

“Here we stand in Delhi city, symbol of old Indian and the new. It is not the narrow lanes and houses of old Delhi or the wide spaces and rather pretentious buildings of New Delhi that count, but the spirit of this ancient city. For Delhi has been an epitome of India’s history with its succession of glory and disaster and with its great capacity to absorb many cultures and yet remain itself. We face the good and bad of India in Delhi city which has been the grave of many empires and the nursery of a republic. What a tremendous story surrounds us at each step.”

“As PM I have taken thousands of decisions, but none has resulted in any thing so fascinating and beautiful”

~ Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, at the opening of the new Club House of the Delhi Golf Club, 1958



The Green Scene

Newsletter of the Delhi Golf Club Ltd.

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PETER THOMSON
Winner 1st Indian Open 1964

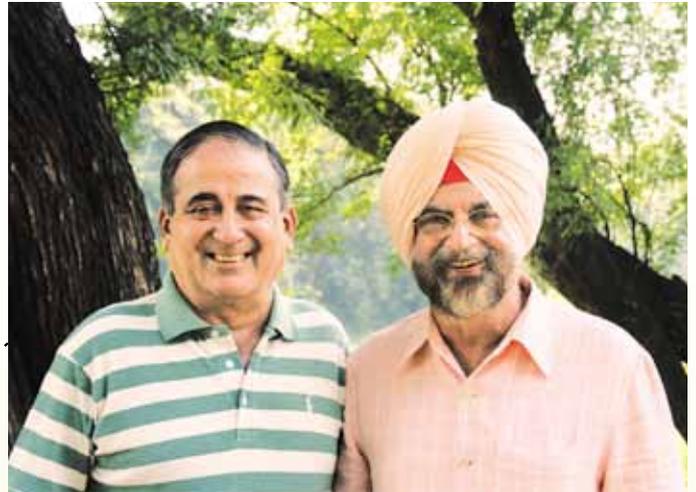


Celebrating The Golden Jubilee



MOHAMMAD SIDDIKUR RAHMAN
Winner 50th Indian Open 2013

Message from the President and the Captain



Dear Members,

We have had a fabulous Indian Open. It was special as it was also celebrating its 50th year. We had almost every golfing Asian country well represented and had some very outstanding players who had come all the way from USA, which clearly demonstrates the prestige the Indian Open and its most popular venue – The Delhi Golf Club command.

The first three days seemed like a one horse race till the nerves caught up with Siddikur. He had gotten down to 19 under at one stage and then suddenly uncharacteristically dropped 3 shots on the 15th hole. The Title was suddenly then for anyone to grab and there was more than one contender. Indian fans were disappointed when Chowrasia missed his putt on the 18th as everybody was now hoping for a playoff. But finally and deservingly Siddikur Rahman lifted the trophy. He is our neighbour from next door, Bangladesh, and has a close Indian connection having won the Indian Amateur Trophy as well. Our heartiest congratulations!

We would like to extend our grateful thanks to Mr. Pawan Munjal, Managing Director and CEO of Hero MotoCorp Limited. Nimbus did their best and the Indian Golf Union was extremely supportive under the able guidance and personal involvement of the President, Gen. Bikram Singh (The Chief of the Army Staff).

Besides Club members, we had a very large number of golfers and visitors from other Clubs who were extremely appreciative and impressed with the excellent arrangements.

IVS JUNEJA
President

The greens and the condition of the course, at one stage, were an issue. We would like to place on record our thanks to M/s Babu Lal and company who made great efforts to bring the course up to such fine level. They were ably supervised by Mr. Ranji Choudhari, Mr. Manjit Singh and Mr. Suresh Sagar. Every competitor and Mr. Chila Han, Tournament Director, felt that they had never ever seen Delhi Golf Club play better. The greens were receptive, smooth, true and fast at the same time.

We would specially like to thank all the members of the Club who year after year make this great sacrifice of not playing golf for a couple of weeks to allow the course to reach its peak. We all take pride in hosting the Indian Open, one of the premier Asian events and this year, it being its 50th anniversary indeed was special.

Delhi Golf Club is unique as it is not in the business of golf but is in the business of promoting golf. We owe it to Golf that we hold these prestigious events because not only do they bring fame to the Club but also attract the media attention which eventually leads to the promotion of golf as a premier sport.

We would also like to thank our new secretary Mr. Arun K Singh and the entire staff who worked day and night to make such excellent arrangements and helped the Club reach such admirable state, be it the general arrangements or the condition of the course.

With warm regards to you all,

KAPIL CHANNA
Captain



sent a polite letter of regret. Eventually, thanks to help from foreign donors, we were able to take part in the historic inaugural event at St. Andrews.

