



No one shot lower than the impressive Abhishek Kuhar at Golden Greens.

## Kuhar shines bright

**Gurgaon:** The Albatross Tour brought its year to a close by conducting a two-day tournament at the Golden Greens Golf Resort, no. 10 of this parents-run circuit, which began in August 2007 (at, incidentally, the same venue). And as has been the case at previous Albatross events, the enthusiasm and endeavor of the volunteer mums and dads

saw to it that it was nothing less than a success.

Albatross events are usually 18-hole (or 9-hole) affairs but this being the year-ender, it was extended to two days. The weather was unusually—but beautifully—balmy for a north Indian December, and there was much promise on show on this 'links'-like layout outside Gurgaon. The star of the

show was undoubtedly 13-year-old Abhishek Kuhar.

Kuhar, a Gurgaon resident who plays his golf at the DLF Golf & Country Club, was playing in Category 'B' (he was the second best player in Category 'C' on the Indian Golf Union's order of merit in 2007), and had rounds of one-under-par 71 and level-par 72 on the two days. Kuhar was the only one in the field to shoot under par, a remarkable achievement on a course that has brought the best in the business to their knees.

Admittedly, the lack of a breeze made scoring an easier proposition but that's to take nothing away from Kuhar, who plays to a handicap of five. "It's a tough course with the bunkers and the rough, which is so thick that you can't find your ball if you happen to hit it into there. And the greens are fast.

"But I'm really proud of the way I played, because I didn't play a practice round," said Kuhar. Not surprisingly, this was the best 36 holes Kuhar had ever played in a still-young career. He had four birdies on each of the days, and finished a commanding eight shots clear of his nearest challenger.

Haman, all the way from Amritsar, was almost as comfortable in wrapping up the title in Category 'A', while Mohali's Feroz Garewal topped Category 'C' by three shots. In the same category, Altarash Barthakur

celebrated his first top-three placing. There were no surprises in Category 'D', as Piyush Sangwan won by a massive 35 shots (74, 76). This prolific 10-year-old from Gurgaon is clearly a special talent, as his ninth place at the U.S. Kids World Golf Championship earlier this year confirmed.

In Category 'E', for the littlest ones—introduced during the seventh Albatross—Aadil Bedi of Chandigarh won his third title out of four (he'd finished runner up in one). Bedi matched Sangwan's 35-shot winning margin.

Next up for Albatross is Kolkata, in the first week of the New Year, the first time that the tour will be stopping over in the eastern metropolis. It will, soon, be covering the whole nation. The dedicated parents (and always cheerful, too: at Golden Greens, to while away the time, they indulged in a putting competition!) deserve a pat on their back for providing this avenue of competition for their children, not once losing sight of the fact that the game should never lose its fun factor for the boys and girls.

### ALBATROSS 10th LEG

#### LEADING SCORES

##### CATEGORY A

156: **HAMAN** (78, 78); 157: KUNAAAL BHATIA (79, 78); 161: SAMRAT BASU (76, 85)

##### CATEGORY B

143: **ABHISHEK KUHAR** (71, 72); 151: TARUNDEEP SINGH CHADHA (76, 75); 152: ANKUR CHADHA (76, 76)

##### CATEGORY C

166: **FEROZ S. GAREWAL** (87, 79); 169: ALTARASH BARTHAKUR (83, 86); 170: MANU GANDAS (87, 83)

##### CATEGORY D

150: **PIYUSH SANGWAN** (74, 76); 185: RITWIK JAIN (95, 90); 191: SARTHAK KOHLI (92, 99)

##### CATEGORY E (18 HOLES)

82: **AADIL BEDI** (42, 40); 117: LAKSHYA LOOMBA (61, 56); 139: KARAN CHANDRA (67, 72)