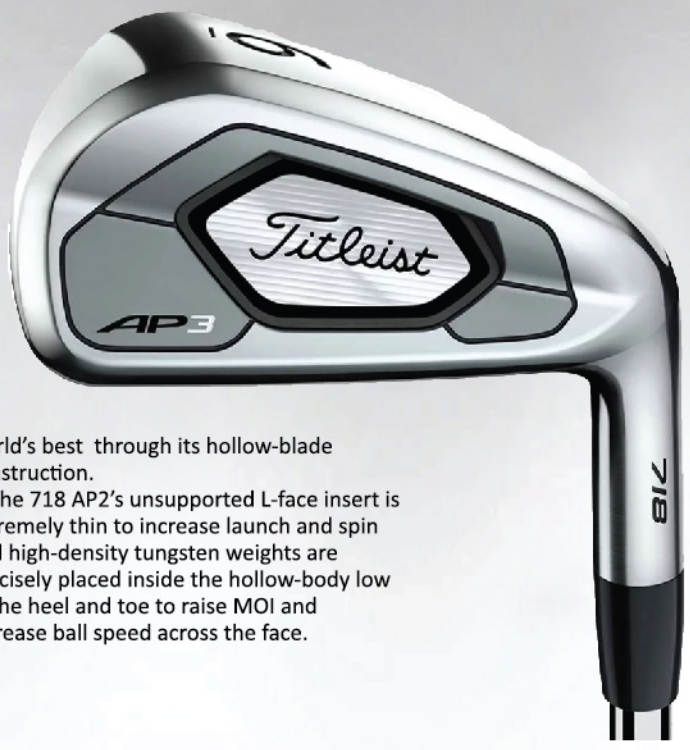



# TITLEIST 718 AP2

The latest of the hugely popular AP2 models, the 718 continues the model's history of combining distance and forgiveness with 'tour' looks and outstanding forged feel.

High-density tungsten is co-forged into the perimeter of the iron to raise the MOI, while maintaining the blade length and head profile preferred by Titleist's Tour staff.

To in crease launch and distance, Titleist utilised a thinner forged body and a face insert made of high-strength spring steel and refined CG progression throughout the set helps maintain ball speed on off-centre hits, particularly in the long irons, while also ensuring consistent distant and optimal trajectory.




# TITLEIST 718 AP3

Identified by the company as a "player's distance iron" and blending everything learnt from creating the AP1 and AP2 models, the 718 AP3 is an all-new model for Titleist, designed for distance and forgiveness in a smaller profile preferred by better players.

The multi-material design delivers game improvement iron-like forgiveness with the looks and feel of a club designed for the world's best through its hollow-blade construction.

The 718 AP2's unsupported L-face insert is extremely thin to increase launch and spin and high-density tungsten weights are precisely placed inside the hollow-body low in the heel and toe to raise MOI and increase ball speed across the face.

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

# TAP AND SHOOT







Arccos made a splash a few years back when it partnered with Cobra to get its sensors (capable of measuring distance and accuracy) in the company's flagship driver. The new and improved Arccos 360 features a screw-in sensor for every club, live shot tracking, upgraded GPS and the proprietary Arccos Caddie 2.0. As the name suggests, this A.I. aid makes recommendations based on what the app knows about your game and the course you're playing. Arccos worked with Microsoft to map out more than 40,000 courses—every tee, tree and trouble spot. Pair that with its database of some 100 million shots played on those courses, and you have the virtual equivalent of a grizzled old looper right there in your pocket, learning more about your game each round. The app maps out your best course of action in real time, based on everything from personal tendencies to weather forecasts and elevation changes. According to Arccos, users trimmed their handicaps by 3.55 stokes in 2017—46.7 times faster than the average golfer.

**UNIQUE FEATURE** Virtual caddie that learns your game overtime and provides unique advice specifically for you.

**POTENTIAL PROBLEM** The required grip sensors for each club and the need to have youriPhone on your person while hitting might bother some.

SkyGolf was one of the original players in the GPS game. Twenty years on, it's still a go-to for all kinds of electronic wizardry. A sizable lineup of watches and handhelds, swing analyzers and simulators are available, but the main draw has always been the maps. For our money, it doesn't get much better than basic SkyCaddie Mobile, which comes included in the SkyGolf 360 app. Rather than using aerial photos, SkyGolf employees actually walk each course they map. The result is free of distortions and obsolete data that come with flyovers. The personal touch ofers a golfer's-eye view of important details, such as targets of the tee and key distances. SkyGolf charges an annual fee for 360, which includes the IOS- and Android-friendly mobile product. Plus, the cloud-based platform allows you to track scores, log statistics, explore other courses and follow your friends. It also syncs with other SkyGolf products, but if you're keeping it basic, the data entry needs to be done manually.

**UNIQUE FEATURE** Courses are measured by actual walking, which provides a more accurate view than flyover mapping.

**POTENTIAL PROBLEM** Less expensive options require data to be entered manually after each round.

# These four appstake "playing on your phone" to the next level

*By Mark Dee*

If you've been playing golffor long enough to remember wound golf balls, you definitely know what it was like to judge distance by the naked eye or simply from the red, white and blue fairway markers. And analytics, advice or interacting with friends and fellow competitors via social media certainly wasn't possible, since smart phones and various other technologies simply didn't exist. These-days,the ubiquitous pocket computer is a valuable tool for many things, including utilizing golf GPS apps to not only measure distance but also keep track of all your stats, read greens, get advice from a personal caddie, get specific info on a given course, or even brag to your buddies about your long drive of the day. If any of these features interest you, check out the four notable systems below with an eye toward improving your scores—and having a lot more fun on the course.