The IGU was able to find sponsors and persuade the Government to release the small foreign exchange for the 1964 event and a modest beginning was made. Peter Thomson, true to his word, not only took part, but brought along some world class players to ensure the success of the early events. In 1969 or 1970, India officially became part of the Asian Circuit and this led to larger foreign entries. Release of exchange continued to remain a great worry right up to the liberalization era of the 1990's. Many times, in fact more often than not, the IGU's application was turned down initially and we had to run from pillar to post to get the eventual sanction.

In the early years, there were no "event managers" and the Championships were organised by energetic and enthusiastic Committees and a host of volunteers- no one got any vouchers for their efforts. Members supported the Open, the All India and the Northern India [both Men's and Ladies'] by turning out in large numbers. Every one walked. Of course now carts on a golf course, much like the red light cars are a status symbol and I suppose shows the importance in which the person holds him/ her self! Sometimes I wonder at how even the attitudes of ordinary club members have changed!

On a more serious note, there have been tremendous changes in equipment. Golf clubs now, although look similar to the ones used in the early sixties are quite different. Club heads were much smaller, the "sweet spot" tiny and hard to find, shafts had much more torque and if the ball was not hit near perfectly, tended to go far off line. Scoring was definitely more difficult. Even accomplished players like the foreign professionals and our own Billoo Sethi, would invariably find a bush or two in a normal round. Finally, the course at our club was far more difficult in those years. The rough was really rough and often a ball in the jharis was lost permanently. There was very little chance of a recovery. The ground was harder with much less watering, there was no first cut and a ball that was off line, for example on the 6th fairway would invariably finish in a bush. Similarly, a pushed tee shot on the 18th, which landed on the slope on the right was "dead"

Let me not give the impression that I long for the old days. Change is inevitable and there is no doubt that the Open is more professionally run now and is a thoroughly enjoyable event for all of us who follow it, even if it means the course is not available to play for a short period.

Ashok Singh Malik (M-031)

Ashok jointly holds the record for 5 All India wins along with Billoo Sethi and Vikramjit Singh.

"No, no, this is not about the grandmother whose eyesight was still perfect but memory had failed to such an extent that she had difficulty in recognising the sex of her grandchildren even when she saw them in their baths." [My father's words in an article he wrote many years ago.]

I played in the first Indian Open in 1964, but my memory of the event is very hazy- I was struggling to find a way of getting my future wife to say yes- we got engaged five days after the 1964 Open finished!!

Enough trivia, now on to the subject. As is well known Peter Thomson was instrumental in getting the IGU to think about an Open. In those days, foreign exchange was hard to come by, specially for a sport like golf. I know the first couple of Indian teams for the Eisenhower Cup got no exchange from the Government and were able to take part thanks to donations from foreign companies. In fact, my father was President of the IGU, in 1958, when they got an invitation from the USGA to send a representative for a meeting at the White House to discuss the inauguration later that year, of the World Team Championship, named after the President of the United States. All expenses for this trip were going to be picked up by the USGA. My father felt "it would not be correct" to accept this invitation as there was little chance of an Indian team participating and therefore

DGC Winners of the Indian Open

BILLOO SETHI - WINNER THE INDIAN OPEN 1965

Billoo, as he was known to everyone, did the country (and the Delhi Golf Club) proud by winning the 2nd Indian Open in 1965. He beat a strong foreign challenge including the then four-time British Open champion, Peter Thomson. He did this not at his home course, but at the par 73 Royal Calcutta Golf Club with first two rounds scores of twin 68's. In his 3rd and 4th rounds he scored modest par and -2. to win by the huge margin of 7 strokes, a record that was unbeaten for the next 27 years.

And Billoo did that as an amateur.

I did not know Billoo Sethi well socially as he was much older. I did, however, have the privilege of playing a lot of golf with him in friendly games and also competitively. Billoo was always a very charming person, a pleasure to be around and had a quiet subtle wit. Though a "gentle giant" he was a very competitive and an extremely good golfer. To my mind his two great achievements were winning the Indian Open against a very talented field of professional golfers and secondly few years earlier, finishing among the top 5 amateurs in the Eisenhower Trophy which is played for the World Golf Team Championship.

I always felt Billoo would have been a far better golfer but for the fact that he believed he was at best a very mediocre putter. He constantly fiddled around with his putters and was always trying out something new. Personally I always felt he was a good putter but did not make better scores because of lack of self-confidence in his ability – apparently he owned over 30 putters. Having said all this, to my mind Billoo was the best golfer that India has produced. The opportunities available to him to play golf internationally were extremely limited as those days it was very difficult to be able to go overseas to play a sport. Billoo played the game as a purist – for the love of the game and not the pot of gold.

I am convinced that had the same opportunities been available to him which are available to the Indian golfer today, Billoo's achievements would have been greater than those of any of our top golfers, perhaps of a truly world standard.



The win as an amateur away from home at the RCGC, was the crowing glory of a formidable golfing career. The Indian pros who competed alongside were Shadi Lal and Lakhi Chand. The first day of the tournament coincided with Billoo's wedding anniversary - he shot a 5-under 68 to lead the field by a slender margin of 1 stroke. Round two saw Billoo repeat his 68 - he now stood at 10-under for two rounds....Guy Wolstenhome trailed him by 5 strokes.

