



vodafone

Fiji Open 2009

The event

The Fiji Open Golf Championship is a 72 holes Championship event and is played over four days (18 holes a day). The history of this event however is different. The inaugural Air New Zealand Fiji Open was staged at the Vatuwaqa course Suva November 14 and 15 1970. Future Open dates were subsequently changed to the bank holiday long weekend in August.

The first Open was 54 holes stroke play subsequently made in the following years to a 72 holes tournament to comply with International Open standards. Prize money was set at F\$2,000.00 for the

inaugural Open Championship. Jim Hanley was President of the Fiji Golf Association at that time and Sir John Flakey, president of the Fiji Golf club, committee members at the FGC were Mark Israel, Don Warren, Reginald Woodman, Gordon Murray, Mrs. Arthur Leys, Stephen Gammon, Trevor Blanchard, Ron Connolly, Tony Cooper and Tony Burns.

The Open Champion received a miniature of the Championship Rose Bowl, the tournament champion's blazer and the prize money.

The original Fiji Open invite

The Open Championship perpetual Silver Rose Bowl for the winner of the event in the 70's and the early 80's will be "represented" to the NGAF at the 2005 Open by John Cooper.

Because of the nature of this sports following hundreds of players and supporters would attend the social occasions associated with the Open at the Suva Travelodge and at the Golf Club.

Roger Donaldson filmed the Fiji Open in 1079; Roger has become one of the worlds top movie directors with Smash Palace, Cocktail and Sleeping Dogs amongst his portfolio. The Fiji Visitors Bureau sponsored hole-in-one prizes and the following companies became associate sponsors: Carreras (Fiji) Ltd, Fiji Gas, Fiji Beer, Professional Golf Federation, Morris Hedstrom Motor division, Fiji Airways (now Air Pacific), Hotel Tradewinds, Burns Philip (South Pacific Ltd) Morris Hedstrom Wine and Spirit Department, A.C.I Harvey South Pacific, Atlantic and Pacific Travel, A.S Farebrothers and Co.,

C.T Bowring and Burgess, Narain Construction Co., Reddy Construction Co., J.S Hill and Associates.

Two former Suva Grammar students John Wisdom and John Cooper in association with keen supporters from the FGC committee at the time created the Open Championship Reg Woodman and Tony Cooper.

John Wisdom had been TEAL General Manager in the South Pacific based in Suva and had returned to Auckland in a senior executive role for the company (soon to be renamed Air New Zealand).

John Cooper had returned to Suva in the BNZ, served on the committee at the FGC and represented east in 1961, he had subsequently returned to Auckland where he became involved in the some Pro/Am events.

Air New Zealand agreed to sponsor prize money for the proposed Fiji Open providing there was a guarantee that at least fifteen professionals would compete and that there would also be some amateur support from New Zealand.

In any event eighteen professionals entered and a party of thirty-five New Zealand amateur gentlemen golfers with maximum handicaps of fourteen accompanied them. At that time and continuing for some years amateurs to fourteen handicaps could compete in the field with the professionals. This was an extremely popular format for amateur entry. As the Open attracted more and more professional entries this aspect of the tournament faded away more is the pity. Suffice to say Pacific Harbour and the Fijian Resort joined the circuit when then extended to Apia and Pago Pago.

The future

The NGAF hosted the Vodafone Fiji Open from 1st to 4th September 2005. The event was returned to the Golf club in Suva after a lapse of five years from 2001. This is expected to draw a lot of interest once more from overseas and the Pacific golfers as the Fiji Open drew a lot of interest from New Zealand and Australian golfers hoping to make their mark on the professional circuit.

The growth of the Fiji Open will strengthen, and current interest from Australia, New Zealand and the USA is for seventy professional golfers in 2006. The Fiji Open also ties in with the Tahiti and Samoa Opens. Based on these numbers we expect to field an amateur field of a hundred locals and overseas participants. A total field of a hundred and seventy golfers.

The prestigious annual event has been boosted this year with a new partnership with Srixon Golf/Cleveland. They have kindly agreed to equip all golfers for the Fiji Open with golf equipment for two years commencing this year. Fiji's own giant Fijian Vijay Singh is the brand ambassador for Srixon. All players in the four day event will be using Srixon golf balls and Cleveland golf clubs and bags.

