



Quality Golf News (Issue December 2013)



www.qualitygolfasia.com 

*Wishing you good health, happiness, and best wishes in the coming year and always. **Happy New Year!***

Quality Golf Team



Professional Tournament Golf

Having been very fortunate to be involved with tournament golf since my youth in Western Pennsylvania (USA), in the beginning caddying for my cousin (who was a touring golf professional) at courses such as Oakmont Country Club, left an indelible impression on me. During that same time I had the opportunity to watch the likes of Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Lee Trevino and Gary Player battle it out in the mid to late 1960's at golf courses such as Firestone Country Club. The pristine conditions of these golf courses further motivated me to enter the golf industry. I wanted to create the same thing.

I have now been living that dream for the last 30 years. I'll never forget preparing the Island Course for my first Florida Open tournament at Innisbrook Resort in 1983. The pressure was intense but at the same time gratifying. Then being involved at Innisbrook for the PGA and LPGA Tour's J.C. Penny Classic was the next level up.

I really enjoyed the challenges, the risks and the rewards in presenting a facility at its best

for the greatest players in the world of golf. What I never expected was the excitement of the club owners, staff, membership and area golfers in anticipation of playing the course in those same tournament conditions just experienced by the touring professionals.

That memory stayed with me when I made the move to Asia in 1994. After spending two years overseeing the construction of Thai Country Club and then maintaining it in pristine conditions for six months, I distinctly remember the day it all started to make sense here in Thailand. I was in the restaurant in December 1996 having lunch with the owner and the course was nearly empty. He looked at me and asked what should we do? Immediately, I knew that the Club needed a professional golf tournament and the wheels were put in motion to bring the Asian Honda Classic and Tiger Woods to Thai Country Club in February 1997.

Due to the international exposure from Woods and the excitement that the tournament created, the Club was able to withstand the brunt of the financial crises that year and has remained one of the top clubs in Thailand ever since. Hosting the Volvo Masters of Asia from 2005-2008 while keeping the standards high has also benefited Thai Country Club and its membership.

The Johnnie Walker Classic did the same for Alpine Golf Club and Blue Canyon Country Club as did the Honda LPGA for Siam Country Club. Amata Spring has benefited from hosting 4 editions of the Royal Trophy and 3 years of the Thailand Golf Championship with recent worldwide airing of Sergio Garcia's first win of 2013.

The value of hosting professional tournament golf is not limited to 5-star facilities and can benefit golf courses of all levels. For example, Quality Golf took over management of Panorama Golf and Country Club, 200 km from Bangkok in 2010, which arguably was a 2-3 star facility at that time. While the facility is still certainly not at the same level as the courses mentioned above, the Club has nonetheless benefited from many of the same positives of hosting professional tournament golf that have been experienced by those 5-star facilities.



Sergio Garcia & Tony Taylor
at Alpine Golf Course, The Johnnie Walker
Classic 2000

With proper management and proactive marketing, golf clubs of all levels can host professional golf tournaments and reap the benefits. Of course golf course design, clubhouse facilities, course maintenance and infrastructure will have an impact on the types of tournament a particular facility can attract. If not a professional tournament, why not start with a junior or amateur golf tournament. The benefits can be numerous:

- Brand/golf course exposure
- Multiple marketing channels
- Public relations opportunities
- Positive community impact
- Improved standards for golf course and service offerings
- Staff development and morale
- Pro-Am spots for members and VIP's
- Relationship building
- Increased rounds and/or membership sales

Since 1983 in the US and 1992 in Asia, Quality Golf's principles are proud to have been involved with preparing professional golf tournaments of various ranges as follows:

- McLeod Russel Championship, (2012-2013) for the PGTI at RCGC, India
- Toyota Classic, (2013) PGA Thailand Tour, Panorama Golf and Country Club
- US Open, (2013) Merion CC, USA. Volunteer for course set up
- Panorama Senior Championships, (2010-2013) Panorama Golf and Country Club, Thailand Senior PGA Tour
- Thailand Golf Championship (2011-2012) Amata Spring, Volunteer for course set up
- Royal Trophy, (2009-2011) Consultant and volunteer for course set up
- Barclays Singapore Open (2006-2007), Sentosa Golf Club, Singapore
- Volvo Masters of Asia (2005-2007), Thai Country Club, Thailand
- Bangkok Airways Open (2006), Santiburi Samui Country Club, Thailand
- UBS Hong Kong Open (2005-2007). The Hong Kong Golf Club, Hong Kong

