



PRESS RELEASE

Korea's Lee Leaps Into A Three-Shot Lead At Maybank Championship Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur, February 20: Korea's Soomin Lee fired nine birdies for a sparkling seven-under-par 64 and a three-shot lead after the third round of the inaugural US\$3 million Maybank Championship Malaysia on Saturday.

The 22-year-old Lee, playing in his second season on the Asian Tour, rolled in six birdies in eight holes on the back nine at Royal Selangor Golf Club to take over the lead on 15-under-par 198 in the event co-sanctioned with the European Tour.

Australia's Marcus Fraser, a winner on the Asian Tour, posted a 66 to trail in second place while overnight leader Nathan Holman slipped to third place following a triple bogey on the last as he settled for a 73.

Filipino rising star Miguel Tabuena, Japan's Masahiro Kawamura and Jorge Campillo of Spain share fourth place on 203, five shots off the lead.

The talented Lee, playing in only his second co-sanctioned event after finishing third in Hong Kong last season, charged into contention by needing only 28 putts.

After finishing tied seventh in the last two events on the Asian Tour, Lee plans to stay grounded in his search for a first victory at the Maybank Championship Malaysia.

"It was very exciting. I had a good feeling this week because I like playing on this course. I hit many important iron shots today. I tried to putt close to the hole but it went in, so I gained some confidence on the greens," said Lee.

"I didn't look at the scoreboard. I was really enjoying my round. After making birdie, I gained more confidence and continued to make more birdies. I feel a little bit nervous thinking about the final round but I will try my best. This weekend will be very good for my golf life," he added.

Australia's Fraser fired a flawless round highlighted by five birdies and kept up his chase to end a six-year title drought after making a crucial up-and-down on the last hole.

"The up and down on the last was pretty key, it was a straightforward putt – even though it was from 15 feet. I knew the line was a ball outside left and down grain, the key was just to make sure I got it there and luckily it had just enough legs.

"I've had a fair few chances (to win) without managing to get the job done, so it's been frustrating but hopefully I can get over the line tomorrow," said Fraser.

After fighting back from being three over through 10 holes, Holman was disappointed to drop three shots on the last hole when his approach shot found the water hazard.

"I played pretty scrappy. I then had a chance to finish quite close to the lead and played quite nice on the back nine so it's lucky you don't win golf tournaments on a Saturday. There was still a lot of good, there wasn't too much bad, there were a few bogeys so still lots of good, plenty of positives to take and I'll move on tomorrow," said Holman.

After struggling with food poisoning over the past few days, a healthier Tabuena drained several long putts at the start of his third round before falling behind playing partner Lee.

"I got off to a good start, I was two under after two. But I didn't like how I finished the round. I finished weak and that's not how you win tournaments. You have to come out clutch and make birdies in the last few holes. Hopefully I will do that tomorrow," said Tabuena.

"I'm still satisfied with my position. I'm still in position to win and that's where you want to be. Hopefully I can get off to a good start tomorrow and keep it going."

Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand withdrew from the penultimate round of the event due to illness.

Scores after round 3 of the Maybank Championship Malaysia being played at the par 71, 7079 Yards Royal Selangor GCC course (am - denotes amateur):

198 - Soomin LEE (KOR) 66-68-64.

201 - Marcus FRASER (AUS) 66-69-66.

202 - Nathan HOLMAN (AUS) 64-65-73.

203 - Masahiro KAWAMURA (JPN) 66-70-67, Jorge CAMPILLO (ESP) 65-69-69, Miguel TABUENA (PHI) 66-68-69.

204 - Pablo LARRAZABAL (ESP) 70-69-65, Julien QUESNE (FRA) 70-69-65, Mikko ILONEN (FIN) 71-69-64, Stephen GALLACHER (SCO) 68-70-66, Richard BLAND (ENG) 66-65-73.

205 - Romain WATTEL (FRA) 68-70-67.

206 - Chawalit PLAPHOL (THA) 69-68-69, Jbe KRUGER (RSA) 74-67-65.

207 - Prayad MARKSAENG (THA) 71-68-68, Rahil GANGJEE (IND) 68-72-67, Casey O'TOOLE (USA) 71-67-69, Lucas BJERREGAARD (DEN) 70-67-70, Danny WILLETT (ENG) 65-69-73.

208 - James MORRISON (ENG) 68-71-69, Prom MEESAWAT (THA) 66-72-70, Chapchai NIRAT (THA) 68-73-67, Gregory HAVRET (FRA) 70-67-71, K.T. KIM (KOR) 66-71-71.

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 , www.facebook.com/asiantourgolf , www.twitter.com/asiantourgolf , www.youtube.com/theasiantour and 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.