

Charlie crowned BlackRock HKPGA champion

Veteran PGA Tour pro Charlie Wi held his nerve at the Hong Kong Golf Club to claim first win since 2006

10 January 2018 (Hong Kong) – Charlie Wi kept his composure down the closing stretch to win the BlackRock HKPGA Championship on debut at the Hong Kong Golf Club.

The US-based Korean, without a professional victory since the European Tour's Malaysian Open in 2006, carded a final-round 68 over the Eden Course at Fanling to edge out Asian Tour regular Alan Hung Chien-yao.

Wi, who holds veteran status on the PGA Tour, finished with a nine-under-par total, two ahead of Hung of Chinese Taipei. Hong Kong's Matthew Cheung, playing in his first event since turning professional, claimed third spot on level par.

"The win has been a long time coming and it feels great to have got it here," said 47-year-old Wi, who heads to Puerto Rico in February to play his first event on the 2019 PGA Tour calendar.

"We've played three great golf courses and I've really enjoyed the camaraderie with the other players this week. I really hope to be back in Hong Kong next year to defend my title," he said.

The HK\$250,000 HKGPA Championship was played in its traditional three course format, with Clearwater Bay Golf and Country Club hosting the first round, with the final two rounds played over Fanling's New and Eden layouts.

Wi, who has a best major finish of tied ninth at the 2008 US PGA Championship, said he hoped his performance in Hong Kong would be the catalyst for a strong season.

"My game has been good for a while now, and I'm pleased with the way I was able to be aggressive when I needed to be and a bit more conservative at

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other times. You always want to win and I'll look ahead to playing the rest of the year with good feelings."

For Cheung, who played amateur golf for Hong Kong for the last decade before recently joining the paid ranks, a final round 67 was the ideal tonic before he heads down under to play on the PGA Tour of Australian.

"It was a great experience for me to play with Charlie and Alan in my first event as a pro, and I was pleased with the way I finished the week off. I feel like I've learnt a lot, so I'm looking forward to the rest of the season.

Another young Hong Kong golfer with big expectations, Shinichi Mizuno, rounded off his tournament week with a 68 to finish in solo fourth place.

Mizuno, who earned his Asian Tour card after winning the season-ending event on last year's Asian Development Tour, heads to Singapore on Sunday for Singapore Open qualifying.

ENDS

Leading final scores:

201 – Charlie Wi (66-67-68); 203 – Hung Chien-yao (69-67-68); 210 – Matthew Cheung (70-73-67); 212 – Shinichi Mizuno (73-71-68); 217 – Oliver Roberts (79-70-68); 218 – James Stewart (73-72-73), 219 – Dominique Boulet (74-71-74); 220 – Jang Chel-hoo (75-73-72), Danny Chia (74-74-72), Terrence Ng (78-70-72)

About the 2019 BlackRock HKPGA Championship

Sponsored for the first time by BlackRock, the world's leading investment manager, the 2019 HKPGA Championship is being held between 7-10 January 2019. The tournament rounds, which commence on 8 January, will be played at Clearwater Bay Golf and Country Club and the Hong Kong Golf Club (New and Eden Courses). The celebrity Pro-Am will take place on 7 January, with the Charity Challenge being held on 8 January.

Organised by Hong Kong-based Carinat Sports Marketing, Official Sponsors include BMO Bank of Montreal, Breguet, Chubb, Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong, and Maserati. Official Suppliers include Ecco, Elemis, J Stewart Golf, Peter Millar and

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About the Hong Kong PGA

The Hong Kong Professional Golfers' Association was founded in 1970 with the purpose to develop Professional golf in Hong Kong by running professional golf tournaments and instruction for its members on how to coach all aspects of the game.

Every year the Association has been successful in staging an official tournament Order of Merit for its members. The HKPGA has achieved worldwide recognition as a 'not for profit' making association and is regularly invited to send a representative team to compete in the Qualifying Tournament for the World Cup of Golf. Annually, leading players are selected as representatives who participate in international invitation tournaments and reciprocate by way of the HKPGA Championship, where players from Asia [China Singapore, Burma, Taiwan and Malaysia] are invited to compete and exchange ideas and new concepts on development of golf with local professionals.

Now, the Association has now grown in size and has 139 members and 43 Trainees. Visit www.hkpga.com.hk

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