



# Quality Golf News (Issue June 2013)



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## 2013 US Open Tournament Preparation and Volunteer Dedication

Monday morning, the first day of tournament week, the Merion Golf Club was inundated with six inches of rain. To culminate a week which started with uncertainty, the Sunday Father's Day finish certainly could not have been scripted better. On a beautiful day with an Eastern Pennsylvania summer sunset, Justin Rose hoisted the US Open trophy while Matt Shaffer, Director of Golf Course Operations, tournament preparation volunteers and crew members shared the spotlight and reveled in the festive moment!



*Matt Shaffer (Left), Justin Rose (Right), hoisting the US Open Trophy.*

Through all the hard work put in by Matt, GC Superintendent Arron McCurdy, Asst. Superintendent Dave McDonald and their crews in the years, months, weeks and days leading up to the tournament, the Old Lady Merion stood the test of time. In the weeks before the US Open not only did they have agronomic considerations to deal with, but they also had to help coordinate the installation of grandstands, hospitality tents, television towers, portable toilets and concession stands all while making sure no one damaged the golf course. However, playability remained the primary focus and that dedicated focus paid off with a score of 1 over par



*2013 US Open tournament preparation meeting.*

winning the Open on a course that played just over 6,880 yards.

Besides the full time maintenance crew at Merion Golf Club (50 people for the East and West Course) Matt Shaffer relied on an elite group of volunteers that have been referred to in the past as the “Band of Brothers”, which included Superintendents and staff from premier golf clubs like Oakmont (2007 and 2016 U.S. Open Site), Saucon Valley CC (2009 U.S. Women’s Open), Pine Valley GC (Golf Digest #1 rating in 2013), local Philadelphia area elite clubs, and many others from as far as Australia. With over 100 volunteers that were tasked with preparing all

aspects of the golf course including hand raking bunkers, mowing fairways, tees and greens, there were no prima donnas in this group! After a heavy destructive rain early in the week, they worked countless hours (with schedules from 4 am to 10 pm) in order to provide golf course playability and difficulty levels the likes of which the pros rarely see.

Paul Latshaw Sr., formerly of Oakmont CC, Augusta National, Congressional and Winged Foot, and whose son Paul B. is the Superintendent of Muirfield Village Golf Club home of the Memorial and this years President’s Cup, developed this volunteer concept over 40 years ago. “Mr. Latshaw” as he is dearly referred to out of respect and deep admiration by the roughly 250 interns, apprentices and assistants that have passed under his and fellow Superintendent Matt’s tutelage, has also helped to mentor this group who are now maintaining the most elite golf clubs in the US. Quality Golf had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Latshaw to Thailand in the mid 90’s and he invited us to the 1997 U.S. Open at Congressional where he handed the baton to Matt Shaffer to run the watering crews for the week and now 16 years later it was Matt’s turn to host the Major. We have been fortunate to stay close to this group ever since, hence our return this year.



*Matt Shaffer, Director of Golf Course Operations, the Merion Golf Club (left) and Tony Taylor, Executive Director, Quality Golf*



## PTT Blue Innovation Golf A-Class Championship 2013 – 4<sup>th</sup> Qualifying Match

Panorama Golf and Country Club is a proud sponsor of junior golf in the Northeast region of Thailand. In the past few years, we have hosted many junior golf tournaments



*Quality Golf's General Manager, James (Pipoo) Burapolpi-man, at Panorama with the winners.*

for the TGA and for private sponsors. For these events, we put together affordable packages for the participating juniors and their families and we also provide training facilities based as part of our normal operations as well as sponsorship to some of these up and coming junior stars.

On Saturday and Sunday, May 18-19, 2013, Panorama Golf and Country Club was proud to host the 4<sup>th</sup> event of "PTT Blue Innovation Golf A-Class Championship. Congratulations! To Nong Preaw (Pattaraporn Muanchoo) and Nong Geng (Natthanon Khanthacha) who won this event! Incidentally, both of these promising juniors are under the Club's support and sponsorship.

Five events make up the PTT Blue Innovation Golf A-Class Championship series for this year. A total of 120 juniors participated in the recent event at Panorama and



*Congratulations to both winners Natthanon Khanthacha (Left) and Pattaraporn Muanchoo (Right).*

the top ten together with the top ten from each of the previous three events will compete in the 5<sup>th</sup> event (Final), which will take place June 15-16, 2013 at Royal Hills Golf Resort and Spa in Nakhon Nayok province.

## **“Chang” Thailand AM Tour 2013 presented by Golf Channel Thailand**



Panorama Golf and Country Club is proud to announce that it is one of the 20 prestigious Golf Courses selected as a venue for the “Chang Thailand AM Tour 2013” presented by the Golf Channel Thailand in co-operation with Toyota. There will be two events at Pano-

rama Golf and Country Club the first taking place on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 and the second on Wednesday, January 22, 2014. For more information and to all amateur golfers who are interested in participating in these exciting events please visit [www.golfchannelthailand.com](http://www.golfchannelthailand.com)

## **Khao Yai - Korat Golf Promotion 2013**

The Tourism Authority of Thailand – North East Region in conjunction with the Khao Yai Management Association have arranged the “Khao Yai-Korat Golf Promotion” to run from



May 1, 2013 to October 31, 2013 at 5 Golf Courses in the region: Panorama Golf and Country Club, Mountain Creek Golf Resort and Residences, Rancho Charnvee Country Club, Sir James Resort and Country Club and Siam Cement Thai Tha-Luang Golf Club.

