

Our Ref: SMA/Golf 2008

14 February 2008

To: All Registered Medical Practitioners

Dear Colleague

**2008 SMA CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT AND
INAUGURAL 2008 GP VERSUS SPECIALIST CUP**
WEDNESDAY, 7 MAY 2008, NEW COURSE, SINGAPORE ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB

Over the last few years, we saw a gradual and significant decline in the number of doctors participating in our annual SMA golfing tournament. The reason for this decline is confounding because there is actually a significant increase in the number of doctors playing golf. I had two previous experiences in organizing SMA golf tournament and I think I know the answer. The lack of interest by many doctors is because of the following reasons:

- i. Often Conveners encountered great difficulty in obtaining good and resourceful sponsorships from various organizations resulting in lack of fund and thus high participation fee, unattractive prizes for winners, few and poor lucky draw prizes.
- ii. Insufficient fanfare and attention given to the special needs of the golfers such as big door gifts filled with interesting goodies, free wine and music for the prize giving dinner, snacks and drink for the golfers during their 18-hole game, SMA golf T-shirt and cap and of course a sumptuous dinner, etc, etc.
- iii. Lack of publicity and short notice time given to the doctors.
- iv. Age-old playing format concentrating only on individual and not on team participation.

Ladies and gentlemen, this year we will change all that. We will make this event so very attractive with the following changes:

1. We will get big sponsorship from various organizations to give us sufficient fund to run the tournament. We will have attractive winners' and lucky draw prizes. The aim is to give prizes to the majority of participants through the lucky draw.
2. We will collect substantially reduced fees.
3. We will hold the event in May 2008 so as to avoid school holiday and raining season.
4. We will ensure the door gifts are plentiful and attractive.
5. The dinner will be sumptuous with wine and music.
6. Chinese Tim-sum and drink will be provided for all players after the 9th hole cross-over to heal the hungry stomach. If possible, we will get Tim-sum lunch for all players too.
7. The format of play will be modified. In addition to the usual winner cups, we will add a totally new challenge trophy.... i.e. the Inaugural GP versus Specialist Cup. It will be played based on the US Ryder Cup format where at least 50 GPs and 50 Specialists will be paired up into 25 flights and battle it out to see which group can capture

the Cup. This will promote our team spirit and group camaraderie.

8. We will give ample time to let doctors register for this event and encourage them to invite their doctor friends, even if they are not SMA members, to join us.

There is one critical consideration here... that is the number of participants must be at least 50 GPs and 50 Specialists, we can have more but not less. The reason is in order to get good sponsorship, we need this number to attract their attention and show our merit.

Ladies and gentlemen, we need your strong participation to revive our fast fading SMA Annual Golf event. Your participation will assist the Organizing Committee greatly in obtaining fund and sponsorship without which the event will be yet another dull and let down again. Please help us by gathering as many doctor friends as possible to join this event and if we can achieve the number of 100, we will deliver what we promise.

During the inaugural SMA GP vs Specialist Cup in 2008, we will also raise funds for two charitable causes:

- The SMA Medical Students Assistance Fund
- Nurses Merit Award Fund

More details on these two funds are given in Appendix I.

We invite your participation in the Charity Golf Tournament to raise funds for needy medical students through their medical education, and to raise the standards of professionalism of our nurses who will attain new levels of excellence.

Please complete the response slip below and fax it to the SMA Secretariat (fax: 62247827) as soon as possible to assist the Organizing Committee in planning the tournament. Thank you.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely



DR CHONG TAT CHONG
Convener & Captain - GP Team



DR GORDON TAN
Deputy Convener & Captain 1 - Specialist Team

Appendix 1

SMA MEDICAL STUDENTS ASSISTANCE FUND & NURSES MERIT AWARD FUNDSMA Medical Students Assistance Fund

The SMA has launched the SMA Medical Students Assistance Fund in September 2007. This is a long-term commitment by the SMA of up to \$20,000 a year to match dollar-to-dollar donations from SMA members and well-wishers to help poorer students. All donations are tax-deductible and will be given to students directly. The donations will not become part of an endowment fund.

In addition, we hope to get several doctors to 'adopt a medical student' by committing at least \$1,800. This money will go directly to the needy student and help out with his or her living expenses.

