Men struggle, ladies shine on day two

KOTA KINABALU: The men struggled while the ladies shined in the second day of the Sabah Amateur Open championship held at the SGCC Course on Saturday.

Abel Tam from Malaysia Golf Association (MGA) elite squad shot a three over 75 and a two-day total of 149 to share the lead with Filipino John Nelson Joey Huerva who carded a 76.

Muhammad Wafiyuddin of University Utara Malaysia who shot a 77 on the first day carded the day's best for the men with a one under 73 to share joint second spot with overnight leader Paul San who had a difficult outing after carding a seven over 79.

Another MGA elite player Loh Khai Jie and local ace and Sukma-bound Albright Chong who is in the back-up squad also shot 79 on the day with Loh finishing in third place (152) and Albright a shot behind.

Only 22 players made the cut for the final round today including three other State Sukma players, Solomon Emilio Rosidin (155), Fazley Chua (156), Jordan Mobijohn (155).

In the ladies event, Kelly Tan from the MGA elite team surged to the lead with a one under 71 to finish with a two-day total of 145.

The United States-based Kelly was on her way to a three under par until she double bogeyed the 18th and final hole of the day but she will still take a two strokes lead over Filipinas Sunshine Baraquiel and Jaynie Agoyo heading into the final round.

Local favourite Aretha Pan who struggled on the first day bounced back with the day's best score of two under 70 (147) to move to third place four shots behind Kelly.

She told Express Sports afterwards that she had problems with her putting and would have done better, but was generally pleased with the day's score.

Recent SGCC Open winner Diana Tham was two strokes adrift with her two day total of 149.

Only nine ladies made the final cut and the five members' team from Philippines occupied four spots. The other two were Princess Superal and Dottie Ardina in joint third place with Aretha.

The other team mate Lovelyn Guiguio who carded one over 73 in the first round collapsed on the second day with a 10-over 82 and missed the cut.

Defending champion Nur Durriyah Damian also made the final round with her two-day total of 151.