- Omega Hong Kong Open (2003-2004), The Hong Kong Golf Club, Hong Kong
- Johnnie Walker Classic (2000), Alpine Golf & Sports Club, Thailand
- Johnnie Walker Classic (1998), Blue Canyon Country Club, Thailand
- Johnnie Walker Super Tour (1998), Thai Country Club, Thailand
- Nissan Open (1998) Riviera Country Club, CA. Volunteer course set up
- Asian Honda Classic (1997), Thai Country Club, Thailand
- US Open (1997) Congressional Country Club, Volunteer course set up
- Florida Open (1985), Island Course, Innisbrook Resort, Florida USA
- NCAA Championships (1984) Island Course, Innisbrook Resort, Florida USA

By Tony Taylor, CGCS.



Panorama Golf and Country Club – High Season = Tournament Season

High season is upon us once again at Panorama Golf and Country Club. High season at Panorama has become synonymous with great golf course conditions, great weather and a great time to host a golf tournament in Thailand's Khao Yai area. The early part of the 2013/2014 high season has been no different and we expect this to continue as we move into the heart of the high season. To our members, guests and regular visitors, we do our best to ensure that tee times are blocked for you so that you can also enjoy the golf course in pristine tournament conditions!

Panorama Senior Championship 2013

The Club hosted two events for the Thai Senior Professional Golfers Association (TSPGA) under the banner “Panorama Senior Championship 2013” on October 21-22 and again on November 25-26.



Khun Pipoo (James) - Panorama General Manager received a Plate of Honor from the TSPGA President, Khun Poj Kongput.



Khun Pipoo (James) - Panorama General Manager (Third Left) pictured with Senior Pro Manas S., The Winner - #5 tournament (Center), K. Poj K., the President of TSPGA (Third Right) and all the referees.

These were the fourth and the fifth TSPGA events, respectively, hosted by Panorama since 2011. 143 senior pros played in the October event while 127 played in the November tournament. The winners shot minus 6 and minus 5, respectively, to claim the winner's check for the 2-day competitions.

PGA Thailand Tour - Toyota Classic #7

For the first time in its 20-year history, Panorama Golf and Country Club was selected by the PGA of Thailand to be one of its host venues for the 2013 Toyota Classic. The full field tournament, Toyota Classic #7, was held from November 19-22, with the eventual champion, Porameth Sonthirati posting a score of 273 (-15) for the 4-day event.



Tony Taylor, Quality Golf Executive Director (Third Left) and all winners from PGA Thailand Tour—Toyota Classic #7.

Hills Thailand Junior Open



Panorama continues to support junior golf in Thailand with its recent hosting of the Hills Thailand Junior Open, a 54-hole tournament, on December 5-8. The tournament was organized by Hills Thailand in cooperation with Hills International Golf Academy in Australia. 56 juniors, from Korea, India, Australia, Taiwan, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand (including Panorama's own Nong Preaw) arrived at Panorama on December 5 after visiting one of the famous Thai floating markets.

Hills officials commented, "The course looks great. Greens are running at 9 on the stimp and the accommodation is good!" Preparations are already under way to bring the event back to Panorama again in 2014.



Juniors from Korea, India, Australia, Taiwan, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand at Panorama Golf & CC.

Upcoming Events – 1st Quarter 2014

"Chang" Thailand AM Tour 2013-2014 presented by Golf Channel Thailand in co-operation with "Toyota", January 22, 2014. All amateur golfers who are interested in participating in this exciting event, please visit www.golfchannelthailand.com

TGA Junior Golf Ranking Tournament for the North East Region (E-San), January 25-26, 2014

"Panorama Senior Championship 2014" organized by the Thai Senior Professional Golfers Association (TSPGA), January 27-31 2014

"The Faldo Series Asia, Thailand Final 2014", February 1-2, 2014 qualifier for the Faldo Series Asia Grand Final in China



www.panoramacountryclub.com email: info@panoramacountryclub.com



Update from “The Royal”