The projection of \$20,000 donations per year, with dollar-to-dollar matching by the SMA, would not be sufficient to fund the living expenses of more than two students per year. With your generous support, we can do more for the needy medical students.

Nurses Merit Award Fund

Nurses are the unsung heroes of the medical profession. They form the backbone of patient management. Excellent nursing care therefore plays an integral role in our quest to be the medical hub of the region.

With this in mind, the Singapore Medical Association will, during the inaugural SMA GP & Specialist Friendship Cup in 2008, also raise funds to address the welfare of approximately 21,000 nurses in Singapore with a special emphasis on training and education, skills upgrading and language courses, seeing the international mix of nurses and patients in our island republic. This fund in particular will assist nurses who have limited access to the Nanyang Polytechnic and the National University of Singapore which already has funding from the D S Lee Foundation, as well as bolster the Ministry of Health Nurses Merit Award which is given annually to nurses island-wide in recognition of their outstanding performance and dedication to nursing.

Appendix 2

**ABOUT RBS COUTTS BANK**

RBS Coutts is the international private banking arm of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group, one of the world's largest banking groups. It shares its heritage with Coutts & Co, the UK's leading private bank and one of the oldest and most respected names in banking. With an international reputation for excellence spanning more than 300 years, Coutts & RBS Coutts offer clients a level of personal service and discretion that has attracted some of the world's most discerning people. Their clients come from diverse walks of life and included a host of distinguished names from Charles Dickens, Frederick Chopin to Charles Darwin. Other notable clients who were past medical luminaries included :

Sir Charles Bell who was the first person to describe the motor and sensory functions of the nerves in the early 19th century.

Sir Astley Panton Cooper who was not only a renowned surgeon but also a brilliant medical lecturer. He received his baronetcy for his successful operation on King George IV.

Dr Sophia Jex-Blake was the first female medical doctor in England and was an ardent campaigner for women doctors

Today, clients are no less diverse ranging from aristocrats to entrepreneurs and professionals.

RBS COUTTS BANK ASIA

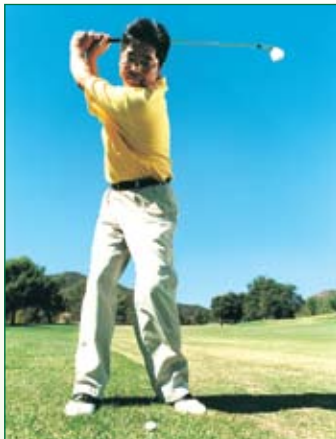
RBS Coutts is represented in Asia by branches of RBS Coutts Bank Ltd in Singapore and Hong Kong. With over 150 private bankers and more than 500 staff in the region, they offer clients a broad spectrum of banking and investment products and services, as well as providing expertise in trust and fiduciary services. Staff place strong emphasis on maintaining confidentiality, understanding the individual needs of clients and delivering performance. This approach, together with the extensive range of wealth management solutions offered to clients in Asia, has been a major factor in the bank's success in the region and offers a firm platform for its expansion.



2008 SMA ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Wednesday, 7 May 2008, from 12.30 pm

Venue: New Course, Singapore Island Country Club



Introducing the inaugural GP vs Specialist Cup in addition to the usual challenge trophies. GPs and Specialists will be paired up to battle it out for the GP vs Specialist Cup.

Besides enjoying your golf game, you can do your part to support two worthy charitable causes. Proceeds from the Golf Tournament will be channeled to:

- The SMA Medical Students Assistance Fund,
- The MOH Nurses Merit Award Fund

With the generous support of RBS Coutts Bank Ltd and other sponsors, you can look forward to:

- substantially reduced registration fees
- goodie bags with attractive door gifts, including polo T-shirts & caps
- snacks & drinks during your game
- attractive winners & lucky draw prizes
- a sumptuous dinner with wine and music
- and last but by no means least, making new friends and meeting old ones.

Do sign up early and encourage your doctor friends to join in this new format SMA Golf Tournament.

Closing Date: Tuesday, 1 April 2008.

Looking forward to see you.

