

Festival of Golf 2009

First Round at Rayong Green Valley

This year's festival of golf commenced at Green Valley Golf Club on a bright and sunny day. Amongst the participants was Luke Steed the current reigning champion who had flown in from Malaysia for the event.

Newcomer Graham McCarthy (12h/c) set the pace with a fine 37 point total, narrowly beating Michael Moran (14 h/c) on count back. The jet lag obviously didn't affect Graham on his first trip to Thailand, as he arrived at the course straight from Bangkok Airport. Paul Ratcliffe (15 h/c) 34 points and Tim Austin (14 h/c) 33 points followed closely behind the leaders.

Second Round at Eastern Star

The testing Eastern Star Course lowered the average scores considerably. **However one of the Festival's old campaigners Len Stubbs (18 h/c), carded a respectable 35 points to win the day.** Len was one point ahead of Paul Appleton (14 h/c) and Luke Steed (11 h/c). Luke had now eased himself into a two point overall lead.

Third Round at Green Valley

After a two day break scores rose dramatically on the second visit to Green Valley with **Martin Allard (26 h/c) returning a fantastic 40 point total**, well clear of the other competitors. Terry Donlon (14 h/c) and Luke Steed were both four points behind on 36 points each.

Fourth Round at St Andrews Hill

The next round took the players to St Andrews and **Graham McCarthy was back on form returning a three under par 39 point total.** However under the rules of the competition no one could win two days outright. **So it was Luke Steed who took the honors with 31 points** beating Tom Reed (21 h/c) and Norma Moran (19 h/c) on count back. The competition was now hotting up with Graham McCarthy, Luke Steed and Michael Moran all very close.

Fifth Round at Burapha A & B Course

The players then visited Burapha to find the course in pristine condition. **It was here that the highest individual score was achieved by the oldest competitor in the field, 22 handicapper John Skewes. John scored an amazing 41 point total** after making a pre round statement that, he was only here to take part and his days of winning were long gone. **Well done John, a great performance.** Other outstanding results came from Graham McCarthy 39 points, Michael Moran and Tom Reed both on 38 points.

Final Round at Burapha C & D Course

The question was, could Luke Steed or Michael Moran catch the 146 point total that was already posted by the in form Graham McCarthy on the final days play. It was possible but appeared a little too much of a gap for Len Stubbs and Tim Austin who followed closely behind. Graham scored 32 points beating his worst card by one, Luke scored an amazing 38 points beating his worst card by seven and Michael finished with 32 points. **This made Graham our 2009 Champion with a three under par 147 point total. Luke gave a great defence of his title on 143 and Michael finished in third place on 140. The days winner was Mike Stephenson (12 h/c) carding a fine 36 point total** beating Terry Donlon on count back with Tom Reed and John Skewes both on 35 points.

Well done to everyone who took part, with a special mention to Norma Moran a past champion and runner up – Norma has competed in 5 of the past 6 Festival of Golf events, this time she narrowly missed the top 3 on several occasions. **Congratulations to Graham McCarthy for an outstanding performance. We hope you return to defend your title.**