

SPORTS

GOLF



Players pose with the trophy at the inaugural Singapore Ladies Masters last July. The women’s golf tournament makes its much-anticipated return to the Laguna National Golf Resort Club next week. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

China LPGA elites set to swing into action at Singapore Ladies Masters

The Singapore Ladies Masters is set to make its much-anticipated return to the Laguna National Golf Resort Club this month.

Featuring a total of 132 players, including 12 elite amateurs vying for top honors in the China Ladies Professional Golf Association (CLPGA) event, the Singapore Ladies Masters is scheduled to tee off on June 14.

The Singapore Ladies Masters is the sixth leg of this season's CLPGA Tour and boasts a prize purse of \$100,000. The winner will receive \$15,000.

At the inaugural event last July, Singapore's amateur standout Shannon Tan delighted the home crowd by outshining her seasoned professional counterparts to claim the championship.

With the tournament offering valuable Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings points, Shannon, who only turned pro in January, gained a crucial advantage in her quest to qualify for the Paris Olympics.

Following her breakthrough victory, Shannon's career has been on a remarkable trajectory, highlighted by her recent triumph at the Magical Kenya Ladies Open in February, where she secured her maiden Ladies European Tour (LET) title.

Currently placed 202 in the Rolex Rankings — a career high — Shannon also comfortably sits in the 48th spot of the Olympic Golf Rankings, virtually assuring her of a place in the 60-woman field at the Paris Games.

The remarkable tale of Shannon's accomplishment in the past year is sure to inspire all competitors —



China LPGA elites, including Ji Yuai (left) and Sui Xiang, will fight for the \$15,000 first prize and the valuable ranking points on offer.



whether seasoned professionals or budding amateurs — as they prepare for the upcoming tournament.

Lyn Yeo, tournament organizer and founder of LLD Sports said: “The Singapore Ladies Masters was the launch pad for Shannon Tan, as she deservedly went on to make an impact on the international stage, especially with her win at the Magical Kenya Ladies Open.

“As we look forward to the return of the Singapore Ladies Masters in June, I'm excited to give our local girls another opportunity to test themselves and unleash their full potential against some of the best players from China and the region.”

Home fans can look forward to watching the youngest golfer in the event's history, 13-year-old Sydnie Ng, in action, who some believe could be “another Shannon in the making”.

Ng, discovered through the Singapore Junior Development Tour (SJDT), demonstrated her abilities by clinching victory at the Future Champions Golf (FCG) World Championship in California last July.

That win placed her alongside esteemed champions such as Thailand's Ariya Jutanugarn, a two-time Major winner, former world No 1 and 2021 ANA Inspiration winner Patty Tavatanakit, and Japan's Yuka Saso, the 2021 and 2024 US Wom-

en's Open champion.

A line-up of CLPGA elites, including Ji Yuai and Sui Xiang, who, respectively, finished third and fourth in the Tour's overall points standings last year, have also confirmed their participation in the 54-hole showdown. This sets the stage for a thrilling clash against up-and-coming international players.

Exemptions have also been granted to leading players from the recently concluded Asia-Pacific Amateur Ladies Golf Team Championship, also known as the Queen Sirikit Cup.

Ji will be determined to make amends after narrowly losing the title to Shannon by one shot last year. She had the opportunity to force a playoff, but missed her birdie attempt.

Sui will also make her second appearance at the Singapore Ladies Masters. She had a strong season last year, securing her second CLPGA title at the Tianjin Ladies Challenge and adding two runner-up finishes. Sui also made the cut in all 11 of her outings.

The SLM remains committed to fostering the growth of women's golf by inviting promising amateurs from the Asia Pacific region and providing them a prestigious platform for competition and exposure.

The top 60 finishers (including ties) in the first two rounds will advance to the final round on June 16.

CHINA DAILY

VOLLEYBALL

Team China's form courts criticism

Olympic qualification hangs by a thread after poor results in Macao

By SUN XIAOCHEN
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No longer an all-conquering force, China's celebrated women's volleyball team is battling against challenges on and off the court, with its Olympic qualifying hopes hanging by a thread.