The Indian golf fan was ecstatic with the feeling that 'perhaps....?' The third round of 74 was a dampner, so to say, but luckily his cushion was only reduced by 1 shot. The final round saw Billoo play steady consistent golf, not trying any fancy shots; this resulted in a modest 1-under 72. His total of 10-under 292 was a whopping shots clear of Wolstenhome with Peter Thomson one stroke further behind.

Sethi, though interested in turning professional, remained an amateur as perhaps the time wasn't right to start playing pro golf, the life of a professional being quite alien at that time. He remained India's top golfer including the pros, till his tragic passing away at the young age of 51 years in 1981.

No wonder Peter Thomson said of Billoo: " I am sure Sethi can win any tournament in the world... I think he is among the best amateurs in the world today"



Billoo with his team mates Vikramjit Singh, Lakshman Singh & 'Pit' Pitamber, winners of the Nomura Cup.

Vikramjit Singh (V-040)

Vikramjit jointly holds the record for 5 All India wins along with Billoo Sethi and Ashok Malik.

ALI SHER 1991 & 1993

Ali Sher's unprecedented win of the 1991 Open started a wave of pro golf in India, where thus far amateur golf had held sway. 'Gentlemen' golfers were encouraged and enticed to play for lucre resulting in a deluge of great names to take golf to a different level. Ali Sher having grown up at the DGC swinging a twig for a club with berries as golf balls, knew the course inside out. His short game was near perfect and having caddied for the Bombay-based Englishman, Phil Pilling, he learned a variety of shots. At least 5000 spectators watched him birdie the 72nd hole for his first win which changed his life. The US\$ 25,000/- enabled him to build a new home for his large family of 14 members and marry off his siblings. This also earned him an honorary member of the Club, and he topped the year off perfectly with an Arjuna Award.

Two years later, he won for a second time, firmly establishing his hold over the game.



ARJUN ATWAL 1999

The final round at the RCGC saw two local lads Atwal & SSP Chaurasia, in the spot light with the former being the third Indian Pro to win the Open. He had a total 12 under 276, 4 strokes ahead of SSP. Atwal went on to win on the European Tour and has made a career playing the US PGA and Nationwide Tours. He was the first ever Indian to win on the European Tour in Singapore.

JYOTI RANDHAWA 2000, 2006 & 2007

The Indian shares the record for maximum wins of the Indian Open with Peter Thomson. His first win in 2000 at the Classic Golf Resort, Gurgaon, completed a golden hat-trick of Indian wins of the Open. He wrested the title at the second play-off hole. He became the man to beat on Indian soil after his wins of the 1999 & 2000 Hero Honda Masters. After a 4-year drought of wins at home, he pulled off the 2006 Open in a 3-way play off. The following year he made it five wins in as many starts with the 2007 Open, eclipsing the field with an eagle on the 16th at DGC.



DGC Members: Top Amateurs at the Indian Open



VIKRAMJIT SINGH (V-040) 1970, 1972, 1975, 1977, 1981, 1991

Vikramjit Singh turned down a career in cricket and made the shift to golf straight out of school; and within the year had won his first major championship, the Northern India. At the age of 19, he was crowned the Giant Killer by the Press. A few months later he went on to win the All India title in 1968. An illustrious career saw him wrest a record number of five National Championships, in 1971, 1974, 1977 and 1979. His numerous victories include 3 Sri Lanka national titles, and a record 6 wins as Leading Amateur in the Indian Open. He was a member of the Indian Team that won the 6th Nomura Cup in 1973, the year he was awarded the Aruna Award. Two decades later he was crowned the Asian Seniors Amateur title in 2004.

R K PITAMBER (P-008) 1968, 1969, 1973

Pit, of Nepalese royalty made India his home and dominated golf in Bombay by winning over a dozen Western India's. He not only captained Oxford having earned his Oxford Blue, but also captained the British University Team and then captained the British Army Team as he was drafted into the army by virtue of being a great golfer! Pit was a member of the Indian team that won the Nomura Cup. After adding two All India Titles to his trophy collection, he went on to become President of the IGU from 1974-76. He put in much personal effort and financial assistance by helping players not as fortunate as him. A genuine lover of the game he was always willing to go the extra mile to help.



ARJUN SINGH (S-610) 1994

Arjun won the Honda-SIEL PGA Championship in 2001 and SRF All India Professional Golf Matchplay Championship in 2008. In 2002, he had his finest season on the Asian Tour, coming close to winning the Volvo Masters of Asia. Arjun had many top-10 finishes at home and on the Asian Tour over several years.