Ever seen a professionally crafted Tour yardage book? They're nothing like the glossy brochures you pick up in pro shops. These things have every hill and hazard meticulously mapped and measured to provide the most precise information possible. Problem is, they're often di icult to decode. GolfLogix gets that, so it engineered its newest premium product to do the dirty work for you. With its Approach View feature, you can figure out exactly where on the green you need to play to from the fairway to snuggle one in close to the pin—and you can do it on more than 35,000 courses. That alone is worth the purchase price. Add to that the innovative Putt Breaks feature, which provides a realistic, 3D view of the green and a slick algorithm that can actually read your putt (the company used lasers to survey every green to within a centimeter), and you can see why the app has amassed a legion of a million-plus users. A free, ad-supported version of GolfLogix is available, as is a free 30-day trial of the entire package.

**UNIQUE FEATURE** Ability to provide green reads for improved putting and more accurate approaches.

**POTENTIAL PROBLEM** The limited number of greens (8,000+) mapped forthe Putt Breaks feature might not include your most-played courses.




The Phantom is basic and afordable—the square-shaped device comes ready to use right out of the box, with more than 36,000 courses across 30 countries programed in. Turn it on and it'll automatically find the one that you're playing, supplying front-, center- and back-of-the-green yardage. Just clip the thing to your belt—or, better yet, use the built-in magnet to stick it on your cart— and play. But here's where the included iPhone and Android-compatible app comes in handy. Not only does it update the Bluetooth-enabled device, it supplements the Phantom's bare-bones yardages with 3D visuals. Tap "Play Golf" on your phone and you'll get access to flyovers, maps and intermediate distances for the hole you're about to play. Other products will do everything short of swing the club for you—this isn't one of them. The Phantom is the KISS Principle ("Keep it simple, stupid") personified, and we know plenty of golfers who'd benefit by taking that advice to heart.

**UNIQUE FEATURE** Simple to use and accurate, with 3D visuals at the tips of yourfingers.

**POTENTIAL PROBLEM** Requires a physical device on your belt or on the cart, which some golfers might not prefer.

# WANT OUR DAUGHTER TO BE A GOLFER

NM Asaduzzaman is the vice-president of Orion Group. He wasn't into golf that much, but it was due to his father-in-law's influence that he came to the Kurmitola Golf Club. His wife, though, had started earlier and is a slightly more accomplished golfer. Despite their busy careers, the couple enjoy their time at the golf club, where they get the opportunity to further their social networks. They have decided to give their daughter a go at the golf swing as they feel there are enormous opportunities opening up for professional golfers.



**How did you two start playing golf and who encouraged whom to the game?**

**Mrs. Asaduzzaman:** Basically my husband influenced me, but my inspiration was my father. My father is a golfer and he was a member of the golf club. So he inspired me first to play golf and then my husband influenced.

**Mr. Asaduzzaman:** I think golf is the only game that one can play till the last day of his life. I've not only influenced my wife, I'm trying to get my daughter interested in the game too. She comes here often and does a bit of golfing with a plastic club. My father-in-law is basically our inspiration and through him, my wife became a permanent member here. Inshallah we will continue playing golf for long.

**A lot of people lose interest when they see that it takes a lot of time and effort to actually graduate from the driving range to the actual course. But your transition period was rather smooth and fast.**

**Mrs. Asaduzzaman:** I took my handicap earlier than usual because I felt that it would seem difficult on the driving range while things would seem easier once one gets on the course. Some people give up due to apprehension of the hard work and effort the game requires, but I didn't see it that way.

**Mr. Asaduzzaman:** The course is something different. Playing on the green is very different from practicing on the range and it unshackles one from those apprehensions.

**What was your routine before taking the handicap?**

**Mrs. Asaduzzaman:** My target was to achieve my handicap within one and a half months. So I prepared my slot and schedule in that way. Liton bhai was my trainer and I gave the test after one and a half months.

**Which aspect of the game attracts you most?**

**Mrs. Asaduzzaman:** The field attracts me most. When I get on the course, I feel like playing more and coming here every day.

**Mr. Asaduzzaman:** When you play on the golf course, you feel different, especially in a city like Dhaka. Golf is the only game that gives a completely different feeling with all the green, calm, quiet and serenity. You won't get it anywhere else.

**You were saying golf could be taken as a career choice.**

**Mr. Asaduzzaman:** Exactly. I feel that I should try my level best to make my daughter a professional golfer if she likes it. This is a prestigious profession with worldwide opportunities and there are opportunities in Bangladesh too. As far as I know, Bangladeshi girls are playing golf, participating in foreign tournaments. I hope there will be more such opportunities opening up in near future.



**Does golf help or hinder your profession?**

**Mrs. Asaduzzaman:** It has helped us in the sense that we have got a good golfing community and a friend circle here.

**Mr. Asaduzzaman:** Golf is a game where one can make business deals because it widens your network, your friendship, your contacts, etc.

**Do you think golf can help your business?**

**Mrs. Asaduzzaman:** Well we don't really look for that kind of help, but the other aspects of the game are really rewarding.