Yours sincerely,

DR CHONG TAT CHONG
Convener & Captain - GP Team

DR GORDON TAN
Deputy Convener & Captain 1 - Specialist Team

Major Sponsor

REPLY-SLIP / REGISTRATION FORM

2008 SMA ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT Wednesday, 7 May 2008, from 12.30 pm Venue: New Course, Singapore Island Country Club

To: The Convener, SMA Golf Tournament 2008

I wish to participate in the 2008 SMA Annual Golf Championship.

Name: Dr / A Prof/ Prof		MCR No:
Address:		
Tel:	Handphone:	Fax:
Email:		
Practice Area: <input type="checkbox"/> GP / Family Medicine		<input type="checkbox"/> Specialist (Specialty: _____)
*SMA Member: Yes / No	*SICC Member: Yes / No	SICC Membership No:
*Senior Golfer: Yes / No	Handicap:	
*Preferred tee-off time: <input type="checkbox"/> 12:30pm – 1:00pm		<input type="checkbox"/> 1:00 pm – 1:30pm
* Do you wish to participate in the Inaugural GP vs Specialist Cup? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
*Staying for Dinner: Yes / No	No. of guests attending dinner: _____ ~ Charges for dinner, if any, will be advised later.	
Support for 2 Charitable causes	More details will be provided in due course.	
Registration Fees (pls tick whichever is applicable)	SMA + SICC Member: \$70	
	SMA + Non SICC Member: \$130	
	Non SMA + SICC Member: \$80	
	Non SMA + Non SICC Member: \$170	
Payment of Registration Fees • Please write your cheque to "Singapore Medical Association" • or provide credit card details.	Bank & Cheque No.	
	Credit Card No. _____	
	CCV2 _____ Expiry Date: _____	
We are sourcing for sponsorship of polo T-Shirts. Please furnish the following information to help us ascertain the size of the T-Shirt for you.		
Height: _____m; Weight: _____ kg;		Usual T shirt Size: M / L / XL / XXL / XXXL
*Please delete whichever is not applicable		

Date: _____

Signature: _____

To: All Registered Medical Practitioners

Dear friends,

THE INAUGURAL SMA GOLF GP-SPECIALIST CUP

This year we aim to answer the age-old question which should have but was not discussed in all the major journals of the world ... are GPs or specialists better golfers?

Hence our GP-Specialist Friendship Cup which is probably a misnomer because after the game friendship could have all but gone out of the window. Why? Because this event will be a 4 ball best ball off the stick event with no handicap allowance. So there will be two teams – one, the GPs and the other, the Specialists.

Three reasons why you may **not** want to participate in this Cup:

1. As it will be a brutal game with no quarter asked and no quarter given, those with faint heart, whose hands shake when standing over a putt with \$2 at stake, better don't play. Your partner may be so engrossed in winning that he will probably not bother to resuscitate you should you develop a cardiac arrest by missing your putt.
2. You cannot choose your playing partner. The Committee in all its infinite wisdom will pair you up with another golfer and it's your bad luck if you don't like his face. Even if he was the examiner who flunked you and gave you a re in your final MBBS exam, you have to play and co-operate with him to thrash the other side.
3. You'd better make sure you turn up on that day even if you have appendicitis because if you don't, your partner will play alone, probably lose and kill you after the game even if you survived the appendicitis. And if he fails, the rest of the team will finish the job!

But do not let the above hypothetical situations put you off. PLEASE SIGN UP IF YOU DARE because

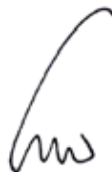
- i. If your team wins [and there is a high 50% possibility of that happening], you can tell your children and grandchildren that you beat the other

side in this inaugural event. As it's a 4 ball best ball, you don't have to mention that you played like a clown and your partner carried you all the way.

- ii. We may be applying for 1 CME point for the losing team and 3 for the winning team, but the way negotiations are going ... to be very honest I doubt that the CME department of the SMC is going to view our application too favourably.
- iii. This competition will run concurrently with the other prizes e.g. best gross and best nett, etc so it will not jeopardize your other chances of winning. This I know is very, very important because let's admit it we're all very "yow kwee" the hole-in-one prize.

So just forget all the above, GPs and specialists, and just sign up for the Cup. Play for your team and play for HONOUR.

Yours sincerely



DR GORDON TAN
Deputy Convener
SMA Golf Tournament 2008

Major Sponsor

