



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Holman Leads After Fine 64 As Que Lurks At Maybank Championship Malaysia**

Kuala Lumpur, February 18: Australian Nathan Holman fired a flawless seven-under-par 64 to seize the first round lead at the inaugural Maybank Championship with Filipino ace Angelo Que leading the chasing pack on Thursday.

The 24-year-old Holman needed only 27 putts, including nine one-putts, at Royal Selangor Golf Club to lead in the US\$3 million event jointly sanctioned by the Asian Tour and European Tour.

The colourful Que, nicknamed “Human Highlighter” for his bright sense of dressing, also sank seven birdies but a lone bogey on the 16<sup>th</sup> hole saw him end the day alongside Jorge Campillo of Spain, Frenchman Alexander Levy, American Peter Uihlein and English duo Tommy Fleetwood and Danny Willett, who is the world’s number 13.

Thailand’s Prom Meesawat, Thongchai Jaidee, Korean duo K.T. Kim and Soomin Lee and Filipino Miguel Tabuena, who nearly withdrew due to food poisoning, were amongst those lying a further shot back with 66s.

Holman, who has featured on the Asian Tour over the past two seasons, was rock steady and whenever he found trouble, he got up-and-down on four occasions to keep the bogeys off the card at Royal Selangor, which is the second oldest golf course in Malaysia.

“There’re a lot of chances but you get in the rough and it can really grab you, so seven under, I’m really happy with that,” he said.

“I just played really well. Every part of my game was quite good and I was saying a few weeks ago that my game has been trending in that right direction so it was nice to get a really good one in.”

Que, decked in bright orange and yellow apparel, also enjoyed a good day on the greens, needing only 25 strokes to give himself a chance of ending a nearly six-year title drought.

“I holed a lot of putts and that’s what you need to do in a tournament, especially on this course. I did that today. It is hard to hit it close if you miss the fairways. Luckily for me, I read the lines and holed my putts,” said Que.

"I like old style layouts where you have to work the ball a little bit. The course isn't that long and I like that. Malaysia has been good to me. I played well here in Malaysia over the past 14 years," added the Filipino, whose last Asian Tour victory was in the country in 2010.

Veteran star Thongchai, the only player to lift three Asian Tour Order of Merit titles, struggled with his driver but his flat stick kept him in the hunt for a 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Tour victory.

"I didn't have good drives but my putting helped me. I was bogey free and I felt very confident on the greens. I have no complaints. If you hit it on the green, you will have a good chance to score because I like the green speed," said the former Thai paratrooper.

Reigning Philippine Open champion Tabuena rose from his sick bed to shoot a fine 66. He came down with food poisoning on Tuesday and was in bed the whole of yesterday. "It was a good thing that I had a late tee time for some extra rest. I was really, really sick both ways on Wednesday and Tuesday. I thought of withdrawing but you don't want to miss a prestigious event like this," said the 21-year-old.

The 31-year-old Prom, a double Asian Tour winner, conceded he got lucky en route to his six-birdie round as he ended the day two off the pace. "I didn't expect to shoot five-under because I didn't hit it as good as I did during the practice round. I started with birdie, birdie and tried to find the fairway. You must hit a lot of greens here and find fairways to have a good score," said Prom.

"I'm not in very good form at the moment but I hit the driver so well today and that's the key to a good score on this course. After I made two birdies, I put myself in a very comfortable position. From there I kept playing well and I felt relaxed."

Willet, the highest ranked player in the field, holed a snaky birdie putt on his last hole to feature amongst the leaders.

"It was a very mixed bag. I hit it very nicely on the front nine but made nothing. It was one of those days where you put two very different nines together and got a good score," said the in-form Englishman, who won in Dubai two weeks ago.

**Scores after round 1 of the Maybank Championship Malaysia being played at the par 71, 7079 Yards Royal Selangor GCC course (am - denotes amateur):**

64 - Nathan HOLMAN (AUS).

65 - Angelo QUE (PHI), Danny WILLETT (ENG), Tommy FLEETWOOD (ENG), Peter UIHLEIN (USA), Alexander LEVY (FRA), Jorge CAMPILLO (ESP).

66 - Prom MEESAWAT (THA), K.T. KIM (KOR), Richard BLAND (ENG), Thongchai JAIDEE (THA), Miguel TABUENA (PHI), Soomin LEE (KOR), Marcus FRASER (AUS), Masahiro KAWAMURA (JPN).

67 - Thitiphun CHUAYPRAKONG (THA), Gaganjeet BHULLAR (IND), Louis OOSTHUIZEN (RSA), Shaaban HUSSIN (MAS).

68 - Kenneth DE SILVA (MAS), Robert ROCK (ENG), HSIEH Chi-hsien (TPE), Rahil GANGJEE (IND), Stephen GALLACHER (SCO), James MORRISON (ENG),

Chapchai NIRAT (THA), Romain WATTEL (FRA), David LIPSKY (USA), Maximilian KIEFFER (GER), Thriston LAWRENCE (RSA).

69 - Kalem RICHARDSON (AUS), Juvic PAGUNSAN (PHI), Rafa CABRERA-BELLO (ESP), Siddikur RAHMAN (BAN), Andrew DODT (AUS), Anthony WALL (ENG), Kristoffer BROBERG (SWE), Eduardo DE LA RIVA (ESP), Mikko KORHONEN (FIN), Anthony KANG (USA), KJ LOW (MAS), Chawalit PLAPHOL (THA), Thaworn WIRATCHANT (THA), Chris WOOD (ENG), Graeme STORM (ENG), Natipong SRITHONG (THA), KOH Deng Shan (SIN).

Ends.

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### **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 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 has staged a highly successful and prestigious tournament in Asia – the Maybank Malaysian Open, (2006 – 2015) which is co-sanctioned by the European Tour and the Asian Tour providing the event with Official World Ranking status.

### **About the Asian Tour**

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. Tour Partners include ECCO (Official Footwear Supplier), FENIX Golf

(Official Apparel Supplier), Fuji Xerox (Official Office Solutions Partner), Hilton Worldwide (Official Hotel Partner), Titleist (Official Web Partner) and Rolex (Official Timekeeper). Sentosa, Singapore is the Home of the Asian Tour which also has an office in Kuala Lumpur. Also, visit us at [www.asiantour.com](http://www.asiantour.com) , [www.facebook.com/asiantourgolf](https://www.facebook.com/asiantourgolf) , [www.twitter.com/asiantourgolf](https://www.twitter.com/asiantourgolf) , [www.youtube.com/theasiantour](https://www.youtube.com/theasiantour) and [www.weibo.com/asiantourgolf](https://www.weibo.com/asiantourgolf).

### **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 2016, will span 45 tournaments in 26 countries across five continents ; 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.