**What do you think is the prospect of golfers in Bangladesh?**

**Mr. Asaduzzaman:** Well, I don't think we are in a position to comment about the golfers because we are just beginners and very amateur. But obviously our golfers are doing well.

**What is your message to those who want to play golf yet haven't started?**

**Mrs. Asaduzzaman:** I would say to them that it may look like it's very hard in the beginning, but once they start it on the field they would feel better and feel more encouraged.

**Mr. Asaduzzaman:** I have just started and I will try for my handicap soon. This game is a bit expensive, but those who can afford it should definitely try it out. I'm sure they will feel good about it.



# Is Your Wrist Suffering from Overuse?

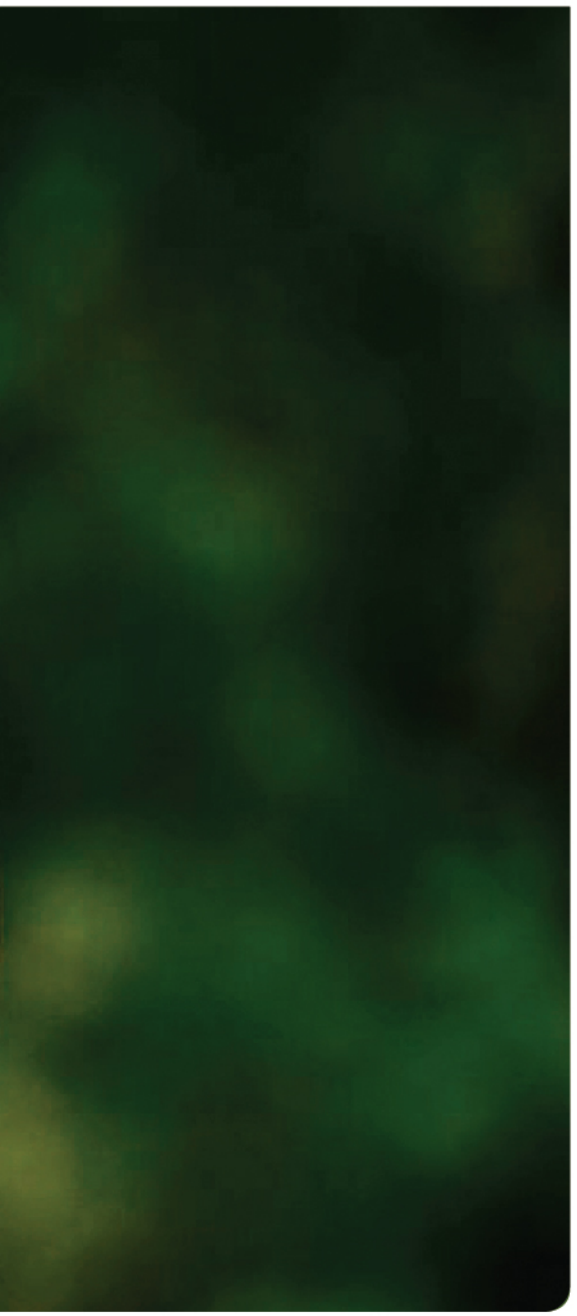
Golfers are familiar with injuries and conditions of the upper limbs, ranging from Golfer's Elbow to swollen wrists. According to research the wrist is one of the most common sites of injury in golfers.

The wrist accounts for 13-20% of all injuries in amateurs and 20-27% of all injuries in professionals in golf injury epidemiology studies.

The wrist is the anchor point between the club and the body during the golf swing movement. This means the wrist is conducting a large range of motion. Wrist injuries commonly occur at the impact point of the golf swing and are the result of the sudden change in load applied to the club, resulting in a disruption in the tissue of the hands and wrists.

Injury may either be acute, where enough force is produced to cause excessive soft tissue elongation in a single swing, or by way of repetitive micro-trauma if repeated many times in a short timeframe. The injury from repetitive wrist movements, also known as overuse injuries, can happen during practice or from alteration to the swing that results in stress to unaccustomed area. The most common symptoms are discomfort, pain, or swelling.

> Before you practice your swing or play a round of golf, take at least 10 minutes for a brisk walk or a jog





Overuse injuries are often overlooked by the golfer and dismissed as the "usual soreness" because of the gradual onset of the symptoms. For that reason, overuse injuries sometimes go untreated and then result in further injury to the golfer. Any pain and swelling, however mild, needs to be treated properly and an appointment with a doctor may be needed, especially if the symptoms continue for more than a week. The best first steps are to:

•Rest the area affected by minimizing movements.

•Ice for 20 minutes four to six times a day. Use a thin wet towel for protection to avoid direct contact with ice.

•Compress by wrapping an elastic bandage lightly around the joint. Specialized braces can also be helpful.

•Elevate the area above heart level if possible.

These steps will help reduce the swelling and inflammation from the injury. Continue RICE for 24 to 48 hours or until you can see a doctor. Further management by your doctor, including physical therapy is helpful to restore normal function. To help prevent future golf-related wrist injuries, the following steps are recommended:

• Warm up. Before you practice your swing or play a round of golf, take at least 10 minutes for a brisk walk or a jog. This will help increase heart rate and blood flow. Also, stretch your hands, wrists, forearms, elbows, shoulders, spine and pelvis properly. Start with some easy practice swings before you begin, gradually increasing your range of motion.

