

Selection of website articles below (click on link or read text):

R & A, Golf Monthly, Bangkok Post, Herald Scotland, IMG Academies, World Golf, Carrick Gazette, Irish Ballymena Times

R&A (11.9.09) - “Junior Open Champion wins Duke of York Trophy”

<http://www.randa.org/node/12962>

15-year-old Moriya Jutanugarn has become the first girl winner of The Duke of York Young Champions Trophy, defeating the likes of Boys Amateur Champion, Tom Lewis, and Scottish Amateur Champion, David Law, in the process.

Thailand’s Jutanugarn, who won The R&A’s Junior Open at Hesketh last year, completed 54 holes at Dundonald Links in a two-over-par total of 218 strokes to win by one shot from Israel’s Laetitia Beck, winner of the Eastern European and Middle East Trophy at the Junior Open. The highest-placed boy was Korean-born Canadian, Richard Jung, who finished in a tie for third place with Sweden’s Camilla Hedberg.

Though Jutanugarn has now triumphed twice in elite championships on links courses, she has not felt entirely comfortable. “I don’t like the wind, the rough, the greens - everything. I was just lucky,” she said. And when asked about her win at Hesketh, she added: “I was lucky there too!”



57 junior champions from 34 different countries competed at the three-day event – Tuesday’s first round was postponed due to heavy rain – which has, in its nine-year history, played host to players who have gone on to become big names in the game.

“We have had some great players in the tournament over the years,” explained Tournament Chairman, John Simpson, “and we have found another in Moriya. Like Rory McIlroy and LPGA Champion, Anna Nordquist, we expect her to go on to great things.”

Earlier this year, Jutanugarn competed in the Honda LPGA Thailand, a tournament won by the current world number one, Lorena Ochoa. The plus-three handicapper finished tied for 28th position having completed four rounds of Siam Country Club Pattaya Plantation at two over-par.

“It’s great to see another terrific performance by Moriya on a links course following her achievements at Hesketh last year,” said The R&A’s Director of Golf Development, Duncan

Weir. “In the wake of YE Yang’s USPGA victory and Byeong-hun An’s US Amateur win, it serves as yet another recent example of Asian success at the highest levels of the game.”

Golf Monthly (11.9.09) “Moriya Jutanugarn from Thailand wins Duke of York Young Champions Trophy”

<http://www.golf-monthly.co.uk/tours-and-news/tournews/396728/moriya-jutanugarn-from-thailand-wins-duke-of-york-young-champions-trophy.html>

For the first time in the nine-year history of the 54-hole Duke of York Young Champions Trophy, girls had the upper hand. Moriya Jutanugarn from Thailand, 15 years of age and barely five foot tall, finished on a two-over-par tally of 218 at Dundonald Links to win by a shot from Israel’s Laetitia Beck. Richard Jung from Canada was the first boy in the mix, signing off in a share of third place with Spain’s Camilla Hedberg.

Jutanugarn’s closing 70, two under par, was the low round of the tournament. Ireland’s Dermot McElroy and Italy’s Claudio Vigano had the lowest rounds among the boys, though their 71s were matched by the following four girls: Beck, Hedberg, Perrine Delacour and Caroline Karsten.

In the opinion of the Duke of York, the girls were the better drivers over the week. “The boys were spraying their shots off the tee but the girls were sticking to the middle of the fairways,” he said. Beck and Hedberg, like the winner, exemplified the Duke’s observations.

Tom Lewis, the English and British Boys’ champion and a golfer who had never really seen the other sex in action before, conceded that the girls were a whole lot better than he had anticipated. “Being beaten by girls isn’t a great feeling,” said the 18-year-old Lewis, who had a closing 77 to finish in a share of sixth place with McElroy. “I know I’m going to get a bit of stick for what’s happened but the truth is that the girls deserved their

results.” Lewis felt that the course set-up – it was ten per cent shorter for the women - was entirely fair, and that Jutanugarn’s closing 70 was nothing short of “fantastic”.

Jutanugarn, who won the R&A’s Junior Open in Southport last year, already had a couple of birdies under her belt when she made an eagle at the 350 yards ninth. Having done her usual trick of carrying the ball 250 yards and bisecting the fairway, she holed out with her wedge. Not that she saw the ball drop. She was busy searching in the rough beyond the green when one of her playing companions looked in the hole and announced the good news.

The expectation was that Jutanugarn, who plays to a handicap of plus three, was going to wax lyrical about the merits of links golf. However, though she appreciated that Dundonald Links, especially in today’s sunshine, was a very special place, she said a little shyly that she did not like the wind, the bunkers, or the hard greens. So how did she do so well? “I was just lucky,” she suggested.