Even with superstar spiker Zhu Ting back on the roster, the Chinese women's team still struggled to bring out its best at the second leg of the Volleyball Nations League last week.

Two losses at the second stop in Macao, particularly the defeat to direct Asian rival Japan on Friday, have dragged Team China out of the driver's seat in the continental race to Paris, with its East Asian neighbor having leapfrogged to No 4 in the league's overall ranking. China has to settle for 7th following a rout by 3rd-ranked Italy on Sunday.

The remaining five Olympic participants, in addition to six already qualified teams and the host's direct entry, will be decided by the rankings at the end of the third and final round of league competition on June 16.

Setting aside its lofty ambitions of extending its Olympic success in Paris, Team China will have to focus on the more imminent battle against Bulgaria on June 11, when the final week of action kicks off in Hong Kong.

The home squad will then face Germany, challenge world No 1 Türkiye before going up against European champion Poland to complete the high-stakes final leg, with no choice but to win as many matches as possible in a bid to outrank Japan at the final buzzer.

Now it seems a taller task than many had expected, underlined by the squad's subpar performances under head coach Cai Bin in Macao, where the team's lack of fight, and especially its poor defensive effort, has left fans fuming at Cai's controversial tactics.

His conservative use of Zhu, nicknamed “Zhuper” for her explosive attack, has drawn harsh criticism from fans and commentators alike.

Rejoining Team China for the first time since the Tokyo Olympics, Zhu, who had claimed to be healthy and motivated again when announcing her return in April, fell out of Cai's starting lineup for three of the four matches in Macao. She only played significant minutes in China's 3-0 win over Thailand, while being sidelined during the majority of the other three matches against the Netherlands, Japan and Italy.

Although apparently not in peak form, Zhu, a 1.98-meter tall outside hitter who led Team China to a golden finish at the 2016 Rio Olympics, remains one of the world's most feared scorers in the game, even after a lengthy recovery from a serious wrist injury took its toll on her strength during a three-year break from the national program.

Fully rested and recovered, Zhu

has reigned supreme again at club level, driving Florence-based Savino Del Bene Scandicci, which signed her in July 2022, to the finals of the 2024 Italian women's league in April. It's yet another highlight in her overseas career, which began with a stellar stint at Turkish club Vakifbank Istanbul from 2016-19.

Her threat over the net showed in her only start, against Thailand, as Zhu scored 17 points — including one from a block — alongside 23 from the league's No 3 attacker Li Yingying, to help dismantle the Thai defense.

What seemed, and is statistically proven, to be an intimidating combo, Zhu and Li, however, were rarely fielded together at the Macao meet by Cai, leaving him the target of discontent from die-hard Chinese fans.

A video clip went viral on Chinese social media following China's 3-0 loss to Italy on Sunday that captured a large group of fans mobbing Team China's bus and shouting “Cai Bin dismissed”.

The 57-year-old, who took over the struggling national program in February 2022 following its worst ever Olympic campaign in Tokyo under Lang Ping, has not publicly responded to doubts over his tactics.

“I’ve no idea, just ask coach Cai later,” Li dodged a question about player selection after the loss to Italy, adding that it was the lack of attention to detail that cost China against the European powerhouse.

Zhu had also expressed her own dissatisfaction with the team's overall execution after the 3-1 loss to Japan.

“The Japan team is strong. Some of its players are not too tall, but they play as a team,” Zhu said in English during a court-side interview after the match.

“With our team, the defense is so bad. No defense, no blocks and no attack. If we lose, of course, yes, we played badly,” said Zhu, who scored only six points during her few minutes as a substitute in the fourth set.

With no time left for a radical change, it's time for the veterans to step up and take more responsibility, said former team captain Hui Ruoyi.

“The current team lacks cooperation and communication when facing critical points, or in tough moments,” said Hui, a formidable outside hitter on Team China's gold-winning squad at the Rio Olympics who retired in 2018.

“We rely too much on individual plays. The declining defensive threat from our blocking is another issue that needs to be improved,” she said as a guest commentator on China Central Television.

A winner of three Olympic tournaments (1984, 2004 and 2016), the Chinese women's team failed to advance into the knockout stage in Tokyo, finishing the pandemic-delayed Games with its worst result since China's Olympic volleyball debut at Los Angeles in 1984.