• Start low, go slow. Starting your practice with hours of swinging and multiple rounds of golf in a short time might sound logical to you. But this behavior will not help your game, especially if you're just starting up again after a break from golf. If your body is not conditioned and not ready for the strain, repetitively practicing your swing may do more harm than good. Start with a low-level of activity and slowly increase over time.

• Improve your technique. Work on improving your swing and pay attention to proper posture. Taking lessons occasionally will help you get a measure of your form. What you learn about your golf swing may help you improve your score while avoiding injuries.

• Train outside of golf. Improving your overall fitness level by strengthening your muscles, increasing your flexibility, and building up your endurance, can help your performance and make you less prone to injuries.

• Invest in quality equipment. Clubs that can reduce the vibration of impact can help prevent injuries. Even something as simple as using fatter grips to keep you from squeezing the club too tightly may be useful to reduce your risk.

"Any pain and swelling, however mild, needs to be treated properly and an appointment with a doctor may be needed, especially if the symptoms continue for more than a week."



# BELITUNG AND BANGLADESH

The 1998 discovery, off the Indonesian island of Belitung in the Java Sea, opens new windows in the study of international maritime trade in the first half of the ninth century CE/AD.

Its significance, as far as the lands around the Ganges delta, now Bangladesh, is concerned, is the way it revises knowledge about such trade -- trade that certainly included at least a thousand-year-old centre of international trade in that delta.

The route of such trade was, by then, already the well-developed Maritime Silk Road. This, recognised by Chinese archaeologists and historians as one of the earliest of these now famous trade routes, probably originated no later than the period of the Han Emperors of 3rd century BCE. It was, unsurprisingly, a "coast-hugging" route. Rather than making any attempt to hazard across the Bay of Bengal, the course made for the Ganges delta, Sri Lanka, and the Indus delta as major ports of call, en route for ports in the Gulf, especially, perhaps, Oman. From the gulf, of course, routes reached west, to the Red Sea and Egypt, and along the East African coast.

The wreck was of an Arab dhow, similar in size and construction to such vessels still being built and operated in the Gulf ports. Around 18 metres in length, and about 6.5 metres in width, with one or sometimes two masts, rigged with lateen sails.

Quite why this particular craft was wrecked off Belitung Island is unclear, the route it was apparently sailing was south of that usually taken, with ports of call in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Malaysia, as well as the main Indonesian islands, in all of which the embryonic settlements of Arab, by then, mostly Muslim merchants, were already developing.

The location of a port, known as "Srivijaya," believed to be in today's Indonesia, has still not been firmly located and identified, but certainly acted as a major entrepot in South-East Asia, much as the Ganges delta served that purpose in South Asia.

It may well be that the small portion of the cargo, that comprised artefacts of gold and silver, justified an attempt to risk a direct voyage to its home port, avoiding the piracy that certainly bedevilled more coastal waters.

However, it is the totality of the cargo that has surprised archaeologists, and facilitated reappraisal of trading practices of the period.



Dr John Guy, curator at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, neatly summarises the historiography of the wreck. He points out that by the ninth century, Chinese rulers encouraged the use of the maritime trade routes because the overland Silk Road was insecure, and liable to disruption.

In fact, that had always been true of the overland routes, and, in the ensuing centuries, became even more so -- not least when, in the 12th century, the Mongol hordes ravaged most of Asia. Historians have long neglected the logic of the "water was the highway of the ancient world" maxim, and its implications for Indian and Chinese trade with each other, and a wider world.

A part of the connection between China, and other parts of Southeast Asia, of course, was the spread, across the region, of Buddhism, a spread of faith that predated the later spread, almost certainly, also by merchants of Islam across a large part of the maritime nations.

Whilst, with embryonic aids to navigation, the early Han use of internal rivers for both local, and, with convenient Himalayan region linkages to the south of Asia, and coastal waters, such international trade began to develop, it would be some centuries before the Maritime Silk Road became more fully developed.

Indeed, charting the early 15th century voyages of Admiral Zheng He, reveals that the Ganges delta was not only visited three or four times by him, but was, in fact, the only point of visit on the east coast of the subcontinent. From that, the continuing importance of the delta to China may be easily judged.

The route of such trade was, by then, already the well-developed Maritime Silk Road. This, recognised by Chinese archaeologists and historians as one of the earliest of these now famous trade routes

However, the Belitung cargo provides us with a very clear picture of trade in those early decades of the ninth century.
The cargo comprised, for the most part, of ceramics, with origins from many Chinese locations.
It is a piece of the large cargo of pottery of the late Tang dynasty, that includes a piece of Changsha pottery, bearing a date of manufacturing mark, that gives us a fairly precise dating for the wreck.

It is, naturally, the fascinating small cargo of extraordinarily well-made artefacts in precious metal that has attracted particular attention, worldwide. It comprises the largest such cargo of such artefacts of that period, so far recovered.

There is no doubting the Arab origin of the vessel, both in style, and building techniques, although the East African origin of its timbers also helps to describe this extraordinary network of trade. Through ensuing centuries, Bangladesh, of course, is also known to have become a source of both timber and building, for such Middle-Eastern merchants and traders.



The Chinese-based communities engaged in the industrial surge, and consequential trading, of the Tang dynasty is also known to have housed merchants and traders from a wide diversity of origin; including from Persia, Malayan Peninsular, Indian sub-continent, and Vietnam.

They also included Muslims, Hindus, and Christians, as well as the more ubiquitous Buddhists. Sadly, the history of such communities also records early anti immigrant violence, including at least two wholesale massacres -- those who neglect their history are, surely, doomed to repeat it?

