

ARABIAN GOLF NEWS

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GOLF

News from the leading clubs in the region



THE PLAYERS LINE UP AHEAD OF THE WORLDWIDE GOLF OPEN
THE FIRST EVENT IN THE 2017 SWING AGAINST CANCER GOLF SERIES

SWING AGAINST CANCER GOLF SERIES GETS UNDERWAY

The 2017 Swing Against Cancer Golf Series got underway in fitting fashion with the Worldwide Golf Open at Sharjah Golf & Shooting Club as Clark Francis and Purna Sharma took the respective spoils in the amateur and pro divisions.

H.E. Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Thani, the Deputy Chairman of the much loved venue, is also a Board Member of Friends of Cancer Patients, the official charity partner of the series which aims to raise funds and awareness to fight back against one of the world's deadliest diseases. So it was a highly appropriate club for the first of six qualifiers running throughout the year leading up to the grand final, the Mike Clark Golf Day, at Jumeirah Golf Estates on October 26th.





THE VOKEY WEDGE NEAREST THE PIN CONTEST PROVED A BIG HIT AT THE WORLDWIDE GOLF OPEN



PRO WINNER PURNA SHARMA (LEFT) AND AMATEUR WINNER CLARK FRANCIS

Each hole of the Peter Harradine-designed nine-hole track was played twice, using different tees on each round and Francis, playing off a 9 handicap, put in an impressive performance to emerge victorious with 37 Stableford points followed by Eugene Labuschagne who took second place ahead of Craig Moorfield on a back nine countback after both players scored 35 points.

All three have won through to the star-studded Mike Clark Golf Day where they will compete for the 'money can't buy' golf experience of a spot in the Rolex Pro-Am for the DP World Tour Championship, hospitality tickets to the tournament, an invitation to the players' beach party, a two-night stay at Atlantis, The Palm and a golf lesson with renowned PGA Master Professional Pete Cowen.

PROUD

"I'm very proud to win the opening event in the Swing Against Cancer Golf Series and get through to the grand final after a great day out with my colleagues," said Francis. "This cause is something that is very close to our hearts and our company does its best to support cancer charities so we are delighted to be involved.

This is a great initiative by Worldwide Golf and Sixteen10 and I would like to congratulate them on such a wonderful event. Now I have a chance to win at the pro-am at the DP World Tour Championship and possibly stay in the Atlantis which should be marvelous!"

SIXTEEN10

Sharma, who works as a Club Technician for Pro Sports International, official distributors for Ping and Titleist and one of the Swing Against Cancer Series Gold Sponsors, turned on the style to emerge top of the pile in the pro division after shooting 2-over 74. He will compete with the other pro qualifiers for a 5-star golf holiday and a AED 5,000 winner's cheque at the Mike Clark Golf Day.

"I'm very happy with the result and looking forward to the final," he said. "It's a great series for a very good cause so I'd encourage other local pros to get involved."

Reza Sazegar, Managing Director of Sixteen10, co-organisers of the Swing Against Cancer Golf Series, won Nearest the Pin on hole 8/17 of the nine-hole course to claim an executive health check provided by Mediclinic while he turned provider for the Longest Drive

contest on hole 7/16, donating a US Open flag signed by Rory McIlroy to winner Andrew Dancox.

"It's been a fantastic day and a great turnout at Sharjah Golf and Shooting Club," said Sazegar. "We could not have asked for more. Hopefully the momentum will build for the next qualifier at The Els Club on May 18th."

VOKEY WEDGE

Titleist also ran a Nearest the Pin contest on hole 3/12 with each player testing their short game using a Vokey wedge which was also the prize, won by David Gross.

Martin Duff, Director of Golf at Sharjah Golf & Shooting Club, who also got involved by playing in the pro division, said:

"The event is a great concept and we are delighted to host the opening qualifier of the series. It has been a great success and I can tell that everyone has enjoyed it. The variety of the prizes, the format, and the fact that people are coming from all over the country to play, with different standards; professionals, high handicappers and ladies as well, is great. I'm sure it will go from strength to strength and I hope we make a lot of money for this great cause."

WHAT THE SPONSORS SAID:

DSA ARCHITECTS

David Riley, Senior Associate:

"We are very pleased and proud to be associated with this event. We took part last year at the Montgomerie and from there we got more involved. We have got many clients lined up to take part as well and personally I'm very keen about this cause because my wife is recovering from cancer from five years ago, so anything to do with cancer charities I am all for it!"



MULTIPLEX

Petar Mladenovic Executive Director, New Business:

"My golf should have been a lot better! But obviously we are here for a great cause and also to enjoy ourselves. It is a noble charity and us as Multiplex are a big company in terms of reaching to charities and cancer is one of our big charities that we like to sponsor."



TITLEIST

Geoff Hunter, General Manager, Pro Sports International, Official Distributors:

"We're delighted to be supporting the Swing Against Cancer Golf Series. It's a terrible disease that has touched most people - either directly or within their family - so we're proud to be involved and looking forward to the rest of the events."

