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TIFFANY CHAN COMPLETES DAY ONE OF EFG HONG KONG LADIES OPEN TWO SHOTS OFF THE LEAD

Clean back nine with four birdies puts the LPGA rookie in a tie for seventh going into day two

HONG KONG (11 MAY, 2018) – LPGA rookie Tiffany Chan Tsz-ching put together a strong finish to put herself within two shots of the leaders on day one of the 2018 EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open.

Taking place on the Old Course of the Hong Kong Golf Club, the 2016 champion started slightly nervously with bogies on the third and seventh but picked herself up with a solid back nine with four birdies to finish on a solid three-under 69.

Connie Chen of South Africa, EFG sponsor invite Malaysian amateur Winnie Ng Yu-xuan, and Chinese Taipei duo Chen Szu-han and Hsieh Yu-ling are atop the leaderboard in a four-way tie with each carding an impressive five-under 67. Defending champion Thailand's Supamas Sangchan, who was in the same group as Chan, also finished at three-under.

Chan, who is in superb form following a 13-stroke win at a US Women's Championships qualifier in Hawaii last week, said:

"I started a little nervously this morning. The EFG Ladies Open is a once a year only opportunity, so I really wanted to start well, and ultimately put myself under a bit of pressure. But compared to last year, I feel a lot better, and was over the slow start by the time I finished the front nine, and could perform at the level I wanted to. I am really happy to see so many people supporting me today. I definitely have more fans here compared to the US, so I am always really excited (when playing in Hong Kong). I hope to see more fans come and enjoy the golf this weekend."

16-year-old Ng, one of the top Malaysian juniors, took full advantage of her first sponsor invite to produce the round of her life that included nine birdies. The Kuala Lumpur native commented:

"I was just hoping for the best and didn't expect so many birdies today. I prefer to play in these (hot and humid) conditions, because at home in Malaysia, it is almost the same. I knew I was playing well, but I tried not to think about it, but then I had a bit of a slump and I got really nervous. I told myself to calm down, and that I am an amateur so it is about doing the best you can, and not so much about the placing, and I am glad I finished well."



Hsieh resumed where she left off last year when she was a runner-up at the EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open with a bogey-free round under glorious sunshine to open up her 2018 campaign. The 26-year-old said:

“Overall, I was very steady, without a lot of ups and downs, and I took the birdie opportunities that were presented to me. I am very happy with the dry conditions today, and I think the wet weather the last few days actually helped me because suddenly today, everything seemed that little bit easier. I prepared hard for this tournament as you need a strategy and know what you need to do with each shot to win here.”

Isabella Leung and Michelle Cheung are the next best placed local competitors, with each competing their rounds at one-over 73, in a tie for 37th.

With a total prize fund of US\$150,000, the fourth edition of the EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open will host a top qualify field of 120 players from 16 nations and territories across the globe.

For further information on the 2018 EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open, please visit www.hkladiesopen.com and official Facebook page www.facebook.com/efghongkongladiesopen/

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About EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open

Organised and hosted by The Hong Kong Golf Club, the fourth edition of the EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open takes place between 11- 13 May and features a field of over 100 players from Asia and around the world, it is the first ladies' tournament in Hong Kong in which players can earn Rolex World Ranking points.

The event is tri-sanctioned by the China LPGA (CLPGA), LPGA of Taiwan (TLPGA), and Ladies Asian Golf Tour (LAGT), supported by the Hong Kong Golf Association (HKGA) and the Hong Kong Professional Golfers' Association (HKPGA), features a total prize purse of US\$150,000. Entry for spectators to the tournament is free.



The 2018 EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open is title sponsored by EFG Bank.

For more information about the EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open please visit the Official Facebook page at www.facebook.com/efghongkongladiesopen and website at www.hkladiesopen.com.

About The Hong Kong Golf Club

The Hong Kong Golf Club was founded in 1889 and is considered one of Asia's pre-eminent golfing establishments. Home to three 18-hole courses at its site at Fanling in the northern New Territories, and a further nine holes in Deep Water Bay on Hong Kong Island, the Club lies at the very centre of the development of golf in Hong Kong.

The host of numerous charitable events throughout the year, the Club is a key supporter of the Hong Kong Golf Association's junior programme and provides golf tuition to students from schools in the local Sheung Shui and Fanling districts. Since 1959 the Club has been the venue for the Hong Kong Open, a European and Asian Tour co-sanctioned tournament, making it one of only two international venues - the other being Augusta National, home of the Masters Tournament - to have hosted a world-class championship every year for more than half a century.

About EFG International

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