Interestingly, the Belitung wreck also reveals pottery with fake Arabic manufacturing marks; clearly, there were no enforceable, "country of origin" laws around the Gulf in the ninth century ... perhaps any more than there are today.

What, of course, inhibits the ability of Bangladesh to take its natural, leading place in this rich history of thousands of years of international trade is, of course, the self-imposed constraint of international academia. "What is your reference," a question not infrequently directed at me, almost, of course, suggests an end to history and its research.

If no "peer reviewed" publication has ever made a statement about revelations new to their world, such revelations are usually dismissed as lacking substance, and being academically unacceptable.

> A part of the connection between China, and other parts of Southeast Asia, of course, was the spread, across the region, of Buddhism, a spread of faith that predated the later spread, almost certainly, also by merchants of Islam across a large part of the maritime nations.

Bangladesh, with so many, "universities," so many history "schools," and, apparently, seems to have little original study to show for it.

The evident natural instincts of especially new nations, to refrain from asserting their history and heritage, combined for an increasingly unfortunate disregard for the study of history, means that, perhaps, Bangladesh's central role in the development of international trade, with its potential for significant inbound tourism, will never be realised.

A pity, the keys are all around, and continue to become revealed, but, somehow, no one seems anxious to put it in a lock, and turn it. Leaving it, rather, to the nations around, including Pakistan, who did so much to destroy the wealth of tangible evidence, and India who have no interest in sharing a history with many of its roots in Bangladesh.

But then, Western archaeology, before the end of the Western dominated colonial period, had scarcely emerged in these ancient lands around the Ganges delta, and Bangladesh has lacked both resources, and, apparently the will to unearth what is, unquestionably, the heritage to which so much more valuable international tourism is attracted.

Tim Steel is a communications, marketing and tourism consultant.







# BEAUTY OF CHAR KUKRI MUKRI

Chor Kukri Mukri is the natural beauty that rises on the chest of Bhola. It is called Dip Kanya also. Nature lover tourists loves its surrounding beauty of ManGrove Forestry, Wildlife and Oceans. This island is familiar to everyone cause of its natural beauty. It is a guess that the island is four to five hundred years old and not so highly modernized.

**Location:**
Char Kukri-Mukri Island is in southern Charfession Upazilla under Bola District.

**How To Go:**
From Bhola town, Char Kukri Mukri is 2.5 hours by road towards the Char, then take 30 minutes boat ride on local craft.

**Accommodation:**
Circuit/guest houses are available in Bhola but More comfortable accommodations are available at Barisal.

**Things To Do:**
The adventure of this island is Jungle Safari. You can plan adventure holiday to Char Kukri-Mukri Wildlife Sanctuary armed with information and reviews provided by experts and by users.

**Eating Facilities:**
There are a few restaurants along side, most serving Bangladeshi standards. But expectations regarding food should not be high.

# BUBBA WATSON

'Make sure you practice away from the course and have fun on it'





Story : Syndicated content and Picture: Getty Images



**1 What is Bubba Golf?**
For me, it's about creating the shot, creating a moment. I don't care if it's in a major or it's just me at my house. You're trying to create a moment, a shot, a feeling that makes you smile and want to come back and play golf again.

**2 Why do you hit it so far?**
It's technique, but I'm not thinking about it. I never dreamed of trying to hit it further than everybody else, it's just what I do. Back when I was six years old my swing was past parallel because that's what I discovered I needed to do to hit plastic balls further in my yard. It made me swing faster and got me ´ ve feet further. My dad just said hit it as hard as you can and have fun with it. From there, you've got to ´ gure out how to tighten it up. I just kept getting better and had to work out how to hit fairways.

**3 What else did your dad teach you?**
The ´ rst thing he taught me was the grip – and the importance of what the clubface was doing at impact. It's like Jim Furyk. He has a funky swing at the top but it's what happens at impact that matters and he's one of the top golfers in the world at impact. There's never been two golfers that swing the same.
All the greats in the game have a different style of playing, a different way of thinking. But they're all really good and really consistent right at impact. My dad made me just swing around impact, so it got my hands used to the feeling of square. Now when I move the ball it's all about my hands leaving it a little open to cut it or closing it a little for a hook.

**4 What are the most common mistakes you see from handicap golfers?**
It's thinking they're better than they are. They're taking a 7-iron because one time they hit it 180 yards and now they think that's supposed to happen every time. But the key is they don't practice. Just because it looks like I don't practice, I do. The ´ rst thing you tell amateurs to practice is the short game but they all want to get the driver out and hammer it. But you need to practice, and especially the short game.

**5 What advice would you give to amateurs on the short game?**
It's great to be able to hit it 350 yards off the tee but if I miss a three-footer that counts the same. If you can practice from ´ ve feet and in then when you chip it to ´ ve feet you can make six out of 10, which is great for an amateur. That's going to lower your scores. You'll get con´ dence and you'll see that practicing does help.

**6 How do you hit different chip shots?**
Most golfers are different to me and they're going to use equipment, so they'll use different clubs from a 60° wedge to a 7-iron to change the height. But I use a 63° all the time. I hood it and hit down on it to get it coming out lower and I open it up to create more height. Also, the farther back the ball is in your stance the lower the ball will come out and it's easier to get the ball high if it's further forward.