SHIV KAPUR (SD-694) 2000

Shiv Kapur won the individual Gold Medal at the 2002 Asian Games, and later that year was conferred with the Arjuna Award. After turning pro in 2004 he was named Asian Tour Rookie of the Year. Shiv won the Volvo Masters of Asia in 2005, and added a string of victories thereafter.



RANJIT NANDA (N-114) 1983

Ranjit won the Junior All India Championship in 1976 and continued to play and represent India. He was ranked No. 1 Amateur in 1983. The last 30 years he has spent in designing and construction of golf courses in India, a field which he pioneered and excels in.

VIVEK BHANDARI (B-411) 1990

Vivek Bhandari National Amateur Champion in 1990, represented the country internationally till he turned pro where he was winner Winner of Hero Honda South, 2001 and won five other Indian tour events including the Indian PGA, 1997.



JYOTI RANDHAWA (R-163) 1992

Jyoti became the first Indian in 2002 to become Asia's No. 1 by topping the Asian Tour Order of Merit, the year he also suffered a career-threatening motor cycle accident. He qualified for The Open and was placed 6th at the Dunhill Links Championship, an European Tour event.



PG SETHI (S-021) 1964, 1966, 1974, 1980

Billoo was the first golfer to be awarded the Arjuna Award in 1961. He represented India at the first Eisenhower Cup in 1958 at St Andrews, and was a member of the only Indian team to win the Nomura Cup in 1973. He was Captain DGC in 1969-70 and 1976-77.

ASHOK MALIK (M-031) 1965, 1967, 1979

Ashok's golfing prowess reads like a who's who of amateur golf in the country - 14 East India titles, 3 wins of the Western India, 1 win of the Northern India, and 6 times winner of the All India Seniors. He was the first Indian golfer to win a National Championship outside the sub-continent in 1977 when he won the Singapore Amateur title. He won the Arjuna Award for 1963 and represented India at the Eisenhower and Nomura Cups numerous times from 1958-1981. Ashok won a record 23 Club Championships at the Royal



MANJIT SINGH (M-008) 1971

He won the All India Juniors title in 1966 & 1968. He was among the top 10 when amateur golf was at its pinnacle and represented the country for a number of years. He is credited as one of the people who setup the PGAI, and went on to become its President. He has also been Captain DGC & President IGU. He has spent the last many years in golf administration and promotion.

ASHOK KUMAR (caddy boy) 2001

Ashok Kumar came from extremely humble beginnings, earning Rs 2.00 in daily wages as pre-teen before he started working as an agewala. His rise in golf is legendary having done well as a junior and as an amateur golfer. He turned pro at age 19, and was top of the Order of Merit 2003-04 as well as in 2006-07 when he recorded 5 wins out of 8 events played that season.



AMANDEEP JOHL (J-122) 1988

Amandeep Johl was National Amateur Champion at DGC in 1989 and was member of Indian Team for 1987 Nomura Cup, 1988 Eisenhower, 1990 Asian Games before turning pro on the Asian Tour. He is now a successful Teaching Pro at the DGC.

RASHID KHAN (caddy boy) 2007, 2009

Rashid, another rags-to-riches story, had a brilliant run as a junior traveling the world representing the country. His crowing glory was back-to-back wins of the Faldo Juniors Cup, Asia Series at Mission Hills, China. After dominating amateur golf and winning top Amateur spot at the 1st Indian Masters, he turned pro at the age of 19 years. He plays on the Asian Circuit and was winner of the PGTI Players Championship in 2013.



AMIT LUTHRA (L-085) 1993, 1995, 1996

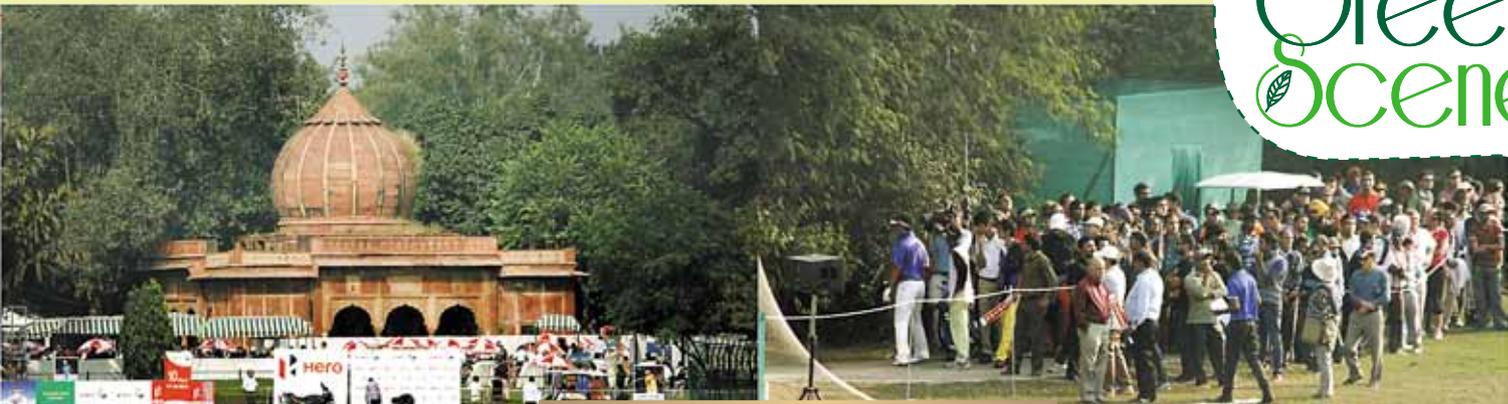
Amit Luthra a Team Gold Medal winner at the 1982 Asian Games, also won back-to-back All India titles in 1995 and 1996; he was awarded the Arjuna Award in 1996, the last amateur to receive one.