Naming rights

The naming right to the Fiji Open has been won over by Vodafone Fiji Limited. It will continue from 2005 to August 2009.

Previous winners

Commencing from 2005, the winner was Marika Batibasaga, an Amateur from Indoorpilly Golf Club in Brisbane. Marika's father is a former Fiji Rugby representative in the 15's code and migrated to Australia in the early 1950's to play the same sport. Last year's winner was New Zealand golfer Brad Shilton who is based in Melbourne, he returns this year to defend his title. Also making a return are some past winners with the like of Neil Kerry and Tony Christie. The total prize money for 2009 is \$50,000 and an automatic qualification to play in the Panasonic Open that will be played in Japan in September and has a total purse of US\$1.7 million for the winner. Vodafone is also giving away a BlackBerry Storm for a hole-in-one Hole #4 which has a par 3.

Conclusion

This is the first opportunity by the current office bearers or the Association to host a tournament of this nature and magnitude. We have all good intentions of making it a gracious and successful event. The focus also is to compliment the vision of Golf in Fiji which is "creating lifetime opportunities" NGAF is also unanimous in the supposition, that the sport of golf can create employment opportunities other than rugby or soccer. It is now a career choice.

The Fiji Open's previous winners have been:

| Names | Year | Names | Year |
|-----------------|------|-------------------|------|
| Bruce Rafferty | 1970 | M. Stevens | 1989 |
| Frank Malloy | 1971 | Jason Deep | 1990 |
| Simon Owen | 1972 | R. Willis | 1991 |
| Paul Shedlock | 1973 | Darren Barnes | 1992 |
| Bob Tuohy | 1974 | Jeff Wagner | 1993 |
| Frank Philips | 1975 | Neil Kerry | 1994 |
| Barry Vivian | 1976 | Steve Alker | 1995 |
| George Serhan | 1977 | Elliot Boulton | 1996 |
| Bill Brask | 1978 | Tony Christie | 1997 |
| Peter Creighton | 1979 | Mukesh Chand | 1998 |
| Stuart Reese | 1980 | Neil Kerry | 1999 |
| Alex Bonnington | 1981 | Neil Kerry | 2001 |
| Richard Coombes | 1982 | Salesh Chand | 2002 |
| Stuart Reese | 1983 | Tony Christie | 2003 |
| Mike Harwood | 1984 | Ryan Haywood | 2004 |
| Brett Officer | 1985 | Marika Batibasaga | 2005 |
| Ian Stanley | 1986 | Marika Batibasaga | 2006 |
| Brett Officer | 1987 | Tony Christie | 2007 |
| J. Woodland | 1988 | Brad Shilton | 2008 |



Vodafone Fiji Chairman Lionel Yee with 2008 winner Brad Shilton.



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NATIONAL GOLF ASSOCIATION OF FIJI

