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Hello my golfing friends,

We've got another great issue of **Golfing Weekly** for you this week. Welcome to all you new readers who have joined us since the last issue. If you haven't had a chance to browse through our back issues yet (or didn't know you could) follow the link on the home page. Apart from news about the previous week's tournaments, you'll find golfing tips, player profiles and much more.

Something that I can deduce from this week's results is the high standard of golf which must exist on the Japan Tour but goes largely unnoticed. The PGA Tour event this week was won by 38 year old American "rookie", Todd Hamilton, who has won 11 previous professional tournaments on the other side of the world. Runner-up spot in the European Tour event was confidently taken by Japan's Nubohito Sato, nine time winner on his home Tour, who is also making an impression competing in the west.

The first LPGA tournament of the year produced another first-time Tour winner, Karen Stupples from England, who has been playing on the US circuit for five years posted a Tour record-breaking 22 under par total in Tucson.

Take a look at the preview of next week's events and you'll see that we've got some great golf coming up and I'm looking forward to next week's **Golfing Weekly** already.

Well, that's about it for now. As always, if there is anything you would like us to add to **Golfing Weekly**, or if you have any comments you would like to make, just drop us a line. This is *your* magazine and we want you to enjoy reading it as much as we enjoy putting it together.

All the best,

Andy Smith
Owner/Editor
Golfing Weekly

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PGA Tour Article

Rookie Win for Todd Hamilton at Honda Classic



Todd Hamilton. Photo – Getty images

After more than ten years on the Asian and Japan Tours, Todd Hamilton earned his first PGA Tour card at last year's PGA Qualifying Tournament and this weekend gained his first PGA Tour win at the Honda Classic.

Hamilton started the final day at 14 under par, 4 strokes clear of the field but by the time Brian Bateman signed his score card for a 4 under par final round of 68, his –10 put him in the clubhouse with a share of the lead. Hamilton had dropped four shots and was giving them all a chance.

Davis Love III took advantage of the situation with a birdie on the 17th to take outright lead at 11 under but could only manage a par on the last and Hamilton had two holes left in which to make up the deficit. Despite things not going his way earlier in the round, he kept his nerve and birdied the 17th as Love was warming up for a playoff. When Hamilton's approach shot at the eighteenth landed within a couple of feet of the flag it was clear that no playoff would be needed.



Davis Love III. Photo – Getty Images



Fredrik Jacobson. Photo – Getty Images

Fredrick Jacobsen also birdied the 17th and couldn't believe it when his birdie putt lipped out on the 18th leaving him with a one over par 73 and and 9 under total of 279 for the week. That gave him a share of fourth place with Kevin Na, Woody Austin and Robert Allenby. The points Jacobson gained moved him up from nineteenth to sixteenth place in the World Golf Rankings.

The only other top–20 world ranked player to move up this week was Robert Allenby who went from twentieth to eighteenth.

Hamilton's \$900,000 prize money moved him swiftly up the 2004 money list from #95 to #9. Todd Hamilton is featured in this week's [Player Profile](#).



Robert Allenby. Photo – Getty Images

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PGA Tour Results – The Honda Classic

The Country Club at Mirasol, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida
March 11 – 14, 2004 Par 72 – 7157 yards (6544 metres)

Pos.	Name	To Par	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Total
1	Todd Hamilton	-12	68	66	68	74	276
2	Davis Love III	-11	69	69	70	69	277
3	Brian Bateman	-10	71	69	70	68	278
T4	Kevin Na	-9	67	72	71	69	279
T4	Woody Austin	-9	71	69	69	70	279
T4	Robert Allenby	-9	68	74	67	70	279
T4	Fredrik Jacobson	-9	67	69	70	73	279
8	Brad Faxon	-8	68	66	76	70	280
T9	Chad Campbell	-7	71	70	71	69	281
T9	Tommy Armour III	-7	69	69	73	70	281
T9	Lee Janzen	-7	74	66	70	71	281
T9	Rory Sabbatini	-7	66	72	71	72	281