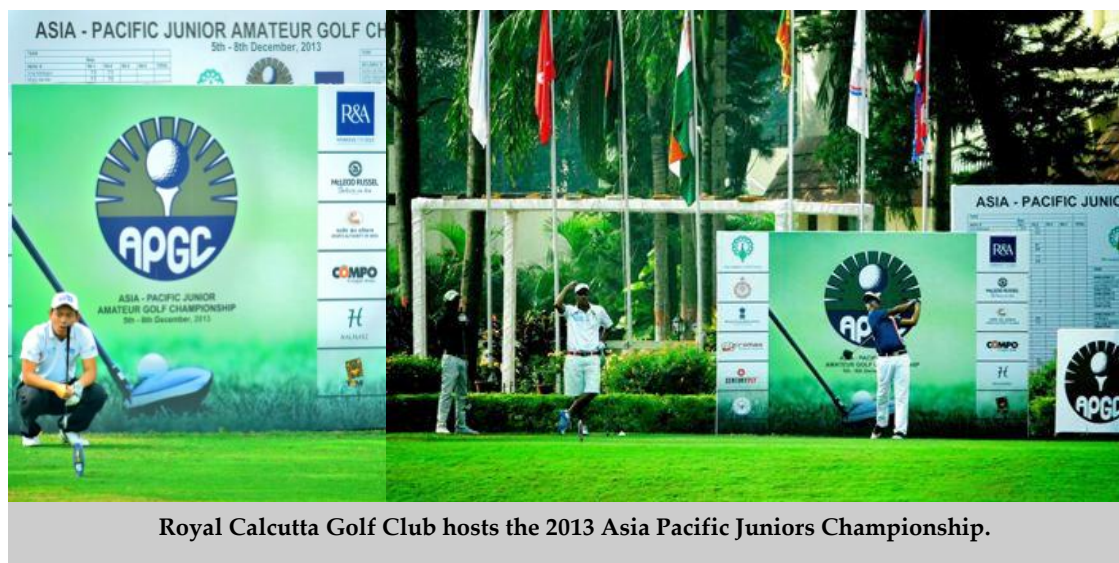
Tournament Preparation - A Slightly Different Perspective

As a discerning golf course superintendent, I believe that each cup, green, bunker, fairway or any surface on the golf course for that matter carries a minimum required standard of preparation for each and every day, not just tournament time. I believe that standards are required for cutting and setting a cup properly, mowing and watering a green properly, mowing and grooming an entire golf course properly, preparing a bunker properly, reading a soil analysis properly. The standards may seem very basic but are a critical part of a properly managed golf course and requires that staff be well trained and that a disciplined routine is followed. Then, as turf managers when tournament time rolls around, we have a fairly high degree of certainty that these simple but important things are going to be done correctly.

Setting the standards at the “appropriate” level and meeting those standards will be dependent on the quality of materials (fertilizers, fixtures, machinery and supplies), the availability of resources and the training, commitment and dedication of the staff. All of these things ensure that we are “Prepared” when it comes time to think about tournament preparation. I understand that every golf course has limited financial resources or limited staffing standards may be lower or even non-existent, in which case, greater effort will be required on the bio or physiological preparation all of the elements of production so that an expected level of delivery can be achieved for the tournament.

The focus of tournament preparation is really on the necessary requirements above and beyond the daily standards that have been established at a particular golf facility. For example, the idea of agronomic practice or the science around the timing of moving into and through a tournament is where the art of preparation lies. To me, what tournament preparation means is more of an agronomic matter, dealing with the biology of the environment surrounding the

living playing surfaces and our ability to “load” these living surfaces to accept stresses that normally aren’t incurred by the turf plants during the normal playing periods, not so much about the quality of the materials or assets used.



What I am talking about when I mention “load” is that we look at what it is that can make the surfaces more enhanced from a competitive standpoint; speed of greens by “leaning off” or hardening the plants to tolerate less nutrients, less water and, often lower heights of cut. We do this by conditioning the turf in the weeks preceding a tournament by first being sure that the turf plants are at their peak of productive growth prior to this loading period, that they are uniform and healthy, both on the surface and within the entire structure of the plants, stems and roots combined. This gives us an opportunity to manipulate the plants in whatever direction we choose, whether it be lower heights of cut, lower water usage thus, less hydration of the plants, smaller gaps between the plants, tighter and smoother lies and rolls across the surfaces. -- Tim Denham, Quality Golf, Golf Course Superintendent, Royal Calcutta Golf Club.

1858/15 TCIF Tower 6 th Floor, Bangna-Trad Road, Bangna, Bangkok 10260 Thailand
Tel: +66 2751 4255 Fax: +66 2751 4258 Email: info@qualitygolfasia.com