AFFILIATED WITH THE ROYAL AND ANCIENT GOLF CLUB OF ST ANDREWS,
INTERNATIONAL GOLF FEDERATION, OCEANIA GOLF UNION

June 12th to 15th. Natadola Bay Championship Golf Club, NATADOLA, FIJI

| TIME | NAME | Country | NAME | Country | NAME | Country | NAME | Country |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| 8.00 | David Sinclair | P/A | Richard Kwon | P/F | Amitesh Chandra | F | Farouk Khan | F |
| 8.08 | Michael Calhan | P/A | Veramu Rokotavaga | P/F | Anuresh Chandra | F | Ross Yann | A |
| 8.16 | Neil Kerry | P/NZ | Tomasi Tuivuna | P/F | Dick Talijangich | NZ | Peter McGahan | F |
| 8.24 | Richard Ellis | P/NZ | Taitusi Tuvuci | P/F | John Teadcastle | NZ | Harold Indar Pal | USA |
| 8.32 | Cary Cowling | P/NZ | Mukesh Chand | P/F | Roneel Prakash | F | Andrew Cavanagh | A |
| 8.40 | Tony Christie | P/NZ | Viliame Suguturaga | P/F | Olaf Allen | F | Hilton Misso | NZ |
| 8.48 | Marcus A Menara | P/NZ | Seru Matairala | P/F | Stuart N Galloway | NZ | Chris Kim | K |
| 8.56 | Timothy Cameron | P/A | Anasa Seruvatu | P/F | Abid Hussein | F | Ravin Narayan | USA |
| 9.04 | Krishna Singh | P/F | Walter Southey | F | Munesh Prasad | F | Gary Christopher | NZ |
| STARTERS TIME | | | | | | | | |
| 9.20 | Mathew Griffin | P/F | V K Singh | P/F | Darren Green | A | Pradip Singh | USA |
| 9.28 | Brad Shilton | P/A | Mahmood Buksh | P/F | Eric Van Agtmaal | A | Suresh Prakash | USA |
| 9.36 | Keshav Nair | P/A | Emani Ratumaiyale | P/F | Rohil Sewak | NZ | Ashwin Singh | USA |
| 9.44 | Waisake Vati | P/F | Arvind Lal | F | Pranil Prasad | F | Frank Johnston | A |
| 9.52 | Brendan Stuart | P/A | Feroz Khan | P/F | Tarun Sewak | NZ | Tub Wilkinson | NZ |
| 10.00 | Johnathon O'Sullivan | P/A | Inoke Bolakoro | P/F | Eric Levestam | NZ | Rizwan Hassan | F |
| 10.08 | Richard Lee | P/NZ | Mira Singh | P/F | Dinesh Singh | USA | Marika Vada | F |
| 10.16 | James A Cusdin | P/NZ | Tony Singh | Can | Joe Chung | F | Ram Bajekal | F |
| STARTERS TIME | | | | | | | | |
| 10.32 | Craig N Owen | P/NZ | Alvin Ram | F | Arvindra Ram | F | Sang Yoon Lee | F |
| 10.40 | Neelkash Ram | P/F | J M Baek | P/NZ | Rick Sadranu | F | Jessy Kang | F |
| 10.48 | Brad McIntosh | P/A | Ilisoni Koro | F | Ashween Ram | A | Ilai Labaibure | F |
| 10.56 | Blair Shaw | P/A | Narendra Narayan | USA | Seruvi Ralulu | F | Rohit Punja | F |
| 11.04 | Mike Hendry | P/F | Rakesh Chandra | P/F | Sidra Ram | F | Michael Joe | F |
| 11.12 | James Varnam | P/USA | Satish Karan | USA | G. Henry | F | Sumo Ram | F |
| 11.20 | Dale Clark | P/A | Michael MacGregor | P/A | Eric Nand | F | Napolioni Delasau | F |
| 11.28 | Scott G Hill | P/NZ | Zoheer Ahmad | F | David Wong | F | V K Pillay | F |
| STARTERS TIME | | | | | | | | |
| 11.44 | Hamish Robertson | P/F | Duncan Collie | F | Indar Warjan | A | Alvin Sharma | F |
| 11.52 | Joshua Carmichael | P/NZ | Rakesh Chand | F | Mladin Mutalic | F | Caesar Lateef | F |
| 12.00 | Tristam Levestam | F | Vijay Madhavan | F | Raymond Vuksich | NZ | Adish Naidu | F |
| 12.08 | Abdul Shaheem | F | Ross Shaw | F | Isaac Jhinnui | USA | Peter Lee | F |
| 12.16 | Alfred Bowerman | F | Joe Rodan | F | Solomone Taufa | USA | Ily Dean | F |
| 12.24 | Barry Dillon | I | Peter Eafeare | F | Tom | F | Soma Bhika | F |
| 12.32 | Nemani Yavala | F | Sanjay Prasad | F | Dinesh Shankar | F | Pelasio Rageci | F |
| 12.40 | Bal Ram | F | Shimon Kanhai | USA | Anare Gukilau | F | Tui Kabu | F |
| 12.48 | Mohammed Rahiman | F | Aporosa Tuisawau | F | C S Pillay | F | Daniel Whippy | F |
| STARTERS TIME | | | | | | | | |
| 1.04 | Mahendra Ram | USA | Viliame Leqa | F | Kamal Sen | F | M Marsh | A |

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Abbrev :

(A) - Australia (F) - Fiji (C) - Canada (I) - Ireland (K) - Korea (NZ) - New Zealand (PNG) - Papua New Guinea (USA) - United States of America (P) - Professional