2004 PGA Tour Money List

Updated March 14, 2004 after The Honda Classic

Rank	Last Week	Player Name	# of Events	Money Earned
1	1	Vijay Singh	7	\$2,078,140
2	2	Phil Mickelson	6	\$1,781,100
3	3	Tiger Woods	4	\$1,731,000
4	7	Davis Love III	5	\$1,721,400
5	4	Stuart Appleby	5	\$1,480,120
6	5	Mike Weir	6	\$1,446,867
7	6	Jonathan Kaye	7	\$1,356,470
8	8	John Daly	5	\$1,139,646
9	95	Todd Hamilton	6	\$1,036,927
10	9	Shigeki Maruyama	7	\$954,339
11	10	Ernie Els	2	\$943,000
12	11	Darren Clarke	5	\$930,000
13	13	Craig Parry	2	\$924,583
14	12	Retief Goosen	6	\$924,375
15	14	Chris DiMarco	6	\$831,142
16	15	Scott Verplank	4	\$791,450
17	16	Harrison Frazar	6	\$778,543
18	19	Chris Riley	7	\$722,198
19	17	Heath Slocum	7	\$715,032
20	18	Jeff Maggert	5	\$682,800

For full PGA Tour Results & Money List visit PGATour.com

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Haeggman wins Qatar Masters

With a 16 under par total of 272, Joakim Haeggman lifted the Qatar Masters title and earned a career-high payday of €201596.75 (approx. \$250,000). This was the Swede's third European Tour victory, the last being six and a half years ago when won the Volvo Scandinavian Masters in August 1997. His last round score of 65 was only bettered by one player, Denmark's Soren Hansen who recorded a 64 and finished tied for 12th place. A birdie on the last hole put Haeggman in the clubhouse two shots ahead of the overnight leaders, Nubohito Sato from Japan and France's Raphael Jacquelin who still had two holes to play.



Joakim Haeggman with Qatar Masters trophy
Photo – Getty Images



Nubohito Sato
Photo – Getty Images

Both Sato and Jacquelin parred the 17th leaving them needing eagles on the par five 18th to force a playoff. Sato laid up short of the green to leave himself a short iron shot which he executed brilliantly, leaving himself a two-footer that he made for a birdie and solitary second place. Nine times winner on the Japan Tour and playing his first year in Europe he now looks set to retain his European Tour card for next year.

Jacquelin chose the braver option, taking his driver from the fairway but fortune didn't favor him and he found a greenside bunker. His recovery shot finished well short of the flag and a par earned him a share of third place with England's Brian Davis and José Manuel Lara of Spain. This was Jacquelin's fourth top-five finish from seven starts in 2004 and the experience he is gaining from regularly being close at the end of tournaments will surely soon result in his first European Tour victory. He also has the most beautiful, effortless swing which is a joy to watch.

Brian Davis's tied third place here, followed up on his tied fifth in last week's Dubai Desert Classic and, with one win already this year (ANZ Championship in February), it looks like he could figure in the outcome of more events on the 2004 schedule.



Raphael Jacquelin.
Photo – Getty Images



Photo – Getty Images

His ANZ win put him in the top 64 of the World Golf Rankings just in time to qualify for the WGC–Accenture Match Play Championship where he went out in the first round to Robert Allenby. The points he has gained from his two weeks in the Gulf have moved him into the top 50 which is where he needs to stay for a couple more weeks to qualify for a place in The Masters next month.

Miguel Angel Jimenez of Spain was disqualified before the start of the final day's play for signing an incorrect score card. It was judged that he should have recorded a two stroke penalty after his ball moved during a practice swing on the 12th tee during the third round. He believed his ball had returned to its original position and drew the attention of his playing partners to what had happened. The referees decided later that they could not give him the benefit of the doubt and that according to the rules he should have placed the ball again and taken the penalty rather than playing it from where it lied.

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European Tour Results

Qatar Masters – March 11–14, 2004

Doha Golf Club, Qatar.

Par 72 – 7167 yards (6553 metres)

<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Player Name</i>	<i>To Par</i>	<i>Day 1</i>	<i>Day 2</i>	<i>Day 3</i>	<i>Day 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>1</i>	Joakim HAEGGMAN (Swe)	-16	75	64	68	65	272
<i>2</i>	Nobuhito SATO (Jpn)	-15	68	70	67	68	273
<i>T3</i>	José Manuel LARA (Sp)	-14	72	67	68	67	274
<i>T3</i>	Brian DAVIS (Eng)	-14	69	70	68	67	274
<i>T3</i>	Raphaël JACQUELIN (Fr)	-14	73	67	65	69	274
<i>6</i>	Martin MARITZ (SA)	-13	73	67	68	67	275
<i>7</i>	Greg OWEN (Eng)	-12	70	71	70	65	276
<i>T8</i>	Roger CHAPMAN (Eng)	-11	70	71	66	70	277
<i>T8</i>	David HOWELL (Eng)	-11	71	69	67	70	277
<i>T8</i>	Robert–Jan DERKSEN (NL)	-11	74	67	71	65	277
<i>T8</i>	Stephen GALLACHER (Scot)	-11	70	72	68	67	277

[Click Here to get full scoreboard](#)

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Volvo Order of Merit

2004 Top European Tour Money Earners
Updated March 14, 2004 after Qatar Masters

The US\$ earnings is an approximate equivalent figure calculated at the rate applicable on the day of publication (€1=\$1.22619).