Coach Cai Bin reacts as outside hitter Wu Mengjie falls to the ground during China's straight-sets loss to Italy in the FIVB Women's Volleyball Nations League on Sunday in Macao. XINHUA

NOTICE ON APPLICATION FOR
NEW ISSUE OF LIQUOR LICENCE
PAUSE IT

Notice is hereby given that SIU CHUN SON of SHOP B120, LEVEL 1, YOHO MIX, 1 LONG LOK ROAD, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES is applying to the Liquor Licensing Board for new issue of Liquor Licence in respect of PAUSE IT situated at SHOP B120, LEVEL 1, YOHO MIX, 1 LONG LOK ROAD, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES. Any person having any objection to this application should send a signed written objection, stating the grounds therefor, to the Secretary, Liquor Licensing Board, 4th Floor, Tai Po Complex, No. 8, Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po, New Territories within 14 days from the date of this notice.
Date: 5 June, 2024

NOTICE OF
CREDITORS' MEETING
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE
HONG KONG SPECIAL
ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE
BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS
INTERIM ORDER APPLICATION
NO. 250 OF 2024
RE: WONG YEE PO WALTER
(王義普)

NOTICE is hereby given that the Creditors' Meeting summoned by interim order made on 24th May 2024 to consider the proposal for a voluntary arrangement of the above-named Debtor will be held at 8/F., Pilkem Commercial Centre, 8 Pilkem Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong on Friday, 21st June 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

A copy of (i) the Debtor's Proposal, (ii) the Statement of Affairs, (iii) the Nominees' Comments on the Proposal, (iv) a form of proxy, (v) a notice of claim form and (vi) the important notes to the Notice can be obtained from 8/F., Pilkem Commercial Centre, 8 Pilkem Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Dated this 5th June 2024
Chong Emily Si-Mun
Intended Nominee

NOTICE OF
CREDITORS' MEETING
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE
HONG KONG SPECIAL
ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE
BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS
INTERIM ORDER APPLICATION
NO. 255 OF 2024
RE: CHANG CHUN WAI (鄭振威)

NOTICE is hereby given that the Creditors' Meeting summoned by interim order made on 24th May 2024 to consider the proposal for a voluntary arrangement of the above-named Debtor will be held at 8/F., Pilkem Commercial Centre, 8 Pilkem Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong on Friday, 21st June 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

A copy of (i) the Debtor's Proposal, (ii) the Statement of Affairs, (iii) the Nominees' Comments on the Proposal, (iv) a form of proxy, (v) a notice of claim form and (vi) the important notes to the Notice can be obtained from 8/F., Pilkem Commercial Centre, 8 Pilkem Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Dated this 5th June 2024
Chong Emily Si-Mun
Intended Nominee

NOTICE OF
APPLICATION FOR
PLANNING APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given to the owners of Lot Nos. 67 S.E, 67 S.F, 67. S.G, 67 S.H, 67 S.I, 67 S.J, 67 S.K, 67 S.L, 67 S.N, 67 S.O, 67 S.P, 67 S.Q, 67 S.R, 67 S.S, 67 S.T, 67 S.U, 67 S.A.C, 67 S.A.D, 67 S.A.E, 67 S.A.O, 67 S.A.P, 67 S.A.Q, 67 S.A.R, 67 S.A.Z, 67 S.B.A, 67 S.BB (Part), 67 S.BC, 67 S.BD, 67 S.BE, 67 S.BG (Part), 67 S.BH (Part), 67 S.BI (Part), 67 S.BJ, 67 S.BK, 67 S.BL, 67 S.BU (Part), 67 S.BV, 67 S.BW, 67 S.BX, 67 S.BY, 67 S.CA (Part), 67 S.CB, 67 S.CC, 67 S.CD, 67 S.CE, 67 S.CF, 67 S.CG, 67 S.CH, 67 RP (Part) in D.D. 258, Wong Chuk Wan, Sai Kung, New Territories, that I intend to apply for a planning permission under section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance for Proposed Temporary Car Park (Private Cars) for a Period of Three Years.

Applicant: LAU CHI HING
5th June 2024

CHINA
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