

NCR Cup 2007 : A well conducted Golf event at a prestigious golf club

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The 2nd NCR Cup, organised by Delhi Golf Society, a fraternity of golf lovers in the capital, lived up to its reputation of being a national amateur championship that could vie with top ranking international amateur championships.

Sixteen year old Rashid Khan from the Delhi Golf Club (DGC) emerged on top and secured an entry in to the European Amateur Championship next year. Rashid has been in top form lately. His 7 under total was good enough for a five shot victory over another Delhi Golf Club lad, 20 year old Aditya Singh.

The leading scorers were 281- Rashid Khan, 286 - Aditya Singh, 288 - Kapil Kumar, 292 - Rudresh Sharma, 293 - Moin Malak, 296 - Chikkarangappa, 302 - Navtez Singh

The 2nd annual NCR Cup teed off at the Delhi Golf Club from Oct 23rd to Oct 26th, 2007. The tournament was open to amateur golfers from anywhere in India with handicap of 6 and below and featured 72 players.

'A well conducted Golf event at a prestigious golf club has always made history for instance The U.S Masters. The aim of Delhi Golf Society which has 150 members from Delhi's Golfing fraternity is to make the NCR Cup the best annual event at the prestigious Delhi Golf Club. I firmly believe that no contribution by any golfing body is greater than to have a well conducted event which attracts the top talent of the country. Thanks to Mr Kamal M Morarka of GannonDunkerley who has supported the event with generous contributions', said Mr. Prakash Bhandari, President, Delhi Golf Society.

The just-concluded tournament offered facilities to the players comparable to the best competitive amateur tournament in the continent. The players were provided with caddy fees, top quality golf balls and accessories, food coupons daily and invitation to an awards dinner.

Most importantly, the top two players get an automatic entry into the European Amateur Championship where they will get to compete with the best amateur players in Europe next summer, a rare privilege, offered only by this tournament in India. The Delhi Golf Society will be flying the winners to Europe and they will be provided with local hospitality there.

'The Delhi Golf Club, in premium condition immediately after the staging of the Indian Open Championship is in top class championship condition and the players were able to compete in real world class international championship conditions', said Mr Ranji Chaudhri, Captain Delhi Golf Club.

NCR Cup is the only national level amateur tournament currently conducted annually at the DGC.

An attraction this year was 14 year old Chikkarangappa (Chikka as he is known) who is the youngest ever player to represent the men's team.

The DGC's par 72 course provided a solid test of golf for the competitors. Speaking on the occasion, former national men's amateur champion and Asian Games Gold Medalist, the event director, Rishi Narain said, ' Until a few years ago Delhi players dominated Indian golf at every level, the sub junior, junior, open and pro categories. Today this is not the case. The Delhi Golf Society intends to make a contribution towards Delhi players regaining premium place in the national rankings by creating competitive opportunities and training programs'.

Wisden cricketer Kapil Dev participated in the event to motivate the young champions.

Gala Dinner prize-giving on October 26 evening at DGC lawns consisted of select participants, DGC Committee members, top corporates including Pawan Munjal of Hero Honda, celebrities such as Mandira Bedi, star golfers including Shiv Kapur and Gaurav Ghai. The chief guest was the Lt. Governor of Delhi Mr Tejendra Khanna. The awards night was hosted by Cidade de Goa and the award winning chefs were specially flown from Cidade de Goa for Goan food.

In its inaugural year the winner was Raj Randhawa with a total of 290, 2 over par for the 4 rounds, two ahead of runner up Karan Vasudeva and another stroke behind at 293 was Rashid Khan in 3rd place. Raj Randhawa has since then joined the pro ranks.

The NCR Cup was presented by Gannon Dunkerley, an infrastructure company. Associate sponsors were Mercedes Benz - T & T Motors, Austrian Airways and Awards night was hosted by Hotel Cidade de Goa.

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