



Golfers Compete for a Good Cause



A BRILLIANT WEEKEND OF GOLF AT TWO OF LANGKAWI'S FINEST COURSES, CAPPED OFF BY AN OUTSTANDING GALA DINNER HOSTED BY THE WESTIN LANGKAWI ALL SERVED TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE ISLAND'S PREMIER SERVICE ORGANISATION, THE ROTARY CLUB OF LANGKAWI.

The first of what is hoped to be a succession of Rotary Club of Langkawi Charity Golf Tournaments was held over the weekend of April 16-17, and was a great success. The first day of play saw dozens of golfers taking to the links at Gunung Raya Golf Resort, an exhilarating course nestled at the foothills of the majestic Gunung Raya, Langkawi's highest mountain. Amid the scenic landscape of the course, golfers competed amid beautiful rolling greens, panoramic tees, and impeccable fairways. At the first hole, they were treated to champagne, juices, and cold water courtesy of The Westin Langkawi, who had also set up a display of their legendary Heavenly Bed. If you've never seen a full bed set up on a golf course, it certainly is something to behold. Under a brilliant Langkawi sun on a near-cloudless day, golfers enjoyed each other's company and the challenge and beauty of Gunung Raya's course.

Gorgeous scenery and an international-standard course were also the order of business the next day at the magnificent Els Club Teluk Datai, situated on Langkawi's northwest coast under the imposing Gunung Mat Chinchang mountain range. The Els Club was recently named Asia's Best Golf Course at the World Golf Awards, adding to an impressive collection of awards earned in less than two years of operation. The sun and heat took a welcome break on Sunday and golfers played the course under cloudier skies, at times even getting the occasional light rain. A friendly team from the new St. Regis Langkawi set up on the 5th hole to offer players their famous "Lang Mary" – a take on the famous Bloody Mary cocktail – and chilled mineral water.

On the final night, the beautiful Westin Langkawi outdid itself at a marvellous gala dinner, which set by the resort's stunning seaside pool and graciously hosted by emcee Nick Atkinson.

Tournament winners were announced, prizes given, and a lucky draw raffle was held, capped off by a friendly auction for some fantastic prizes very generously donated by local and regional companies. After expenses, nearly RM25,000 was raised for the Rotary Club of Club to fund its commendable local service efforts throughout 2016, with its signature project, the Langkawi Mangrove Clean-Up, expected to be held late in the year.

The top prizes were well-earned indeed. The best gross score, men's open, over the two days – with a remarkable 154 shot over the pair of 18-hole courses – was won by Tan Yih Heng (top left). The best gross score, men's senior, was won by Rob Harting, while the best gross score in the women's division was won by Anne Jackson. A number of other awards were presented for various achievements and all the winners were delighted with an array of outstanding prizes with a total purse value of over RM31,000!



Along with sincere thanks to all the sponsors and volunteers who made this effort a success, very special thanks goes out to Michael Schlueter (above, left) of Starwood Hotels and Resorts, along with the great teams at The Westin Langkawi and The St. Regis Langkawi, for all their generous and valuable contributions. ■