

## COOPER WINS SA AMATEUR

BY STEVE F. BA

Jordan Cooper from the Sanctuary Lakes Golf Club in Victoria is the 2013 South Australian Men's Amateur Champion, after a hard fought win against New South Welshman Troy Moses (Bonnie Doon) in a final that featured four lead changes.

Claiming victory on the 38th hole with a par, Cooper was ecstatic after securing his first major amateur title.

"I came to SA for a good result. I won my first two Whitten event in early February, but I've missed the last seven cuts in national events over the past four months," Cooper said.

The Victorian is the first interstate player to win the SA State Championship since New South Welshman Keith Pix claimed the title in 1951.

"I've done a lot of putting work with Victorian State Coaches Richard Cooney and Marty Joyce over the past few weeks and the hard work has



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paid off, I'm definitely relieved," Cooper added. Cooper started the final well, going 3 up through 9 holes, courtesy of birdies on 8 and 9, before Moses took holes 11, 12, 14 and 15 to go 1 up. Through 18 the players were square.

"I was hitting the ball really solid, a couple of 3 putts hurt, but I was able to get up and down when I needed it," Cooper said.

Moses edged ahead to be 2 up after 27. Cooper squared the ledger with an up and down on the par 3, 12th followed by a birdie four on the 13th.

Heading down the 36th hole all square, Moses landed his approach 15 feet from the pin, while Cooper overshot the green.

After squaring the 37th hole, Cooper landed pin high right, just off the green for two, while Moses landed short, leaving a tricky pitch over the front left bunker.

Moses' third shot landed 15 yards short, while Cooper's deft chip rolled to within a few feet.

Cooper claimed the State Championship after Moses narrowly missed a long putt to save the match.

## SERGIO'S BIZARRE TREE SHOT AND WITHDRAWAL AT BAY HILL

BY SERGIO VIZCARRA

Spain's Sergio Garcia was a bizarre withdrawal from the final round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Garcia's tee shot on the 10th hole somehow came to rest about 15 feet up in an oak tree, sitting between two large branches.

The 33-year old Spaniard then used a motorized cart to jump into the tree to first identify his ball, and after a few minutes, hit a one-handed, back-handed shot back to the fairway, before jumping some 8 feet back to the ground.

William McGirt was playing his shot from the fairway bunker on the other side and had no idea

what Garcia was doing.

"I knew they were looking around the tree," he said. "I looked over and Sergio is up in the air, and I'm trying to figure out what in the hell he's going to do."

"He called for a club. He's hugging the tree. And the ball comes flying out. Are you kidding me?"

However two holes later and with Garcia at five over par, the horn sounded the impending mini-tornado.

Garcia then handed his scorecard to McGirt and said, "I'm out of here." Garcia earlier had taken a 9 on the par-5 sixth hole.



PGA TOUR

## WOODS DATING SKIING CHAMP LINDSEY VONN

BY BERNIE MCGUIRE

Former world number one Tiger Woods has confirmed he and US Olympic skiing champ Lindsey Vonn are dating.

The couple made the announcement on their Facebook pages, posting the first pictures of themselves together.

The news comes after several weeks of speculation about their relationship despite Woods arranging for his private jet to be flown to Austria and returned the injured Vonn back home to the States.

Then there was pictures of the two taken during the recent WGC - Cadillac Championship when the pair spent time together on Woods' yacht Privacy.

The 37-year old Woods wrote on his Facebook page: "Something nice that's happened off the course was meeting Lindsey Vonn. Lindsey and I have been friends for some time, but over the last few months we have become very close and are now dating."

Writing on her own page, Ms Vonn said: "I guess it wasn't a well-kept secret but yes, I am dating Tiger Woods."

Ms Vonn, 28, is regarded as one of the premier skier of her generation, having won gold at the 2010 winter Olympics and several world championships.

