

Thailand Golf Travel Nation Spring 2007

Welcome to the spring edition of the Thailand Golf Travel Nation. This is the first newsletter of 2007 and as you can see our name has been changed to reflect the growing importance of Thailand as a global golfing destination. As with previous newsletters I will continue to write original and news breaking stories on the state of golf in Thailand as well as provide useful golf course information, special golf playing tips for Thailand's tropical environment, announce special golf travel deals, and, of course, carry on with the free lucky draw giveaways.

Last month saw another major PGA tournament being played in Thailand, the 2007 Johnnie Walker Classic. As in past events this year's tournament was held at Phuket's Blue Canyon Country Club. This club has undergone a series of ownership and management changes over recent months, with the latest saga being that the Thai parent company is back in control and the Singaporean and German investors are no longer involved.

For golf travelers this is very good news in that the new (old) management at Blue Canyon have decided to do away with previously announce rate hikes, rolling back green fees to 2005 levels at least until the start of next season, October 31. Now how is that for breaking news, green fees that are actually going down one of most prestigious courses in Thailand! TIT for sure!

In other news, the pace of new golf course construction keeps up, adding to the 250 courses open for play throughout Thailand. Siam CC, after undergoing a 1+ year renovation, officially reopened on March 1. The course now sports new greens and the old pine tree lined fairways that used to be littered with pine needles have all been cleaned up. Currently however, there still are several temporary greens in use as it will still be another few months until all the new areas are complete

In another new course development, Black Mountain in Hua Hin will officially on April 20th. This will bring to 8 the number of 18-hole Hua Hin golf courses, making this quaint seaside resort a real alternative to Pattaya for the golf traveler looking for a Thai beach destination other than Phuket. I will publish course reviews on both new layouts in my regular [Thailand golf report](#).



As for Golfasian, we had an excellent season with steady growth and good client feedback. Thank you to all of you who have toured with us this past year! Our new golf instruction services are gaining popularity especially among the expatriate and Asian golfers looking for cost effective ways to combine short breaks in Thailand with game improvement tuition programs. We now have 2 full time golf professionals on staff to cater to any [golf instruction](#) needs.

Finally, Golfasian hosted our first corporate golf event. The 2007 Golf Challenge was held on March 3 at Cascata Golf Club and the 108 person event proved to be a major success. Golfers from all parts of Asia took place in the stableford competition with prize drawings and a buffet dinner with free flow beer and wine capping off the day long event. Feel free to drop me an [e-mail](#) if you or your company has any golf arrangement needs for meetings, conventions, or incentive groups.

Please remember if you want to be certain to get regular updates on the Thailand golf scene, then

you can sign-up for uninterrupted email delivery of this newsletter. In addition, all persons signing up will automatically be enrolled to win a chance for a free sleeve of Titleist Pro V1x golf balls, plus a special Golfasian exclusive member's only gift.

Have a great spring and remember, think positive and YOU WILL SHOOT PAR.

Mark Siegel
Managing Director

Featured Golf Course

The Jack Nicklaus designed Springfield Golf Course is rated as the best course around Hua Hin and was just voted as the #7 golf course in Asia by Asian Golf Monthly magazine, joining the prestigious Alpine Golf and Sports Club as the only Thailand golf courses in the Asian top ten.



The course at Springfield has been designed to meet the high standards of a championship golf course, and yet it remains an enjoyable challenge for golfers of all standards. Each hole has a minimum of five tees to play from, but only the brave, and those regularly rub shoulders with the world's best will venture from the black tee. Water hazards regularly come into play and each hole presents its own individual challenge and character requiring finesse or unrestraint. Accuracy is required at all times as the fairways are flanked by a series of hillocks and covered by a forest of small trees.

Nicklaus designs love to catch the player out who hits a poor weak fade, better known as a slice and the back nine when tiredness begins to creep into your game can be punishing with either a huge waste bunker and water or just water on your right hand side and close to the fairway to tighten you up. If you are on top of your game this course will reward you, it is not especially long.