The 50th Open



“The DGC is unique. I have never played another course where guys are taking the drivers out of the golf bag. I’m taking out my driver this week too. I have a three wood that would hopefully do the job. I think the venue is fitting for the Indian Open’s golden anniversary,” said the American pro Jonathan Moore prior to the tournament. Our course is unique because of the thick reptile infested bushes on either side, it’s like an out of bounds if one misses the fairway left or right as a horrified Siddukar found on the last day as he dropped shot after disastrous shot to the DGC jharies in his quest to wrest the title.



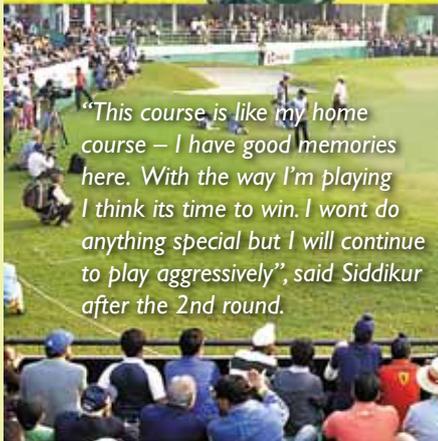


A star-studded field was a perfect tribute to the tournament...there a stiff foreign challenge in Chapchai Nirat, Angelo Que and Md Siddikur, and the "Rock'star Robert a two-time winner in Europe, Jbe Kruger, Pariya Juhhasavasdikul, Jonathan Moore... the endless list was substantiated by the stong Indian challenge of Shiv Kapur, fresh from his win of the previous week, 3-times Indian Open champ Jyoti Randhawa, Indian Masters champ SSP Chaurasia, last Indian winner of the event C Muniyappa, Anirban Lahiri, Gaganjit Bhullar, Rashid Khan, Rahil Gangjee...plus plus plus. Even the early-November weather was perfect. Lovers of golf could not ask for more.

Day One ended with six players sitting atop the leader board at scores of 6-under. What a start to the week! India was well represented among them by Rahil Gangjee, the toast of the camp. Other indians in contention were Shankar Das (67), SSP, Chirag and Rashid (69), Jyoti (70), and Anirban (71). The chances of the Indian win seemed bright. And the Bangladeshi Siddikur who invariably plays well at the DGC was also bunched in the top six.



The 50th Open

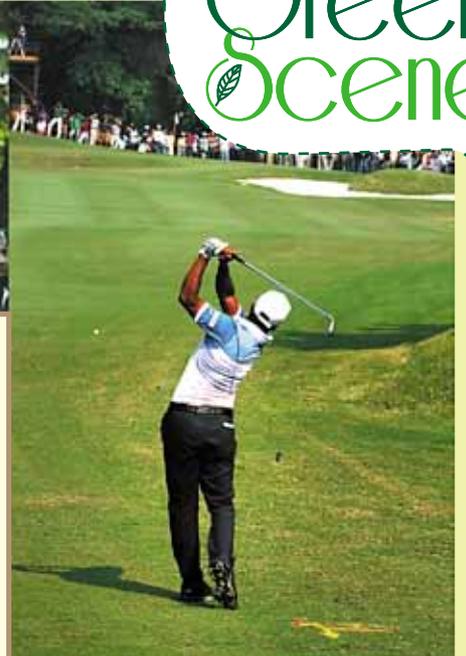


"This course is like my home course – I have good memories here. With the way I'm playing I think its time to win. I wont do anything special but I will continue to play aggressively", said Siddikur after the 2nd round.

Day Two was a decisive step in the right direction for Siddikur, who shot another 66 courtesy his straight hitting and hot putter, giving him a 2-shot lead over Nirat, Adam Groom and Gangjee. He eagled the 1st hole and holed a 20-footer for a birdie finish. Two shots behind. Biting at their heels slowly but surely were SSP and Shankar Das at 137, Anirban and Sanjay Kumar at 138, Chirag Kumar at 139, Shamim Khan, Rashid and Abhinav Lohan at 140, ensuring an Indian challenge was very much possible. The weather played a bit foul with a thick morning fog leading to delays on the 1st tee and leaving twenty-six players unable to finish their rounds. The projected cut was at +1.