Jutanugarn, whose father owns a selection of driving ranges and golf shops, practises for four hours every day and is aiming her game at the South East Asian Games at the end of this year and the Asian Games in 2010. After that, she hopes to play on America’s LPGA Tour.

The 16-year-old Jung, who was born in Seoul but nowadays lives in Canada, had mixed feelings about being congratulated on his performance as leading boy after a 74 and two 73s. “I would love to have beaten the girls,” said Jung, who played himself into contention by finishing his second round with three straight birdies. “They played well but it’s still a little bit shocking.”

What might shock Jung and the rest of the boys even more is that Moriya has a 13-year-old sister who is already down to plus two. Next year’s championship is to be played at Royal St George’s from 14-16th September.

Bangkok Post (12.09.09) – “Moriya grabs Duke of York trophy”

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/sports/23727/moriya-grabs-duke-of-york-trophy>

The Thai shot a two-under-par 70, the best round of the tournament, on the final day for a three-round total of two-over 218. The 15-year-old beat Israel’s Laetitia Beck (74) by a shot in a unique competition in which boys and girls play together.

For the first time in the nine-year history of the 54-hole Duke of York Young Champions Trophy, girls had the upper hand. Richard Jung from Canada was the first boy in the mix, signing off in a share of third place with Spain’s Camilla Hedberg.

Moriya, who won the R&A Junior Open last year, already had a couple of birdies under her belt when she made an eagle at the 350-yard ninth hole with a wedge. Not that she saw the ball drop. She was busy searching in the rough beyond the green when one of her playing companions looked in the hole and announced the good news. While Moriya said Dundonald Links was a special place, she admitted that she did not like the wind, the bunkers and the hard greens. So how did she do so well? “I was just lucky,” she suggested.

Moriya, whose father owns driving ranges and golf shops, practises for four hours every day and is aiming her game at the SEA Games in December and the Asian Games next year. After that, she hopes to play on the LPGA Tour.

In the opinion of the Duke of York, the girls were the better drivers over the week. “The boys were spraying their shots off the tee but the girls were sticking to the middle of the fairways,” he said.

Tom Lewis, the English and British Boys champion and a golfer who had never really seen the other sex in action before, conceded that the girls were a whole lot better than he had anticipated. “Being beaten by girls isn’t a great feeling,” said the 18-year-old Lewis, who had a closing 77 to finish tied sixth.

Launched in 2001, the tournament is for boys and girls who are the current holders of their Under-18 national championship or have won some other major golfing event in the preceding year.

Herald Scotland (10.09.09) – **“Thai 15 year old girl first winner of Duke of York Young Champions Trophy”**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/sport/golf/thai-15-year-old-first-girl-winner-of-duke-of-york-young-champions-trophy-1.919071>

Moriya Jutanugarn covered the Dundonald Links in two-under-par 70 playing from forward tees for a two-over aggregate of 218 to win by one shot from Israel’s Laetitia Beck, a 17-year-old student at the David Leadbetter Academy in Florida who closed with a 74.

The first eight stagings of the mixed tournament that brings together junior champions from all over the world have been won by boys, and Jutanugarn, who is just 5ft 1ins tall, plays off plus three and drives the ball 250 yards, has been making a habit of beating them. Last year she also left them in her wake to win the R&A’s Junior Open Championship at Hesketh.

Her highlight yesterday was an eagle 2 at the ninth where she holed a wedge shot of 90 yards, but links golf is not to her taste. “I don’t like the wind, the rough, the greens - everything. I was just lucky,” she said. Asked about her win at Hesketh, she added: “I was lucky there too.”

Jutanugarn, who is still at school, has just joined the national squad and hopes to play for her country in the South-east Asian Games in Laos and the Asian Games in China before trying to get lucky yet again on the LPGA Tour in the United States.

Fortune did not smile, however, on Scots David Law, who had a 78 for a 16-over-par aggregate and 19th place, and Jack McDonald who had an 81 to finish 22 over and 36th out of the 57-strong field from a total of 34 countries.

IMG Academies (17.9.09) – **“Runner finish for Beck at Duke of York Championship”**

<http://blog.imgacademies.com/2009/09/17/runner-up-finish-for-beck-at-the-duke-of-york-championship/>

First played in 2001, the Duke of York Young Champions Trophy is a unique, international 54-hole stroke play golf tournament for boys and girls who are either the current holders of their Under 18 National Championship or have won some other major golfing event in the preceding year. Boys and girls compete for the same Silver Trophy in the Duke of York Young Championship.

This year’s event was played at the Dundonald Links in Scotland. The field included 57 players (32 boys and 25 girls) from 34 different countries. For the first time in the nine-year history of the event, girls had the upper hand. It was 15-year old, Moriya Jutanugarn from Thailand, beating DLGA’s Laetitia Beck of Israel by one shot. Richard Jung from Canada was the first boy in the mix, finishing in a share of third place with Spain’s Camilla Hedberg. Laetitia shot rounds of 71-74-74 for a 3-over par, 219 total.