Actual earnings on the European Tour are paid in Euros.

Pos.	Player Name	Country	# of Events	Earnings (Euros)	US\$ (approx.)
1	Darren CLARKE	N.IRE	3	449,122.29	\$550,709
2	Brian DAVIS	ENG	7	363,307.00	\$445,483
3	Ernie ELS	SA	3	349,309.68	\$428,320
4	Miguel Angel JIMÉNEZ	SP	7	305,762.39	\$374,923
5	Padraig HARRINGTON	IRE	4	296,474.64	\$363,534
6	Joakim HAEGGMAN	SWE	8	288,839.90	\$354,173
7	Thongchai JAIDEE	THAI	4	280,776.20	\$344,285
8	Ian POULTER	ENG	5	247,262.41	\$303,191
9	Adam SCOTT	AUS	3	233,282.03	\$286,048
10	Raphaël JACQUELIN	FR	7	220,626.00	\$270,529
11	Thomas BJÖRN	DEN	4	212,326.54	\$260,353
12	Trevor IMMELMAN	SA	5	211,519.16	\$259,363
13	Paul MCGINLEY	IRE	5	200,118.15	\$245,383
14	Marcel SIEM	GER	5	177,071.49	\$217,123
15	Paul CASEY	ENG	4	171,049.75	\$209,739
16	Colin MONTGOMERIE	SCOT	5	157,918.37	\$193,638
17	David HOWELL	ENG	6	152,389.43	\$186,858
18	Nobuhito SATO	JPN	3	141,970.59	\$174,083
19	Brad KENNEDY	AUS	7	137,347.87	\$168,415
20	Thomas LEVET	FR	6	132,267.65	\$162,185

[Click Here for complete Volvo Order of Merit from EuropeanTour.com](#)

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Golf World Rankings

2004 World Golf Rankings
Updated March 15, 2004

Rank	Last Week	Player Name	Points Ave.	Total Points	# of Events	Points lost 02/03	Points Gained 2004
1	1	Tiger Woods	14.29	571.48	40	127.73-	116.13
2	2	Vijay Singh	10.18	580.41	57	95.08-	118.79
3	3	Ernie Els	9.21	460.42	50	100.01-	114.58
4	4	Davis Love III	9.01	414.28	46	58.49-	104.01
5	5	Mike Weir	7.67	345.3	45	56.06-	100.73
6	6	Jim Furyk	6.11	293.13	48	68.39-	7.54
7	7	Retief Goosen	5.8	330.51	57	74.81-	55.88
8	8	Phil Mickelson	5.05	252.67	50	55.43-	112.87
9	9	Stuart Appleby	4.91	284.73	58	39.09-	93.27
10	10	David Toms	4.72	235.84	50	54.98-	21.19
11	11	Kenny Perry	4.69	243.89	52	52.03-	26.83
12	12	Padraig Harrington	4.62	226.43	49	49.44-	16.92
13	13	Darren Clarke	4.44	252.94	57	38.50-	52.8
14	14	Jonathan Kaye	3.89	229.28	59	17.14-	89.6
15	15	Chad Campbell	3.71	226.54	61	37.29-	25.56
16	19	Fredrik Jacobson	3.63	170.54	47	26.24-	31.25
17	16	Scott Verplank	3.61	180.48	50	26.35-	47.01
18	20	Robert Allenby	3.54	201.68	57	39.19-	27.85
19	17	Nick Price	3.5	139.91	40	36.39-	13.98
20	18	Chris DiMarco	3.4	183.8	54	41.91-	55.72

[Click here for the site of the Official World Golf Ranking](#)

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Other Golf News This Week

LPGA News

Welch's/Fry's Championship Randolph North Golf Complex, Tucson, Arizona

After five years on the LPGA Tour, Karen Stupples has recorded her first Tour victory and what a way to do it. Her four round total of 258, 22 strokes under par is the all time LPGA lowest score. She started the final day one shot ahead of Grace Park and fellow Englishwoman, Laura Davies. She maintained that lead for the first 12 holes and then eagled the 13th to start pulling away, finishing 5 strokes clear of Park and Jung Yeon Lee who both ended on 263. Laura Davies shot a one over par 71 on the final day to drop back to a share of fifth place. Stupples had warmed up well for the start of the season by finishing second to Annika Sorenstam two weeks ago in Australia at the ANZ Ladies Masters. Sorenstam holds the LPGA record for the lowest score on a par-72 course with 261 over 4 days.