Day Three: Siddikur continued his dominating ways by shooting a flawless 67 to a huge 4-shot lead; he seemed well on his way to an Indian win as a professional, having won the All India Amateur Golf Championship a few years earlier. He had only dropped 2 shots in 54 holes and expressed that this was the best golf he was playing since he turned pro in 2007. He felt he was mentally strong and focused. Were SSP with a round of 66 and Rashid with a brilliant 65 (including 8 birdies and one eagle) capable of producing even better scores in the last round? Could the steady Siddikur be pipped at the post....., but Siddikur had numerous putts that missed by a whisker as he didn't read the lines too well. Angelo Que (204), Unho Park and Adam Groom (206) were also very much in the running...golf is a strange game, a 4-shot lead doesn't necessarily lead to a win. Its all about who can hold out under pressure...





Final Day: Though Rashid was elated with his round the previous day, he knew he had an uphill task to catch Siddikur. He was playing aggressively and was confident of a big score, and desperate for a win after losing the SAIL-SBI Open in a play-off earlier in the year. He had to take his chances... and he started his round with an eagle and a birdie; 3rd hole bogey, 4th hole double, 5th hole par...! His game became a bit erratic though he was hitting the ball beautifully. On the 16th four players were level, thanks to good play from Anirban, Que and Rashid coupled with 5 bogeys and a triple on the 15th by Siddikur! The tenacious Bangladeshi overcame his wobbles and sank a brilliant 15-foot birdie putt on the 17th to take the lead once again. As they say, luck favours the brave... Siddikur's wayward shot on the 18th was stopped on its sure path to the jharies by a negligent photographer's camera bag. He must have said a quick prayer of thanks and did not err thereafter to finish on the top after a nerve-racking day! SSP, whose forte is his putting, missed a tiddler to force Siddikur into a playoff, and tied 2nd with Anirban.



**THE 50TH INDIAN OPEN
CHAMPION – MOHAMMAD
SIDDIKUR (Bangladesh)
66-66-67-75**





Waves of nostalgia have been wafting through my mind with the knowledge that the 50th Indian Open was being played at our Club. The tournament has a very special place in the history of our Club – for starters the first Open was played on what we would term the 'old course', before it was split into the Lodhi and the Peacock Courses. When the 8th hole of the now Peacock Course was the long par-5 13th where the long-hitting Rock Hudson-esque Dutch player Martin Roesink smashed his putter across his knee, twisted it into two and threw the pieces into the bushes behind the green; with his brilliantly accurate long game he had been sitting for eagles and birdies throughout the round, but his atrocious putting let him down. He completed the round under par (finally!) holing 3 long putts with his two-iron.

Back to 1964... the excitement in our home, one of an abundance of golf both on the course and at the dining table, was oozing from every pore – my father who had contributed to the game as well as to the Club, was very excited about the IGU's first Indian Open. We would get to see the then 4-time British Open Champion Peter Thomson play a 72-hole tournament – on our own course! Prior to this just a handful of star golfers had been spotted at our club – in 1957 Sammy Malik and Ashok Malik were fortunate enough to play an exhibition round with Gene Sarazen, the first man to win Golf's Grand Slam of four Major Professional Titles. Dai Rees, one of the greatest British golfers never to win The Open Championship, and Ken Bousfield (who was one of the leading British golfers of the immediate post-World War II era), had been spotted at the Club a few years earlier. Life was simple, the golfing world was simple, travel was difficult and exotic India was way out on a limb. So for us to witness four foreign professional golfers playing a tournament at home was super special. Those were the days when we not only hosted the pro's in our homes, we also personally picked them up from the airport armed with garlands. To host a tournament in a far-off land, far from the beaten track of Europe, Australia and Japan, in a land where the west still believed that tigers and elephants walked our streets, was indeed a coup. A professional golfer would prefer to skip India, rather than spend a small fortune to fly here for a pittance in Prize Money. Those were the days when Indian Amateur golf was at the forefront, when legends like IS Malik, Billoo Sethi, Rajkumar 'Pit' Pitamber, Ashok Malik and the much younger Vikramjit Singh fought great battles on the golf course, a time when the Match Play format was king. When caddies played professionally (members paid them 20-30 rupees to play a round). When the Indian professional golfer was a distant dream...

In 1964 we hosted Brian Hugget, Malcolm Gregson and Ralph Moffit. One of them got a coin-sized sunburn on his arm whilst sleeping in his bed, courtesy a tiny hole in the curtain which let in the sunlight. Those days the westerner was not used to the Indian temperatures (the Open was generally held in April, at the fag end of the Circuit). In fact I remember being in hoots of laughter when, a couple of years later, a very sunburned tomato-faced Hugh Boyle on the 1st tee was announced by our favourite starter Bedi Sahib in his Punjabi-English accent, as "Huge Boil"....