A book of 12 coupons is being sold for 7,200 Baht (600 Baht each). At Panorama Golf and Country Club, you can enjoy the course on weekdays for 1 coupon and on weekends for 2 Coupons. For further information, please contact Panorama Golf and Country Club 044 436298-300.



[www.panoramacountryclub.com](http://www.panoramacountryclub.com) email: [info@panoramacountryclub.com](mailto:info@panoramacountryclub.com)



## Update from “The Royal”



*Tim Denham, Consulting Golf Course Superintendent for Quality Golf International, Asia - Royal Calcutta Golf Club, Kolkata, West Bengal, India.*

A year ago, Tim Denham joined Quality Golf as a Consulting Golf Course Superintendent and our full time Golf Course Superintendent at Royal Calcutta Golf Club in Kolkata, India. Tim has done an admirable job in the short time he has been with us and we'd like to share more about one of our key team members, directly from Tim.

### **Wild Benefits of The Golf Course Superintendent - Tim Denham**

The single greatest benefit of being employed in the wonderful and unique profession as a Golf Course Superintendent is being witness to the pure and untainted, often restless and often peaceful movement of the planet and all of its power, energy and wonder. Through bright sunshine, heavy wind storms, rain, hail and the climactic variations from one continent to the next, I've witnessed early morning brisk and sparkling frosts, the heaviest of snowfalls, blistering hot days where I feel as though my eyebrows are preparing to set fire. Having been in the golf industry nearly 37 years, from my early apprenticeship to becoming a qualified Golf Course Superintendent, I've been fortunate to be able to foster my love of the outdoors and be witness to some of the most incredible sites many people never get the chance to see. How many people have watched the sun crest the horizon in the same day they witness its disappearance on the opposite horizon, thousands of times? How many have seen Bald Eagles spiraling down toward the Earth tempting gravity in full talon lock, or mating and preparing the new generation, or seeing the end result of their daily and annual toils encouraging

their fledglings to the edge of the nest to use their wings for the first time? I have!

I've also seen a tornado near overhead while at the same time off in the distance, three other water spouts - one on the river and the other two in the Gulf of Mexico. I've seen lightning strike a tree on fire within 25 feet, again at 100 feet and yet again within 10 feet where it knocked my coworker and I down on a golf course near the shores of Lake Ontario.



*Black Kite, RCGC, West Bengal, India*

Since I was but a young child at the age of 6 I've always had the kind of curiosities that could be satisfied by wandering through the dense woodlands of Up State New York, turning over logs to locate salamanders and dismantling old revolutionary period rock boundary walls to see what was underneath. I climbed trees, higher than I should have to get a different perspective on the forests and walked and wandered like John Muir for days on end until I often found myself late for dinner or my farmhand chores.

I've always been fond of the wilderness and throughout my life and in my profession, like many Golf Course Superintends, I've intentionally and deliberately perpetuated that childhood curiosity across each and every experience I've had. In essence, my life is defined by my home and my church as being the great outdoors where I witness the natural world turn in its uncounted ways. I was the kid watching Sir David Attenborough's narration of Turner Broadcasting's "Life On Earth" series, inspiring me to be a wildlife enthusiast when I wasn't playing ball with my pals.

Through this enthusiasm, and a bit of happenstance fortune in the form of a coordinated industry paralleled initiative known as The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program in the United States, I've not only been able to enjoy this lifelong interest in wildlife and the natural world, but I've been able to participate in the progressive and proactive preservation and protection of wildlife habitats in a world of development and construction. While I was at The Tournament Players Club in Sarasota, Florida for

8 years, I had the pleasure of initiating and accomplishing Cooperative Sanctuary Status for the second of two 36 hole PGA TOUR operated facilities, to date the highlight of my combined personal and professional life. Cal Roth, V.P. of Agronomy and Maintenance Operations for the PGA TOUR facilities worldwide, one of my greatest mentors, would tell you that wildlife preservation is a deeply rooted ethic for me both personally and professionally.



*Asian Golden Jackals, RCGC, West Bengal, India.*

Going back a bit in my career, I've had the fortune in both personal and professional development to have mentors who allowed me to broaden my endless curiosity through their employment of my developing skill sets in plant and soil science, species identification and direct participation in development and environmental mitigation projects. These mentors also allowed me to be directly involved in the planning, development and establishment of wildlife sanctuaries in the forms of wetland estuaries, woodland re-establishment, upland transitional areas as well as massive tracts of land



*Mother and Infant Grey Langur Monkeys, RCGC, West Bengal, India.*

where upfront protection initiatives were a mandate of the land development deal. I've had a number of strong and qualified mentors in my development including my brother Bobby who is a Golf Course Superintendent, PGA Professional, and Certified Club Manager; Eddie Fatica who is a world class Certified Golf Course Superintendent, one of the very first I should add, and agronomy consultant known worldwide for his knowledge and support. If you asked Eddie Fatica what he remembers about me I'm sure he would mention my continuous questions about the industry and the land that included my intense curiosity to know what I was looking at and how it functioned down to every last detail. He would also tell you that I would spend nearly all my

spare time from work peacefully, quietly stalking wildlife with my camera in all weather.

Here in India, Tony Taylor and Geoff Ichii with Quality Golf have allowed me to carry that same spirit in step and in the essence of my responsibilities as a Golf Course Superintendent consuming the spirit of wildlife and Earth movements in the Monsoonal Jungle region of West Bengal at Royal Calcutta Golf Club.

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