

City golf team to be selected today

100 Golfers To Vie For 3 Places To Play In Louis Philippe Cup

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: The club qualifying event for Navratna Ahmedabad team in the Louis Philippe Cup will be held at the Kalhaar Blues and Greens golf course here on Saturday.

Over 100 amateur golfers will vie for a place in the Navratna Ahmedabad amateur team that will represent the city in the richest domestic golf event on the PGTI calendar—the Louis Philippe Cup. The club qualifiers at Kalhaar Blues and Greens will be the official qualifying event for the city's amateur team.

The top three amateurs from Kalhaar Blues and Greens will play on the Navratna Ahmedabad amateur team alongside Sri Lankan golfer Mithun Perera, winner of 2011 Tata Open Vinod Kumar and Vikrant Chopra for the Louis Philippe Cup Inter-City Pro-Am on March 7 and 8 for the Louis Philippe Cup.

PGTI has launched this new inter-city team event to provide exciting golfing action for the 100,000 strong golfing community across India and to create a stronger fan following for India's professional players who have been performing well on the inter-



The Kalhaar Blues and Greens course in Sanand

national pro tours.

Jeev Milkha Singh's participation in the Louis Philippe Cup has added more sheen to an already star-studded list of players that includes former Asian Tour Player of the Year Jyoti Rand-

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hawa, European Tour regular Shiy Kapur and two time European Tour winner SSP Chowrasia, two time Asian Tour winner Gaganjeet Bhullar, 2011 Asian Tour winner Anirban Lahiri, 2011 Singapore Classic winner Himmat Rai and 2011 PGTI Player of the Year Chiragh Kumar.

With the confirmed participation of all the top 18 ranked golfers on the PGTI order of merit, Louis Philippe Cup has a stronger field than any tournament in 2012 and this will make for more exciting competition and nail-biting finishes.

Vaibhav steals the show

Vaibhav Sheth's 153 not out and 4-47 almost singlehand-

edly took Sahajanand Art and Commerce College to a 31 run win over Nava Vadaj CC in their match of the Indian Bank Cup (minor) at MG Science College ground here on Friday.

Batting first Vaibhav struck 153 runs in 127 balls of his team's total of 255 for 8 in 40 overs. Rohan Mehra took 3 wickets for 28 runs for Nava Vadaj.

In reply Nava Vadaj were bowled out for 224 runs in 37.4 overs as Vaibhav then took four wickets. Anil Rana provided the only resistance for Nava Vadaj as he scored 40 runs off 24 balls.

In the second match, played at CN Vidyalaya ground New Era CC thrashed Jolly CC by 99 runs. New Era's Jignesh Rathod scored 73 off 52 balls and Navneet Thakor hit 56 not out off 46 runs as their team posted 253 for 8 in their 40 overs. In the chase, Jolly CC failed miserably as they were bowled out for just 154. Bhusan Chauhan took 4 wickets for 47 as New Era won easily.

Few more holes in Gujarat's golf scenario

Ahmedabad: The moment you walk into the course, you know it is different. The Bermuda 419 grass for the fairways and the roughs and the Miniverdi used for the tees and greens gives the course the uniqueness like the man—Jack Nicklaus—who has designed this 7,317 yards long Kalhaar Blues and Greens course at Sanand near here. To make a cricket-crazy nation like India understand who Nicklaus is, he can be best called as the Don Bradman of golf. This also happens to be India's first Nicklaus-designed 18-hole championships course and has 14 water bodies covering over 35 acres of the course which is spread over 175 acres.

In keeping with his expertise in the game and designing courses all around the globe, this course is also designed to have a distinct character and offers unique challenges such as sand and beach bunkers, different types of water hazards, along with a scenic 'island green' on Hole No. 7, which is the signature 'hole of the golf course. This Par-3 hole doesn't have a fairway and from the tee point to the greens is a huge water body which is connected by a beautiful bridge. Undoubtedly, this course will add more glamour to the already glamourised golfing world of Gujarat.

"This could easily be among the top five courses in the country," said Terry Bohannon, the project manager and Nicklaus' representative for the execution of this project.

Pranav Shah, MD of Navratna Group which owns the course said: "This course complies with United States Golf Association (USGA) specifications and has been meticulously developed so as to put golfers at all skill levels to the test, while making it enjoyable to play on time and again."

Terry added: "We have sculpted the course to have contours ranging from 1m to 5m for which more than 1.2 million cubic metre of earth was moved to achieve the desired result."

Another MD of the group, Devang Shah said: "The golf course is fence-to-fence grassed and manicured with a hi-tech computerized irrigation system, wherein each sprinkler is wired to the central control station. Importantly, the entire golf course has been sand-capped (8-10 inches) to enable one of the finest water harvesting and drainage systems to drain rain water and excess irrigation water to the lake, thereby making it possible to reuse 30 to 35 per cent of water used for irrigation."

The course will be officially launched on Sunday.