Laetitia, who is in her third year at the IMG Leadbetter academy, is the 2nd player in as many years to garner a runner-up finish as this prestigious event. Last year, Guilia Molinaro (who spent her final two years of highschool at IMG) of Italy also finished 2nd. Laetitia has verbally committed to play for Duke next year.

Congratulations Laetitia on your great playing (and on beating the boys)!

World Golf (11.9.09) – “Mission Hills Golf Club Executive Director Tenniel Chu joins the Duke of York for round of golf” <http://www.worldgolf.com/newswire/browse/60292-Mission-Hills%E2%80%99-Tenniel-Chu-Joins-Duke-York-Round-Golf>

SHENZHEN, China -- Tenniel Chu, Executive Director of Mission Hills Golf Club, became the first Chinese golf executive to play golf with the Royal Family when he joined Prince Andrew, Duke of York, for a round in Scotland earlier this week.

The duo teed it up at [Dundonald Links](#) in advance of the Duke of York Young Champions Trophy, a premier junior event featuring 57 competitors from 34 countries around the world.

"It was an honor to play with Prince Andrew," says Chu. "Like Mission Hills, he is devoted to growing golf around the globe. We're excited to be associated with his prestigious tournament."

Hong Kong-native and Mission Hills member, Steven Lam, as well as Korean Li Ji-woo qualified for Duke of York by virtue of their victories earlier this year at the Mission Hills Jack Nicklaus Junior Championship.

Says Chu: "We are very proud of our two Mission Hills representatives competing at the Duke of York Young Champions Trophy. They signify some of the first fruits of Mission Hills' efforts to grow a new crop of Asian golfers of global stature."

"The event gets better and better every year," says Prince Andrew. "Dundonald will ask difficult questions of these leading youngsters but I am sure they will come up with some great golf."

Carrick Gazette (26.9.09) - “Thai helps give girls lead at Young Champions”
<http://www.carricktoday.co.uk/sport/Thai-helps-give-girls-lead.5681913.jp>

JUNIOR girl power took over in Ayrshire as a 15-year-old Thai girl won the Duke of York Young Champions' Trophy over the Dundonald Links last week. For the first time in the nine-year history of the 54-hole Duke of York Young Champions Trophy, girls had the upper hand.

Moriya Jutanugarn from Thailand, 15 and not much over five foot tall, finished on a two-over-par tally of 218 at Dundonald Links to win by a shot from Israel's Laetitia Beck. Richard Jung from Canada was the first boy in the mix, signing off in a share of third place with Spain's Camilla Hedberg.

There were 34 nations competing for the title this year - the range of countries growing every year. For the record, the girls played the course at 6075 yards to the boys' 6910 yards.

Among the boys giving chase was Aberdeen's David Law, who finished 14 shots back. Giving a wonderful lesson in grace and sportsmanship to many of his elders, the Scot said: 'The girls have done brilliantly to be so little over par here. To be honest, I don't think the course is any easier for them than it is for us. Even allowing for the difference in the tees, they are mostly playing their shots to the green from behind us.'

Irish Ballymena Times (6.10.09) – “Royal seal of approval for golf ace Dermot”

<http://www.ballymenatimes.com/other-golf/Royal-seal-of-approval-for.5704138.jp>

DERMOT McElroy's meteoric rise in golfing circles has drawn plenty of plaudits from many quarters. But the Ballymena teenager's prodigious talent has now been given no less than the ROYAL seal of approval! Our picture shows Dermot collecting his award from Prince Andrew after competing in the recent Duke of York Young Champions Trophy.

First played in 2001, the event is a unique, international 54 hole stroke play golf tournament for boys and girls who are either the current holders of their Under 18 National Championship or have won some other major golfing event in the preceding year.

Dermot secured his place in the event – which featured 57 talented young players, both male and female, from 34 different countries – by virtue of the success in the Irish under-16 strokeplay championship.

For the first time in the nine-year history of the competition, girls had the upper hand, with the title won by 15-year-old Moriya Jutanugarn from Thailand. Dermot finished sixth overall and joint second boy, along with English and British Boys' champion Tom Lewis, with a seven over par total of 233.

It is yet another entry in the CV of the St Patrick's College pupil, who began his golfing career as a nine-year-old when he was bought a set of golf clubs by his father, former Ballymena Golf Club captain Henry McQuillan. From there, the successes have come thick and fast, capped by a magnificent 2008 where he swept all before him at his age level, winning the Connacht under-15s, Leinster under-15s, Ulster under-15s and Irish under-15s titles. Those triumphs saw him named as Junior Sportsman of the Year at the Ballymena Sports Awards, where he expressed his long term target of turning professional.