The Open, as we tend to fondly refer to it, moved back and forth between the RCGC and the DGC for many years. And we waited patiently each year for the pros from Australia, the UK and Japan to burn up our course. Including the brilliantly attired rock star - the curly

blond haired Stewart Ginn - who we girls followed religiously despite blazing April days, wore parrot green and pink golf trousers. The chubby amiable Hosoiishi who spoke no English, and his compatriot Jumbo Ozaki whose average drive was 300+ yards; Jumbo who had started golf just three years earlier, described his 'career' in three words: "Practice, practice, pro". In later years pros who cut their teeth on the Far Asian Golf Circuit on their way to greatness in the west, like Payne Stewart, David Graham and Graham Marsh were followed by thousands of fans. There were tickets to see the tournament: Thursday and Friday rates, more expensive for Saturday, followed by a bumper Final Round ticket... if you were smart you bought a Season Ticket for all four days. And despite the fact one was paying a substantial amount to enter the portals of the Club, there were literally thousands of people who thronged the course, crowds were five and six deep at times. The buzz at the Club during those years is indescribable.

The Main Lawn of the Club was the hub (throughout the year in fact, from tea through drinks and onto dinner, with a few bridge tables on the side), and the evening prior to the Championship an Auction of Players was held there... Attended not only by the die-hard DGC gamblers, but also all the Pros themselves. With the Lal Bangla as the backdrop the Delhi Golf Club wove its special magic... A night we all looked forward to (while the Club filled its coffers)! There were parties galore for the pros and amateur golfers; I remember throngs of over 100 golfers at our home year after year. And yet they went out and burned the course the following morning!

As travel overseas was difficult, foreign exchange was hard to come by, the import of golf equipment (at exorbitant prices) was limited, our golfers looked forward to 'shopping' in the men's room for golf balls, gloves, shoes, clubs that the pros would bring with them to make an extra buck – hordes of Indian players and members thronged the place almost before the 72nd hole was completed!

Through our college years Roop Som Dutt and I would man the food counter (delicious sausage rolls!) which we ourselves would strategically place at the Barakhamba then 8th tee. Open after Open we had one of the best seats in the house, so to say, perched atop the 8-foot high platform 7th green, which stretched between the present 16th green and the bottom of the monument. The tee was 290-odd yards away, in proximity to the present 12th green. That hole saw the demise of many a good round when an ambitious drive would land in the very deep and huge bunker that guarded the green.

Though Billoo's win of the tournament in 1965 came at the far-off RCGC, the heart of each member of the Club swelled with pride! Our member had done it! He had beaten the pros! He was an amateur who shot 68-68 in the first two rounds, and won by a huge margin of 7 shots - What a day for Indian golf. Billoo was ours!! As was Ali Sher who 27 years later scored back-to-back wins at the DGC. Such proud moments to which our Club has contributed considerably.

Though we were relatively in our infancy with the Royal and even the BPGC being decades older (as were numerous clubs in the southern hill stations and Shillong), we developed that extra zing which made our Club one of the most exciting places to play and watch golf. All the members waited every two years with feet itching to follow the golfers... there were no grandstands, no fancy tents in the lawns, no carts... it was Hot and Hotter, yet how we savoured every moment of each Open. I for one, miss that buzz.

Soni Manjit Singh

Soni Manjit Singh

INDIAN OPEN 50 YEARS CELEBRATIONS

A gala evening was hosted by the IGU President, Gen Bikram Singh and the Council Members at the Taj Palace Hotel. A wonderful audio-video presentation included a video of "Message of Congratulations" from the winner of the first Open, Peter Thomson.

The AV had snippets on golfers of repute like Vikramjit Singh and Ashok Malik as well as a short history of golf in the country.

The R&A was represented by David Harrison

At the prestigious gathering many worthy golfers as well as corporate houses were felicitated as follows:

INDIAN WINNERS OF THE OPEN:

Late Major PG Sethi, Ali Sher, Feroz Ali Mollah, Arjun Atwal,
Jyoti Randhawa, Vijay Kumar, C Muniyappa.

FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPORT OF GOLF:

Siddharth Shriram of Usha International, Pawan Munjal of Hero MotoCorp Ltd,
Tata Steel and ITC Ltd, as well as ROLEX.

The "First Family" of Indian Golf - the Maliks.