**7 How do you approach putting as such a natural feel player?**
It's still about technique – and when I say technique, I mean it's a pattern because you've done it so much that you know how to create what you want to create. In putting, that's straight back and straight forward. Some golfers open and close the blade a little but the most important thing is that you're consistent. I practice ´ ve footers all the time. There's no secret to it. It's just more practice and trusting your reads and stroke. You also need to keep your head down because most amateurs look up because they want to see if it went in.

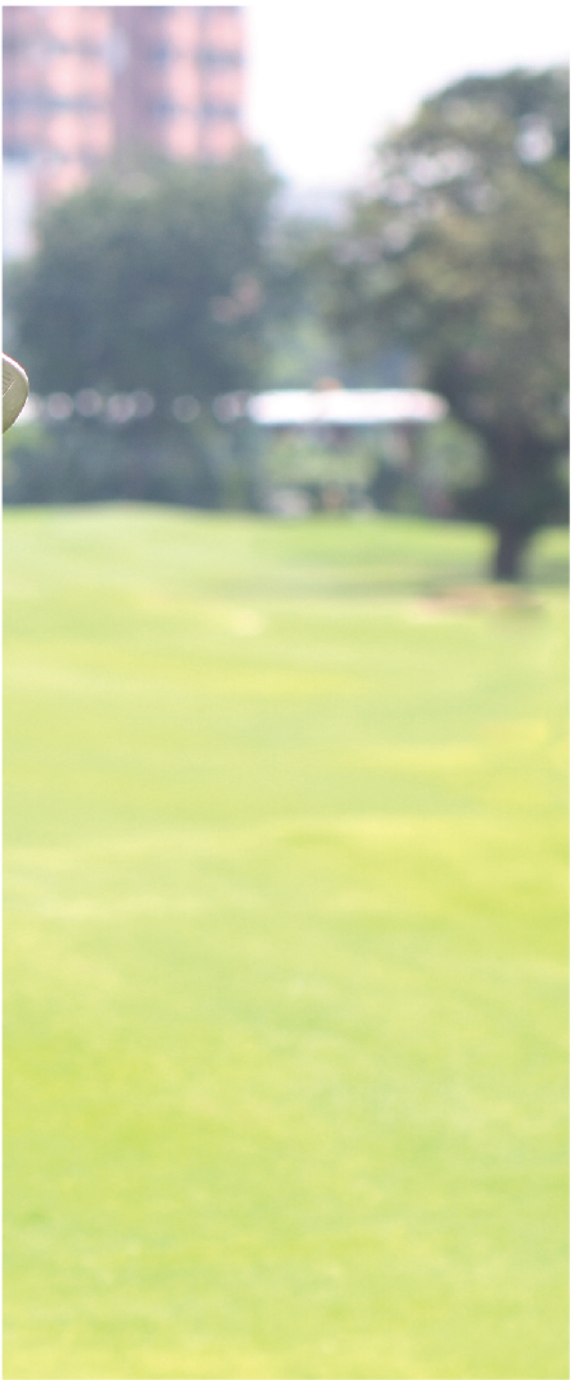
# TIGER GOLF CLUB STRIVES TO CONNECT PEOPLE

**Syed Mostafizur Rahman**
Managing Director of Novo Group





Syed Mostafizur Rahman is the Managing Director of Novo Cargo. Like most other successful businessmen, he is also involved with golf. However, instead of just taking the game as just a passion and recreational tool, he, and some of his peers, have used the power of golf to enhance friendship and bonding between local golfers and foreign diplomats and officials working in Bangladesh by setting up Tiger Golf Club. During a recent interview with TheGolfHouse, Mr. Rahman explained the motive and activities of the club.



Golf Club, in which I am the treasurer. We have tried to develop the club with foreign expats and diplomats. Kurmiotla Golf Club, Army Golf Club, Savar Golf Club – these clubs have extended a lot of support to us, which gives confidence to the expats working here. Today, there are 60 members in our club. It is also a good way to expand our network of our business.

**Since you have played in a lot of courses outside Bangladesh, what is your impression of the courses here in Bangladesh?**

We do have quite a few good courses here I must say. Kurmitola is a very old and international standard course while the one at Bhatiary is really beautiful. There is one at Savar and one at Mainamati those are good too. My personal favourite is the one in Bhatiary because of its scenic beauty with mountains and natural environment.

**Who are your favourite golfers?**

Siddikur Rahman is my most favourite one. I actually like all the Bangladeshi golfers and I want them to do well. I want Bangladesh golf to be promoted.

**What is your most memorable experience in golf?**

Once we played in Toronto, Canada. It was a tiny golf club but it was full of jungles. It was quite interesting playing there.

**What is your impression of golf in Bangladesh?**

Obviously it's very good because now a days a lot of young people are playing golf. I hope our professional golfers will participates more in International tournaments last time we played in Thailand, there were around 15 ambassadors who participated in that event. Some of them didn't know much about Bangladesh. But through the event and the discussions that we had, they were quite keen to learn about Bangladesh. Some of them even expressed their desire to visit Bangladesh.

**Tell us about yourself and your business.**

I started my business in 1978 with the company called Enam Enterprises. In 1988 I started Novo Cargo with some of my colleagues. Today we have around 450 people working for our company, which is one of the top logistics companies in the country. We have worldwide network to support our International Logistic Services to our valued clients / partners.

**What is your life's lesson that you would want to relay to the young generation?**

We always tell young people to play golf, football, cricket, etc because sport is very important. In fact sport is as important as education. So everyone should play some sort of sport alongside their education.

