

Press Release

Quartet earn their tickets to Maybank Malaysian Open 2014

Kuala Lumpur, Feb 19, 2014: Kemarol Baharin led the way to clinch an entry into the Maybank Malaysian Open 2014 as he topped the Maybank Malaysian Open – National Qualifiers at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club (KLGCC) today.

Kemarol shot a two-day score of one-under 143 to finish in first place. Ben Leong, Wilson Choo and Kenneth De Silva finished joint second four strokes back.

Only the top four golfers in this exciting two-day event earned tickets to the prestigious Maybank Malaysian Open 2014.

“This is the second consecutive year I have qualified for the Maybank Malaysian Open and I have set my sights on making the halfway cut this year,” said Kemarol.

“Last year I didn’t play as well as I would have liked and missed the cut, but the experience was simply amazing and I believe it has made me a better player.

“If possible, I want to finish among the top 10 this year. It is a tall order, but not an impossible dream.”

Kemarol, Ben, Wilson and Kenneth join fellow Malaysians – Nicholas Fung, R. Nachimuthu, Arie Fauzi, Rizal Amin, Airil Rizman, Sukree Othman, Iylia Jamil, Khor Kheng Hwai, Shaifubari Muda, Danny Chia, Shaaban Hussin, Iain Steel, S. Murthy, S. Siva Chandhran, Gavin Kyle Green, Ervin Chang and Solomon Emilio Rosidin – who have already confirmed their places.

The Malaysian Golf Association (MGA) will announce another name from the National Team at a later date to compete the list of 22 Malaysians who will bid to become the first local golfer to win Maybank Malaysian Open and help raise national pride.

Waiting for the Malaysians in the US\$2.75 million tournament is former world number one Lee Westwood, who is Maybank’s first confirmed Star Player.

Westwood is also former winner of the Malaysian Open, having won the title in 1997.

Kenneth, who led the 49 hopefuls on the opening day yesterday, carded a poor 74 today, but it was enough for him to earn a ticket to the Maybank Malaysian Open 2014.

“I had a poor start today as I was nervous. It is not easy to qualify for such a prestigious tournament and the nerves got the better of me at the start,” said Kenneth.

“I’m delighted to have made it through and will start preparations for the tournament from today.”

Ben, who has just returned from a serious back injury, said: “It has been a long way back and I’m delighted to have sealed my place in the Maybank Malaysian Open.

“I would like to thank the sponsors for giving us a chance to qualify.”

Wilson said: “This is the first time I have qualified for the Maybank Malaysian Open and I will enjoy myself. It was not easy, but I did it.”

Mohamed Adam Wee, Maybank’s Group Chief Marketing officer, congratulated the winners and wished them all the best in making the nation proud.

“The top four kept their cool in the searing heat to deservedly claim their tickets to the Maybank Malaysian Open.

“A bigger challenge awaits them in April as many of the world’s best golfers from the Asian and European Tours will be eyeing the coveted trophy,” said Adam.

“I hope all the Malaysian golfers who have already qualified, will stay focused and make the country proud in April.”

A year ago, Gavin was the best Malaysian and best amateur when he finished tied 22nd on six-under 210.

Malaysian Golf Association (MGA) president Tan Sri Dato’ Mohd Anwar Mohd Nor lauded the four qualifiers and said: “The quartet have showed over the past two days why they deserve to qualify by playing excellent golf.

“They must remember they will be carrying the nation’s hopes with them and I wish them the very best.”

The rising status and prestige of the Maybank Malaysian Open in recent years has been due to several factors, key among them is the excellent teamwork and relationship developed among all stakeholders involved in the event, as well as the intense competition displayed by top European and Asian Tour golfers.

The level of excellence the event has attained is the reason world class stars continue to make their way to our shores each year.



Leading final round scores (Par 72)

143: Kemarol Baharin 74-69

147: Ben Leong 76-71, Wilson Choo 75-72, Kenneth De Silva 73-74

149: Tommy Chin 74-75, Mohd Amli Mohiyadee 73-76

150: Zen Dharmaratne 75-75

152: Marcus Low 80-72, Nicholas Pua 79-73, Dino Abdillah 76-76, Akhmal Tarmizie 76-76, Chong Chee Ming 75-77

For information on the Maybank Malaysian Open 2014, visit www.maybankmalaysianopen.com or follow us on Twitter @maybankmsiaopen or #maybankmalaysianopen. Tickets for the event are available now. For information on ticketing, please go to www.ticketpro.com.my

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About Maybank

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The Maybank Group is South East Asia's fourth largest bank by assets. It has an international network of over 2,200 offices in 20 countries namely Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Hong Kong SAR & People's Republic of China, Bahrain, Uzbekistan, Myanmar, Laos, Pakistan, India, Saudi Arabia, Great Britain and the United States of America. The Group offers an extensive range of products and services, which includes consumer and corporate banking, investment banking, Islamic banking, stock broking, insurance and takaful and asset management. It has over 47,000 employees serving more than 22 million customers worldwide. (www.maybank.com)

