

2008 In Review

As the final weeks of 2008 approach, let's look back on the milestones of the MGA's journey during the past year.

2008 saw the inclusion of ladies athletes in the National Team Program. Anil Johani Abu Bakar, Amanda Chin and Sharon Lau May Yen make up the formidable Ladies wing of the National Team's Elite Squad.

Muhammad Arie Irawan Ahmad Fauzi was the first of many in the MGA stable to create waves. The 17-year old won the Malaysian Amateur Stroke Play Championship at Kelab Golf Negara Subang with a five-under-par 283 total. This win followed his earlier semi-final achievement at the All India Amateur Open.

Interestingly, this year MGA had in fact introduced a new championship format for the Malaysia Amateur Open, where instead of the traditional Stroke Play, the championship was played in Match Play format.

impressive collection. Symbolically, it was exactly a year to the date when younger brother Galven Kendall bagged the US Kids Golf World Championship title.

Then 13, Gavin led the field from the start, carding even-par-72 on the first day, followed by successive 3-under par 69 rounds to clinch the title at 6-under par 210. He was the only player to match par or better, taming the 6527-yard par 72 layout of Pinehurst number 8, triumphing by four strokes.

Gavin became one of the youngest players to be roped in to the national team and since then this precocious talent has obviously blossomed. Earlier in June, Gavin was a key member of the Selangor team that bagged the Team gold medal at the Terengganu SUKMA games.



Arie Irawan bags the Malaysian Stroke Play Championship.

finest golfing locations.



Miri Golf Club hosted a State Junior Golf Clinic last month.

As part of the format change, the MAO was preceded by the Malaysian Stroke Play Championship. It was played in four rounds, where the top 80 players and ties after 54 holes proceeded to the final round. At the end of the Stroke Play Championship, the top 32 players advanced to the 106th Malaysian Amateur Open tournament. Arie however, faltered in the second round of match-play.

Also inking their names in the MGA's 2008 journals were Nicholas Fung Chee Yung and Akhmal Tarmizee Mohd Nazari. The duo proudly sported the Nation's colours in clinching the top two spots at the Vietnam Amateur Open. Nicholas won with 11-under 277, with runner-up Akhmal finishing on 3-under 285.

Not to be outdone by their male counterparts, Sharon Lau and Ainil also made it a Malaysian one-two victory at the 23rd Bangladesh Ladies Amateur Open which was held at Dhaka's Kurmitola GC.

But the best delivery was executed by a pint-sized 14-year old. The Green lads have significantly made their mark on the greens when Gavin Kyle added the US Kids Golf Teen World Championship Under-14 trophy to their already

A Regional Voice

The ASEAN region is made up of a population base well in excess of half a billion. Comprising member states Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, it reportedly boasts of 700 golf courses in the region, complemented by driving ranges and teaching facilities.

Thus, the setting-up of the ASEAN Golf Federation (AGF) is timely. An endeavour mooted by HRH Tunku Abdul Majid Idris Iskandar, the President of the MGA, it was realised on July 30 this year. The formation meeting was held at the Royal Johor Country Club, followed by an inaugural AGM in Singapore on August 26, the venue of the Putra Cup 2007.

The MGA acts as the Permanent Secretariat, whereby the President's post will be automatically selected based on the Putra Cup rotation venue.

With the reasoning that there isn't such a body looking after the interest of the game in ASEAN, one of the main objectives of the AGF is to help members keep abreast of developments in the industry and to assist in drawing-up plans to make the region one of the world's

Eyes on the Juniors

As proven by a host of highly successful State Junior Clinics throughout the country, the MGA's endeavour in boosting junior golf development hasn't gone unnoticed.

An integral part of the MGA's National Junior Development programme, the junior clinic was inaugurated on April 6 at KGNS attended by 50 budding junior golfers.

Among the objectives of the Clinics are to spot junior golfers aged 16-years and below, with potential to be absorbed into the National Junior Squad and subsequently, the National Team. It is also to facilitate registration of potential juniors in National Junior rankings based on selected tournaments.

Two Clinics per state have been organized this year, to culminate in a year-end 2-day annual junior camp where priority are given to those who have attended the various State Junior Clinics.

Back to School

Another MGA success was the 3rd Rules School held at the Grand Bluewave Hotel, Shah Alam and Kelab Golf Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah, which was attended by 44 participants from Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.

The School concluded with an examination, which was optional, with 43 participants sitting in the Exam. The panel of 4 experienced referees; Dato' Tan Yan Fatt, Mala Nathan, Quek Swee Kim and K H Wan prepared the Questions and conducted the School.

In a move signaling R&A's recognition of MGA, the association is honoured with the task of hosting and organising the 1st Asian R&A Referees School at Glenmarie Golf & Country Club from January 15-17 next year. Grant Moir, the R&A Director of Rules; Kevin Barker, Assistant Director of Rules and Alan Holmes, Chairman of Rules are expected to attend. It is believed that the School will attract seasoned and budding referees from all over Asia.

The programme is largely based on the Referees School that R&A holds on an



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annual basis in St Andrews, with emphasis on refereeing situations and the role of a Rules Official at a tournament. The School is aimed at delegates who have a good knowledge of the Rules and already have some officiating experience. In addition, MGA will also organize the R&A Turf Seminar to be held on March 16, 2009 at Kelab Golf Negara Subang.

Looking Forward

A win at the Laos SEA Games 2009 would mean progress from our National Squad's bronze medals tally at the 2007 Korat SEA Games through Akhmal and Ainil respectively.

MGA also hopes to improve performance at the 2009 Thailand Putra Cup. Another target would be at the 2009 Nomura Cup in Korea, where the Australian team has had five successive wins thus far.

The highly successful MGA State Junior Clinics will be continued in 2009. Meanwhile, in reference to the 2009 fixtures, any affiliates interested to host any of the state events are required to write in officially. For the record, MGA has started giving subsidies to clubs for hosting the State Amateur Opens, totaling RM5,000 for the men's events and RM2,000 for the ladies events.