## Q&A

**Tell us the background story of your coming to golf.**

One of my good friends, the High Commissioner of Brunei to Bangladesh, encouraged me to play golf. He taught me how to play. He told me that there are lots of expats in Bangladesh and lot of ambassadors, and that I should do something for them. On his suggestion, we set up the Tiger





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# “FEEL PROUD FOR BEING PART OF SIDDIKUR’S SPONSORSHIP

**N K A Mobin**
FCA,FCS, CFC
Managing Director & CEO
Emerging Credit Rating Ltd.



NKA Mobin has had a chequered career in finance. Over a career which spanned more than three decades, he has held high positions in companies both local and multinational, including the Grameenphone Ltd. It was during his time with the tele-com giant that Mr. Mobin came in touch with Siddikur Rahman when the latter was already became a professional golfer at the Kurmitola Golf Club. But he spotted the potential in Siddikur and helped strike a sponsorship deal, which played a big part in the early years of Siddikur's career. And seeing the success of the golfer, Mr. Mobin now feels proud at his contribution.

**How did you start playing golf?**

When I joined grameenphone, I got this opportunity through my brother-in-law, Retd. Colonel, to join golf. I started in 1995/96, taking corporate membership through the company. However, I took a break for personal reasons before starting to play full-fledged from 2009 on my personal membership at KGC. I play early in the morning and I really enjoy the game.

**You were involved with Siddikur Rahman's grameenphone sponsorship. Tell us about that episode.**

When we joined golf, we realised that it was not yet a very prominent game in Bangladesh. I knew Siddikur Rahman, who was a caddy at that time. He showed promise, but he did not have a sponsor and his family was not that solvent. We spoke to the top level management of grameenphone to arrange for Siddikur's sponsorship. He was with grameenphone for at least 5/6 years when he also started playing in the international arena. I feel proud that I was involved with that sponsorship deal.

**How was your first golfing experience?**

It was a good experience no doubt. You need a couple of months' training at the beginning before earning handicap. I was fortunate enough to earn the handicap in my first attempt which I feel proud about. Environment in golf is always fantastic. The environment was an extra motivation.

**What is your golfing group?**

Regular players do need a group to improve their game. Among my partners were a director from SCB, CFO and DMD of City Bank, an ex-army officer, a chartered accountant. We have a whatsapp group and we coordinate among ourselves where and when we will play and when we will go outside. This coordination helps our game before we start our office work.

**Which are your favourite golf courses?**

Since I'm a member of the KGC, I definitely love that course. However, every golfer wants to try new challenges and in that respect, I like Savar Golf Club, Bhatiary Golf Club, etc. I have played in Kolkata and Myanmar and I liked both of those courses. I would like to play in Thailand and Malaysia in future.

**Who are your favourite golfers?**

Among my favourite golfers are obviously Siddikur since I was involved with him from the beginning. There are a few young players who are much better than us. They are getting proper training and they are doing pretty well.

**Who do you follow among golfers at the international stage?**

I don't get much time to follow international golf to be honest. However, I followed Tiger Woods once upon a time. He took the game to an all new height. I like Justin Rose and others too.

**Do your family members also play golf?**

My brother-in-law used to play, but he passed away. Among my immediate family members there is no one who plays the game. It's a slow game which can be challenging for children/young generation to get involved.

**Which aspects of the game attract you most?**

Golf is a time-consuming game, but the time spent helps build fellowship among golfers. I have built up fellowship with lot of army officers and industrialists through KGC. There are jokes, small talks that we share between the shots and fresh and cool air in the morning which makes the experience rewarding.

**Your most memorable experience in golf?**

I did two hole-in-ones in a single season which is very rare in KGC's history. I was lucky, but I feel proud about that achievement. A total of 32 golfers received awards for hole-in-one that season, and I got two of those awards from the chief of army staff.

**Your nightmare on golf course?**

There are many instances like missing the title by a single point or things like that.

**What is your overall impression about the state of golf in Bangladesh?**

I would say golf has developed from a promotional point of view in the last 10 or 15 years. But we have to take it further ahead. We need to have more golf courses. We need to improve our training programmes a lot. We need to have professional coaches; we need to train the caddies first and let them train the young aspiring golfers. I have not noticed any visible support from the government as yet in golf. So we need government's financing too for promotion of golf.

**You are involved with the KGC and you know about the night golfing facilities there. What is your view on that?**

Night golfing is a popular trend around the world to help professionals who cannot make time during the day. The KGC has started it over nine holes and it is being done through a sponsor. I think it needs a bit more promotion. I think it will flourish further if promoted properly.

**Tell us about your career and personal life.**

I did my masters in finance from Dhaka University. Then I did my Chartered Accountancy from KPMG Rahman Rahman & Haque. I got into my first job in 1986 with Dhaka Match Industries before moving to KAFCO, Novartis and lastly at grameenphone. I spent 11 years in grameenphone where I retired as Director of Finance. I formed my own company in 2009. This is a Credit Rating Company, named Emerging Credit Rating Ltd (ECRL), licensed by Bangladesh SEC, BB and IDRA. Currently I am the Managing Director & CEO. Apart from these, I'm a Rotarian, I'm a member of ICAB & ICSB and a board member of Biman, Shasha Denims Limited and Viyallatex Group. I have three sons who are settled in Canada. Me and my wife live in Dhaka.