Springfield offers other first class facilities in addition to the course. The club house was constructed in an elevated position that will leave you with a lasting impression. The interior is beautifully finished in polished marble & granite, and portrays a feeling of opulence associated with grand palaces. Changing rooms quite excellent, as are the caddies who are also well trained which adds to the enjoyment of playing at Springfield.

Springfield opened an additional 9 holes for play in 2005, and although it needed another season to fully mature, it is now considered the best 9 holes in Hua Hin as of the 2007 season. For those visiting Hua Hin this spring, Golfasian can offer discounted green fees for all weekday and weekend tee times. Please feel free to drop me e-mail if you have the time and are interested to play at special rates.

 **Best of the Blog** www.thailandgolfzone.com

Thailand Golf Etiquette - Special Do's and Dont's



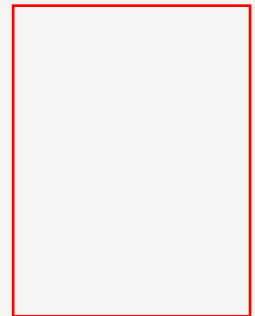
The Thai style is certainly a bit more relaxed when organizing things, and although this can lead to great frustration, it is very impolite to show this, and certainly will not lead to any great assistance. A simple smile and show of courtesy goes a very long way in Thailand. . In these 2 posts I will provide some special information that is unique to Thai golf and if well understood will ensure that you have an excellent time on the links here.

When playing golf in Thailand remember you are a visitor, and respect the locals who are also playing. Golf is still quite a new sport out here and they are not quite so familiar with the etiquette that we have been taught.

Continue reading about [*"Thailand Golf Ediquitte"*](#) plus take a look at all the other articles at the only blog on the internet dealing exclusively with golf travel in Thailand.

Special Playing Tip

The 30 Yard Quarter Wedge Shot



Not every golfer in Thailand is comfortable hitting a short shot to the green and many lack confidence in the shot, causing them to hit it poorly. Instead of using a lofted half wedge it when it's called for, they opt for a pitch and run shot they have more confidence in, but that doesn't provide the benefits of the quarter wedge.

If you want to shave 2-3 strokes off your average score, mastering this shot is an easy and good method. When hit correctly, it reduces getting up and down from three shots into two. Ideal from about 30 yards, a good quarter wedge puts the ball close to the pin, with little roll, setting you up for a very easy putt, and maybe a birdie.

The key to the shot is how you hit it. Many golfers set up like it's just another shot, and then try to limit their power by easing up at impact. Anytime you decelerate through impact, you run the risk of topped or fat shot.

Instead, try this. Dial in distance by varying how much you choke up on the club. That way you can always take the same swing, regardless of the distance. If you have to choke down five inches to cut your swing in half, so be it. Just take a few practice swings to get comfortable with the

shorter club.

Gripping down is a good way to reduce distance, but so is limiting your backswing. If you hit a full wedge 90 yards, a three-quarter swing should produce a shot of about 60 yards, and a half-swing should make the ball go about 45. To guard against hitting the ball fat, start the downswing by opening up your left hip (right-handers) first, then letting your arms and the club follow.

Either approach to hitting the quarter wedge works. It's just a question of which you're most comfortable with. Test both to see which you like the best. Then practice it until you've ingrained it. You'll be surprised how handy this shot can be and how your score will benefit.

Free Titleist Pro V1x Golf Ball Winner [Register Here!](#)

The winner of a sleeve of Titleist Pro V1x golf balls is Christian Bean, from the UK. Congratulations Christian! I will be contacting you shortly to arrange delivery. If you receive this newsletter first, please contact me by [e-mail](#).



For those of you still not yet signed up with Golfasian please feel free to [register here](#). Not only will you have a chance to win next time, but you also will receive an exclusive gift, special announcements and be eligible for other great offers from Golfasian.

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