Photo – Getty Images

Final Scores – Welch's/Fry's Championship – 6,176 Yards – Par 70

Pos.	Name	To Par	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Total
1	Karen Stupples	-22	63	66	66	63	258
T2	Jung Yeon Lee	-17	60	70	67	66	263
T2	Grace Park	-17	69	66	61	67	263
4	Stacy Prammanasudh	-15	66	69	63	67	265
T5	Shi Hyun Ahn	-13	69	69	66	63	267
T5	Aree Song	-13	71	64	65	67	267
T5	Laura Davies	-13	65	65	66	71	267
T8	Mi-Hyun Kim	-12	67	70	65	66	268
T8	Se Ri Pak	-12	67	70	64	67	268
T8	Seol-An Jeon	-12	65	67	67	69	268

Full Scoreboard can be found at www.lpga.com

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Champions Tour News
SBC Classic, Valencia Country Club, Valencia, California

Gill Morgan notched up his 23rd Champions Tour victory at the SBC Classic this weekend. It is the ninth straight season he has scored at least one win, a feat only achieved twice before in the history of the over-50s Tour by Hale Irwin and Miller Barber. He finished two shots clear of Larry Nelson and jumped to the top of the 2004 CT money list and the Charles Schwab Cup standings ahead of Craig Stadler and Fuzzy Zoeller.



Photo – Getty Images

Peter Jacobsen, in his debut Champions Tour event since turning 50 years older earlier this month came in third after carding a final round 67.

Final Scores – SBC Classic – Par 72 – 6575 yards						
Pos.	Name	To Par	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Total
1	Gil Morgan	-14	67	66	69	202
2	Larry Nelson	-12	68	68	68	204
3	Peter Jacobsen	-11	67	71	67	205
T4	Joe Inman	-10	72	70	64	206
T4	Graham Marsh	-10	72	69	65	206
6	Tom Purtzer	-9	68	71	68	207
T7	Gary McCord	-8	71	70	67	208
T7	Bruce Fleisher	-8	73	67	68	208
T7	Allen Doyle	-8	69	70	69	208
T7	Craig Stadler	-8	67	72	69	208
T7	Hale Irwin	-8	69	70	69	208
T7	Mark James	-8	68	70	70	208

Champions Tour Money List – March 14 2004				
Rank	Last Week	Player	Events	Money
1	8	Gil Morgan	5	\$495,121
2	2	Craig Stadler	4	\$417,200
3	1	Fuzzy Zoeller	5	\$416,762
4	7	Larry Nelson	5	\$409,500
5	3	Ed Fiori	5	\$366,550

Full Results and Money List can be found at www.pgatour.com

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Preview of Next Week's Events

The PGA Tour remains in Florida for the Bay Hill Invitational Presented by MasterCard at Bay Hill Golf Club & Lodge in Orlando. Tiger Woods has made this tournament his own and the last person to have their hands on the trophy was Tim Herron, back in 1999. Can he make it an all-time record by winning the same tournament five straight years? I'm sure he has it in his mind to do so. Who can stop him? Davis Love III gave him a run for his money in the WGC–Accenture Match Play Championship and declared himself to be feeling good about his game after coming runner up this weekend at the Honda Classic. Ernie Els and Vijay Singh are also present in a very strong field and they would all rather take home the winner's check of \$900,000 than see Tiger break another record. Personally, I think they'll have their work cut out to beat Tiger this week.

The European Tour moves from the Gulf to Singapore for the Carlsberg Caltex Masters at the Laguna Golf & Country Club. In a very open field with a lot of players coming into form it should be a close run thing if recent runnings of the event are anything to go by we could be in for another debut winner. In 2002, Arjun Atwal became the first player from India to win a European Tour event and last year produced the Tour's first Chinese winner in Lian–Wei Zhang.

The Champions Tour stays in California for the Toshiba Senior Classic at Newport Beach Country Club. Rodger Davis will be defending his title and last year's runner–up, Larry Nelson is likely to put in a strong challenge again based on recent form.

