

THE TIMES OF INDIA, AHMEDABAD
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2012**TIMES SPORT**

First edition was fantastic

Rishi Narain

Jeerv Milkha Singh, Jyoti Randhawa, Shiv Kapur, Anirban Lahiri and the other top Indian players all competed last week. The unheralded Navratna Ahmedabad team emerged victorious over home favourites Puravankara Bangalore and the KGA golf course provided a superb facility and clubhouse for the inaugural edition of the Louis Philippe Cup.

It was great that every player unanimously endorsed the event concept of 10 city teams battling for the Rs 1.24 crore purse. The format of two rounds of stroke-play, in which the teams qualified to compete for either the semifinals or then for the minor placings, proved to be a hit. The pressure of doing well for the team in the strokeplay stage tested everyone's nerves, especially in the final holes on Day Two where the pressure was on to make the semifinal stage.

Players believed this format was very

fair and created serious excitement. The standard of play was high as the top four teams ended the first two days at 15 under par (Navratna Ahmedabad), 14 under (Take Solutions Chennai), Puravankara Bangalore (12 under) and 10 under (DevEllora Chandigarh). Twenty-two of the 30 players scored par or better in the first two days, which showed the high quality of play on the tough KGA course.

In the match-play or knockout rounds the final two days, each match between two teams consisted of three singles matches of 18 holes with a win carrying one point. The team to first get two wins out of

three won the match. This format produced more high caliber golf with players shooting eagles and birdies by the truckloads, making for some great entertainment.

For the next edition, there is no real need to change the format. The players are enthused and want more of the same.

RN GOLF MANAGEMENT