About the Malaysian Golf Association

The Malaysian Golf Association (MGA) is the sole governing body of golf in Malaysia that was founded in 1929 by representatives of golf clubs to promote the sport while preserving its traditions and integrity. The non-government organization is run by passionate volunteers who have a love for the game of golf, with the help of a team of management staff. The association's portfolios have increased over the years ranging from conducting 14 state amateur opens, national amateur open, national amateur close, Malaysian Open to processing handicaps through its National Handicap System to promoting grassroots programs and training of athletes to represent Malaysia in international events.





The European Tour

The European Tour is committed to celebrating the game of golf from the origins of the professional game, building a proud history of achievement, sportsmanship and integrity as well as showcasing our diverse global talent and rich landscapes. The European Tour's innovative approach enables us to embrace the world, combining championships of tradition with new tournaments in the cities and countries of the future. The European Tour International Schedule, which from 2009 has incorporated The Race to Dubai, is a thriving global brand which, in 2013, will feature a minimum of 45 tournaments spread across all five continents of the world; the European Challenge Tour focuses on the up and coming players of the future; while the European Senior Tour provides a new start for champions celebrating their 50th birthday. The European Tour's corporate identity features the iconic silhouette image of six-time Open Champion Harry Vardon who gives his name to The Harry Vardon Trophy, presented to the player who is crowned European Tour Number One and winner of The Race to Dubai at the end of the season.

About the Asian Tour

In 2013, the Asian Tour will celebrate a momentous milestone with its 10th season. As the official sanctioning body for professional golf in Asia, the Asian Tour leads the development of golf across the region, enhancing the careers of its members while maintaining a commitment to the integrity of the game. The Asian Tour, through its membership of the International Federation of PGA Tours, is the only recognised pan-Asian professional golf tour in Asia. This unique feature positions the Asian Tour at the pinnacle of professional golf in Asia; providing its events with Official World Ranking status. The Asian Tour has offices in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. Also, visit us at www.asiantour.com, www.facebook.com/asiantourgolf, www.twitter.com/asiantourgolf, www.youtube.com/theasiantour and www.weibo.com/asiantourgolf

About Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club

Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club (KLGCC) is a member of Sime Darby Property Bhd and a propriety Club wholly-owned and operated by KLGCC Berhad. The club has won numerous accolades from both local and foreign golfing fraternity, the latest being voted the 'Best Course in Malaysia' for the second time in a row for its championship West Course at the 2013 Asian Golf Monthly Awards, the second runner up for the Best Championship Course in Asia Pacific and nominated as Top 10 Best in Asia Pacific for Best Clubhouse and Best Pro-Shop categories. At the same time, KLGCC was voted Best Golf Experience for the Best of Malaysia Awards 2013 Travel Awards by The Expatriate Lifestyle Magazine readers. Today, KLGCC is a landmark as the most luxurious golf resort development in Malaysia and KLGCC has in recent years hosted numerous international championships such as the Maybank Malaysian Open, the Sime Darby LPGA Malaysia and CIMB Classic.





About GlobalOne

GlobalOne (Emerald Evolution Holdings Sdn Bhd) is an executive lifestyle sports promoter and we create sports event ownerships.

We specialise in providing the full spectrum in sponsorship event management and have an excellent track record in planning and delivering on PGA European Tour golf events for Malaysia (Maybank Malaysian Open), Singapore (Singapore Masters) and Indonesia (Indonesia Open) since 1999. We have strong relations with sports governing bodies, the media and commercial sponsors and technical partners to deliver on the bottom line.

We assist all our clients to create super-strategic, high-return, best practice sponsorship to provide a strong, unified vision, across departments and stakeholders, of the broad range of marketing and business objectives that can be achieved through this sponsorship. We also form and maintain strong relationship with players managers to source the best players.

GlobalOne currently stages a highly successful and prestigious tournament in Asia – the Maybank Malaysian Open, which is co-sanctioned by the European Tour and the Asian Tour providing the event with Official World Ranking status. Our long term partners include Emirates (Official Airline), Carlsberg (Official Beer & Stout), Ricoh (Official Office Equipment), Astro (Official Satellite TV), Maxis (Official Telecommunications), Finmeccanica (Official Helicopter), DoubleTree (Official Hotel), 100Plus (Official Isotonic Beverage), Crestlink (Official Apparel), Transview (Official Golf Accessories & Equipment), Mal-Tel (Official Radio & Communications), Spritzer (Official Water), Singleton (Official Whisky), Srixon (Official Range Balls), Havana (Official Cigars).



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