**Has golf helped your career in any way?**

To some extent, yes. Golf has helped me build fellowship. But most importantly it has helped my physical and mental aspects.

**What is your message to young people?**

Young people like to live on the fast lane, which is a good thing in a way. But everyone needs to have a structured way in life to flourish. Golf helps bring one under that structure. It cools you down. Golf can help bring discipline into young people's lives.




# GETTING YOUR GOLF SEASON OFF TO A GREAT START

Golfers, it's time. Get those clubs out of the basement and iron your chinos. Golf courses throughout Bangladesh have been hard at work to prepare their greens for the start of the season. At the Kurmitola Golf Club, their grounds crew wants to provide you the best possible golfing experience.

For most of the golfers in Bangladesh it is finally time to get out and play some golf again. The beginning of another golf season will bring the same old challenges as every year. Rusty swings, chunky chip shots, and terrible putts are awaiting us all. Chances are that it will take a dozen rounds or so before the swing and short game come back but there are some steps that can minimize the damage.

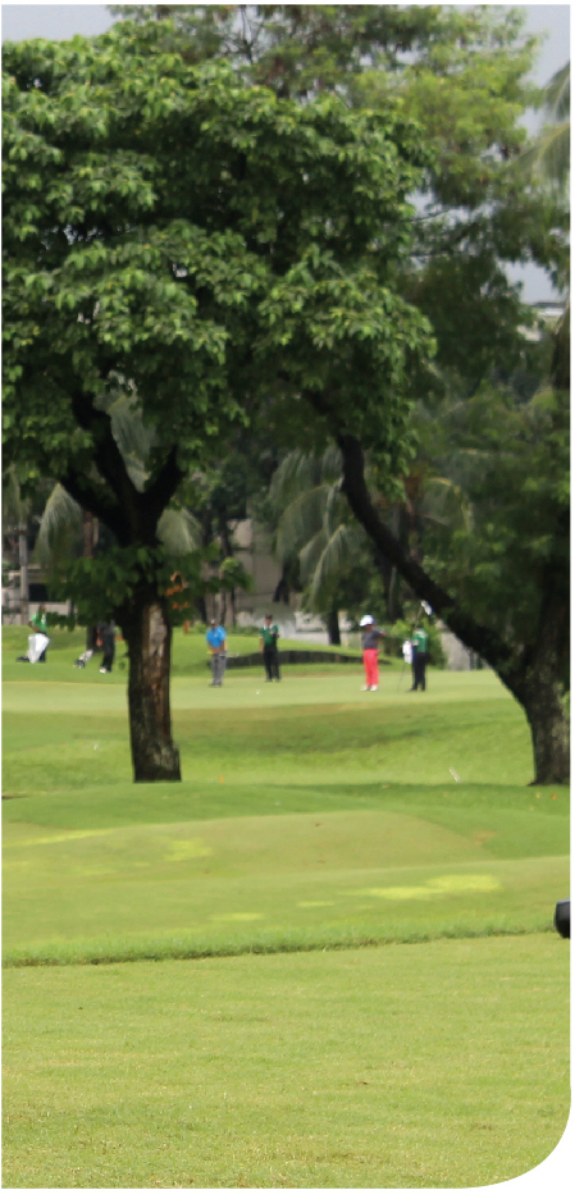
Average golfers tend to favor one club at the range, the driver. This is the exact opposite of any decent players. If the entire game of golf is analyzed, it is easy to see that the driver is rarely hit. The majority of shots are played from 100 yards and in. Given this information it does not make much sense to sit on the range and hit drives all day.

Start of the season at the short game practice area. The first trip to the range should consist completely of putts, chips, and pitch shots. Going to the range and shanking a bucket of drivers is not going start the season off in the correct fashion. Practicing the short game for the majority of the range session will improve your game.

In the early season, concentrate on tempo and solid contact. Find drills that address a specific problem in your swing and work on them as much as possible.

Make the most of this season and start it out the right way. Get the short game in order straight away and your golfing buddies will be paying out all the skins.

Are you ready for the first tee off of the season? Here are a few ways to make sure you are set for the golf season.



**GET YOUR GEAR READY:**
If your clubs are still caked in dirt from last year, give them a good cleaning. Debris stuck in the grooves of your wedges can impact your backspin. Also, inspect the grips. If they seem like they're beginning to give out, have them replaced. Check your glove for holes and determine the condition of your shoe spikes. Finally, pack your golf bag with necessities and nice to haves like sunscreen, bug repellent, tees, ball markers and an umbrella. An extra towel is also a blessing if things get a little wet.

**WARM-UP:**
Stretch and limber up before diving in for your first tee off of the season at your favourite golf course. A good warm-up is the best way to evade golf related pains and strains. Be mindful of how your body feels throughout your round, and slow down or take breaks as needed.

**START SLOW:**
Instead of jumping into those full swings (you'll have those nailed in no time anyway), begin with putting or chipping to get reacquainted with holding a club. Visit the Driving Range and practice Putting Greens and allow yourself the space to fine-tune your stroke. After all, golf is as much about finesse as it is power.

**TAKE SOME LESSONS:**
A great game-enhancing thing to do at the start of every golf season is to invest in some lessons. A professional can help you fine-tune your swing and help you correct that hook or slice.

**HAVE REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS:**
It's unlikely that your first game of the season will produce your top score. Expect to be rusty. It's sensible to assume that it'll take a few weeks to get into the swing of things.





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