

NETLINK MASTERS INVITATIONAL GOLF 2010

Golden Greens Golf & Country Club, March 13, 2010

PRESS RELEASE

Netlink Masters 2010, one of the most innovative golf tournaments in the Indian golf tournament calendar was played at the beautiful Golden Greens Golf & Country Club on Saturday, the 13th of March 2010.

Played in a full field skins format, the event received rave reviews from a full house participation of 94 amateurs who teed off in pleasant conditions early in the morning. In the skins format, a "skin" is claimed by a golfer when he makes the outright best score on any hole as compared to his/her playing partners. There are thus 18 skins to be claimed for the 18 holes that are played and the format creates an opportunity for each golfer irrespective of how well or badly he/she has played in the previous holes. In case there is no outright winner on a given hole, the skin is carried forward and the next hole is played for two skins and so on. There were prizes for the highest skins claimed in each group. The big prize was for the player who would claim the highest skins for the entire day amongst the 94 participants.

Once the participants understood the new rules, the unique facet of the format which encourages aggressive and positive golf emerged. Another facet is that it always provides hope to a golfer even if he/she has had a bad hole previously because each new hole brings with it the opportunity of a new start. This led to a higher degree of competition as compared to other events.

With a distinguished array of participants from different backgrounds which included Asian Gold Medalist Amit Luthra, Sunil Dutt of HP, Taranjeet Singh of BBC World, Neelam Pratap Rudy, Rajeev Mittal of Microsoft, and Income Tax Commissioner J.S. Naurath, the competition was fierce and there were 23 deserving masters, one in each group.

The overall winner who was crowned the Netlink Master 2010 was the player who scored the highest skins for the entire day. The winner with 14 skins was H.B.S. Gill who played in the group comprising Harinder Sikka, J.S. Naurath, and Deepak Talwar.

Amongst the other winners who scored exceptionally well within their groups were: Neelam Pratap Rudy who scored 13 skins. 12 skins - Amit Luthra and Manu Garg. 11 skins - Rahul Khanna, Diplomat Seelan Moodley, Taranjeet Singh, Soumya Dutta.

There were many skill awards where the players received prizes on the course itself. The overall winners were: 1) Straightest Drive on hole # 9 – Pranav Parashar – 2 ft

2) Closest to the Pin on hole # 12 – Anurag Gupta - 1 ft 7 inches, 3) Longest Drive on hole # 18 – Dinesh Thakur - 315 yards.

The tournament witnessed many innovations. The shotgun start had some players being sent to their holes in BMW cars, the “Beat the Player” contest had the host of event Mr. Rajesh Bakshi as the “Player to Beat”, the rejuvenation massage points on the course were well received as was the encouragement award for the shortest drive on the 1st hole amongst each group.

The guest of honour for the golf was Mr. Sunil Dutt of HP who also began the event with a champagne toast while the doyen of the education industry, Mr. V.K. Thadani of NIIT was the guest of honour for the prize presentation evening which was held at Le Meridien Hotel on the 14th evening.

Another unique facet of the event was the jacketing of all the 23 winners by designers Karan & Nasir. The winners’ measurements were taken after the conclusion of the play on 13th afternoon and they were presented their beautiful jackets on Sunday evening.

Speaking on the occasion, the host of the event Mr. Rajesh Bakshi complimented the host club Golden Greens Golf & Country Club and the event managers Digraj Golf for the concept and conduct of the event. He also confirmed that this annual event was here to stay and perhaps become bigger next year.