

## **Indian Open- DLF Golf and Country Club, Gurgaon, New Delhi.**

Following my trip to The Heritage Golf and Spa, Mauritius, with Chaka Travel, I travelled to New Delhi, India, to play in the Ladies Indian Open, which was part of the Ladies Asian golf tour.

I actually played in the event last year so I had a rough idea of what to expect in terms of the country and the golf course. After travelling and playing there last year, I swore that I would never go back, but all I can say is, "never say never!" I suffered from a very bad upset stomach last year and spent the week after, which was in Shanghai, in bed or probably more to the point, in the toilet!



However, I returned and I have to say it was better than how I remembered it and fortunately I got through the week without any upsets. The event was held at the grand DLF G & CC, on the border of New Delhi. The course is located at the foothills of the Aravalli Range and was designed by golfing legend, Arnold Palmer. The DLF club hosted The Johnnie Walker Classic only last month on the Men's European Tour.

The contrast between the country club and then leaving the gates to the hustle and bustle of the poverty stricken streets of Gurgaon is really quite shocking. The complex is surrounded by beautiful flowers and trees and is very much sheltered from the outside world, particularly by the grand entrance. The sights on the streets however, can be very unpleasant at times, witnessing the filth and squalor that the locals endure every day of their lives during the daily drive from the hotel to the golf course.

The event was only a three day tournament and started on a Wednesday which was quite unusual. Normally in Europe, we always start on a Thursday and generally run through until Sunday. In three day events, it is more important to hit the ground running as a shaky start can leave you with too much to do over the next two days.

I didn't get off to a bad start in terms of a score, 75. However, how I actually came to that result was far from pretty. I started my round on the tenth hole and I had an awful first nine holes. I had been struggling with my driver off the tee all week during practice and unfortunately I was still having problems when the tournament started. I was finding it very difficult to hit the fairways and as a consequence, I was severely punished. The course was set up in such a way, that you needed to hit the fairways, because if you didn't (which I found out) it was almost impossible to hit the greens. The rough was that thick, and the ball sat so far down in the grass, that I was actually struggling to get the ball out never mind on the green. Before I knew it, I was 6 over par after nine holes and had to do something to turn this disaster into something respectable. On my final nine holes, I decided to leave the driver in the bag and hit my fairway woods off the tee. This was the wisest decision I had made all day and it paid off. I came back in three under par.

After finishing my round, I was determined to fix the problem on the range. I had felt all week that I had not been swinging well and despite conversations and sending video clips to my coach via email, I was just finding it very difficult to do what was required to get my swing back on track. I knew in my own mind that this was something that would have to be resolved back at home and for now, I just had to find a swing thought that was going to enable me to get it round and score for the last two rounds.

After my warm-up before the second round, I was feeling much more confident with the driver and went out feeling positive, but how golf can change in the space of a day! During my second round, getting the ball on the fairway was the least of my worries. It was actually getting it in the hole that was the problem. Golf is so very frustrating and often if it is not one thing, it is another, very fairly does everything come together all at once on the same day. I had a total of 38 putts and as a consequence scored very poorly. I found it very difficult to judge the grain on the greens and therefore my pace putting was shocking. I

couldn't get anything to stop next to the hole. I either found myself knocking the ball too far past or leaving it too far short. I was absolutely livid with myself and result.

I am sure it won't come as any surprise to read that after my round, I didn't go to the range, but to the putting green!

After the two rounds I was a long way down the field. Obviously from that point, I knew that I couldn't win the event but I was resolute to move up the field and have a good finish. After all, it was pay day and every spot moved up the field meant a bigger pay cheque. I had a good final round of 73 and knew that it would move me up the field as it was the second best score for the day. The course played slightly more tricky on the final day with some difficult pins and slightly more wind. I have to say that the wind was quite welcoming as it took the edge off the 95 degree heat.

I finally finished 22nd and quite honestly I was disappointed to have finished so far down the field. It certainly gave me some food for thought in terms of what I needed to work on when I got home. This had been my first competition since the Dubai Ladies Masters last December and it certainly felt that way. It is one thing working on your swing, hitting balls on the range and going to the gym, but it is very different having a card in your hand and having to get the ball in the hole, whether you are playing good or bad golf.

Since my return to the UK I have so far had two golf lessons and been trying to iron out the faults in my swing. With another lesson this week, I know that I will be ready for the Spanish Open next week. This will be my first event this year on The Ladies European Tour and I am very much looking forward to the season ahead.

You can follow my progress now on my new website [www.famemore.co.uk](http://www.famemore.co.uk) it has all my latest results, information and news headlines.

Thanks as always to all at [Chaka Travel](#).

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