Awards & Felicitations

INDIA GOLF AWARDS

In a star-studded ceremony held on November 5th, The first Take Solutions India Golf Awards recognized leading names of Indian golf and corporate champions of the game. These awards, created by leading golfing journalist Shaili Chopra, are a platform to recognize, reward and celebrate the Indian golfing fraternity. Over 30 special winners across categories were chosen and recognized by a special panel. Gary Player, a great friend of Indian golf, headed the jury that put professional and amateur golfers on the same stage; Player expressed that Mission Golf Promotion in India mission should start with dismissing the old thought pattern that golf is an elitist game. He stressed that not only did India need more championship courses, but also equally there was a desperate need for public courses in order for the game to grow exponentially. Panel members included Club members Vikramjit Singh (V-040) 5 times National Champion, and Kavita Singh (S-613), Director on Board of Ladies European Tour & President WGAI. The evening was hosted by the famous NDTV sports anchor, Sonali Chander (C-345). The chief guests for the evening were BS Hooda, Chief Minister of Haryana, and Montek S Ahluwalia (A-158), Chairman of the Planning Commission.

The President IVS Juneja received the award on behalf of the Club which was voted the **Best Golf Course in India**

The following DGC members did the Club proud by walking away with awards:

- Dr Bharat Ram Lifetime Achievement Award **Late Billoo Sethi & Sita Rawlley (R-101)**
- Best Teaching Pro in India **Nonita Lall Qureshi (L-089)**
- Global Recognition in Golf **Arjun Atwal (A-201)**
- Recognition in Golf as a Veteran **Vikramjit Singh (V-040)**
- Golf's Trail Blazer **Rohtas Singh (S-820)**
- GQ Best Dressed Golfer **Jyoti Randhawa (R-163)**
- Outstanding Corporate Contribution to golf **Pawan Munjal (M-515)**
- Global Recognition in Golf **Shiv Kapur (SD-694)**
- Recognition in Golf as a Veteran **Champika Sayal (S-589)**
- Best Upcoming Professional Player **Rashid Khan (Caddy Player)**



THE WOMEN'S INDIAN OPEN AT DGC, NOVEMBER 28-30

Gentlemen welcome.....!

In December 2007, the first Ladies European Tour Championship was welcomed to India at Eagleton Golf Club in Karnataka. Walking up to the Prize Distribution Ceremony, voices shouting, "We want to come back to India", were heard by those present. European Tour Players who had just finished their first event in India cemented their return with those words – smiling, they were waved back at with shouts – "Yes WGAI will do their best to bring you all back!"

The legendary Laura Davies who played the Skills Challenge against, the then up and coming teenager, Sharmila Nicollet, made a strong observation. She remarked honestly about the value of home grown players- referring to Sharmila's huge potential at that time. This was the turning point of WGAI's march forward to further the game of golf for women in India.

A few strides had been made by then to move forward towards professionalizing women's Golf in India which started 27 years after men's Professional Golf did in the country. Indian Women had a European Tour Event before the men who held their first European Tour Event in February 2008. The nascent years had a small prize purse and few players. In this huge country, women coming from caddy ranks was, and still is, unheard of and the situation remains the same till today. However a Women's Open Championship 43 years younger than the Men's Open Championship, has not deterred the spirit of women golfers, but rather given them an impetus to march ahead.

In 2010, an opportunity to tri sanction the then 4 year old Women's Indian Open (which originally was a Ladies Asian Golf Tour Championship) became a reality thanks to Mr Pawan Munjal, MD & CEO of HeroMotoCorp." WGAI's true hero, Mr Pawan Munjal's unconditional help has been always forthcoming. WGAI salutes his single minded commitment to better the lives of young strivers in the game of golf".

Since inception our sponsors, be it the DLF, Avantha, AIS, Omega, have supported WGAI in making Hero Women's Indian Open one of the most sought after destinations on the Ladies European Tour (LET) and Ladies Asian Golf Tour. A feather in our cap was in 2011 when the Ministry of Tourism offered financial support

to Hero Women's Indian Open.

The 300,000 USD Championship is the penultimate on LET's schedule of events, attracting a field of star players from across 25 countries. Maria Verchenova, a Russian beauty and Sophie Sandolo, Italy's super model will be part of the glamorous 2013 field. Charley Hull, member of European Solheim Cup Team that beat USA in August will be seen in action during the Championship along with legendary Swedish golfer, Sophie Gustafson. India's golfing diva, the stunning Sharmila Nicollet will be playing along with young upcoming professionals Vani Kapoor and Neha Tripathi and India's first female pro, Smriti Mehra.



Champika Sayal, Kavita Singh - President WGAI, IVS Juneja - President DGC & Gen Parmar - DG, IGU

An International Professional Women's Championship under the leadership of Mr IVS Juneja, President, DGC reiterates his belief that female golf players from across the globe must be given an equal opportunity to prove their mettle on the historic Lodhi Course. Salutations are due to the supportive club members who have very graciously allowed DGC Captain and the General Committee to move forward in hosting this international event. Members of the Club have promised to come out and cheer the fairer sex towards the end of this month.

There will be Skills Challenge matches, golf clinics, daily competitions and lucky draws for DGC members as well as the spectators to enjoy. We look forward to your support in making this a roaring success.

Champika Sayal (S-589)

Secretary General – Women's Golf Association of India

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Members are welcome to write in at thegreenscene@delhigolfclub.org

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