The Ladies of the LPGA Tour compete in Arizona again this week at the Safeway International Presented by Coca–Cola at Superstition Mountain Golf & Country Club. Annika Sorenstam will be making her first LPGA Tour appearance of 2004 having warmed up by winning the ANZ Ladies Masters a couple of weeks ago. Runner–up on that occasion was last week's winner, Karen Stupples and with all the top players in the field this looks like being a competitive affair.

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Golf Tip

Stretching

A Year-Long Investment in Your Game

by Mel Sole

As you get older the need to retain flexibility in order to play good golf becomes more and more important. Here are a few exercises that will help you accomplish that.



Picture #1



Picture #2

In picture #1 I have the club above my head. Gently lean over to the left as far as you can go as in picture #2. Repeat to the other side. Do this four or five times, gently.



Picture #3

In picture #3 I have the shaft across my shoulders. Get into your golf posture and gently twist until you have made a full shoulder turn as in picture #4. Repeat to the other side, as in picture #5.



Picture #4



Picture #5

Maintain your spine angle throughout, as I am doing in pictures #4 & #5.



Picture #6

If holding the club on your shoulders is too difficult for you, put the club into the small of your back and hook your arms around the club as I am doing in picture #6.



Picture #7

In picture #7 I take the palm of my right hand and put it on the elbow of my left arm which is stretched out in front of me. Gently pull the right hand toward the right shoulder until you feel a gentle stretch. Do the same with the other arm. Repeat this four or five times.



Picture #8

Finally sit on the ground with your right leg crossed over your outstretched left leg as in picture #8. Gently push the back of your left arm against the right knee until you feel a gentle stretch in your lower back. Do this three or four times. Repeat with the other leg.

Do not do any of these exercises if you have serious back problems or health problems. If in doubt please ask your doctor.

Next Week: Pre-shot Routine – How important is it?

Mel Sole is a former South African Tour player with about 30 years of teaching experience. He is the co-founder of Ritson-Sole Golf Schools, which is rated one of the 25 best golf schools in the U.S. Mel's home course is Pawleys Plantation in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Other Ritson-Sole Golf Schools are located in Wilmington, N.C., Atlanta, Blue Springs, Mo., Harrisburg, Pa., and San Sebastián de Amola, México. You can visit the Ritson-Sole Website at www.ritson-sole.com.

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Player Profile

Todd Hamilton

Although he has been winning tournaments since 1992, and won 4 tournaments last year alone, earning himself over a million dollars in the process, Todd Hamilton is not well-known in the western hemisphere. This is mainly due to the fact that his victories were in Japan and his earnings were in Yen, finishing 2003 in third place on the Japan Tour money list.

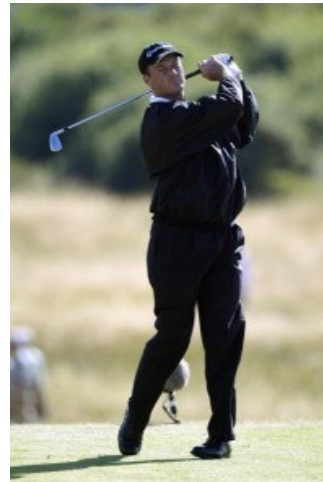


2004 Honda Classic
Getty Images

He earned his first PGA Tour card only last year by finishing Tied for 16th place at the 2003 PGA Tour Qualifying Tournament and is already in the top ten on this years money list with earnings of just over \$1 million. In six starts this year he has made the cut 4 times; AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am (T25), Chrysler Classic of Tucson (T40), Ford Championship at Doral (T15) & The Honda Classic (1). Apart from a 73 in the third round at Pebble Beach, his only other round over par in the four tournaments was a 74 in the last round at the Honda Classic but that was enough to give him the victory.

As a result of his successes last year he was invited to play in two of the majors. Although he failed to make the cut in the British Open, he finished tied for 29th place in the PGA Championship.

Having played on the Asian Tour from 1992–2002 and the Japan Tour last year, Todd Hamilton has played most of his professional golf out of the limelight. Now that he has his card and his first PGA victory in the bag he is sure to get noticed, not least for his proven ability to come through under pressure and pull off the shots needed to win tournaments. Don't be surprised to see him voted "Rookie of the Year" for 2004 despite the fact that he'll be 40 years old in October 2005.



2003 British Open
Getty Images

For more information about Todd Hamilton,
read his full bio at www.pgatour.com

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