

congratulations adam

SANCTUARY COVE GOLFER, ADAM SCOTT, HAS CREATED MASTERS HISTORY BY BECOMING THE FIRST EVER AUSTRALIAN TO WIN THE COVETED GREEN JACKET.

WORDS PAUL PRENDERGAST MAIN PHOTOGRAPH MARK BURGIN



“It fell my way today. It was incredible ... I’m a proud Australian and I hope this sits really well back at home.” – ADAM SCOTT

The Holy Grail of Australian golf has at last been conquered.

Three proud Australians – Jason Day, Marc Leishman and Adam Scott – gave it their all over the final round of the 2013 Masters Tournament at Augusta National but in the end, it was 32-year-old Adam who was left standing the tallest of all – winning his initial Major championship and becoming the first Australian to win the coveted Green Jacket.

With the weight of a nation on his shoulders, Adam sank a 3.5 metre birdie putt on the second playoff hole to win the 77th Masters Tournament. His opponent, Argentina’s Angel Cabrera was gallant in defeat.

The release of tension and sheer jubilation was obvious in the normally mild-mannered Scott, who had earlier screamed ‘C’mon Aussie’, when his birdie putt on the final green appeared to seal victory.

“I don’t know how that happened,” Adam said in the immediate aftermath in the Butler Cabin. “It seems a long way away from a couple of years ago here and even last July [at the Open Championship] when I was trying to win another Major. It fell my way today. It was incredible. It’s incredible to be in this position.”

And in the understatement of the year, “I’m a proud Australian and I hope this sits really well back at home.”

Did it ever? When the winning putt fell, a nation roared with Adam as he thrust his arms into the air, shaking with emotion, and mirroring how millions of fans, particularly those at his home course at Sanctuary Cove, were feeling at that exact same moment.

Duncan Forrest, Club Captain of the Sanctuary Cove Golf & Country Club, congratulated Adam on his magnificent victory at Augusta.

“I think it was probably the most exciting sporting finale I have ever witnessed and how Adam remained so composed and in control

was extraordinary,” Duncan said. “He is a great ambassador for the game of golf and of course our golf club.

“Adam’s win at the Masters is arguably the biggest thing to happen to Sanctuary Cove since the opening. The interest Adam has generated for our facility has been enormous and hopefully we can all benefit from that. To cap it off as a thanks to all the members at the golf club, Adam ‘shouted the bar’ on the Saturday after the event – a lovely gesture from overseas.”

Former Sanctuary Cove resident Ian Baker-Finch, in commentary for CBS, was almost too choked for words. He was not alone as Adam and Australia were at last dealt a kind hand at Augusta.

“Greg Norman inspired a nation of golfers,” said Adam of his idol, admitting he had cried as a six-year-old when Larry Mize denied Norman in 1987. “He was an icon in Australia. He’s devoted so much time to myself and other young Australian golfers who came after him.”

Adam and Angel finished at a 9-under-par 279, with the Australian holing from 5.5 metres out on the 72nd hole to take the lead and, seemingly, claim the win he had been craving his whole life. However, Cabrera had watched this unfold from the fairway and responded with the mark of a champion, hitting a nerveless 8 iron to within one metre for birdie to force a playoff.

Both players parred the first extra hole and defied the pressure of the moment to hit marvellous approach shots to the 10th green. Angel putted first and narrowly missed on the high side, allowing Scott to seal his place in history by pouring his 3.5 metre birdie putt into the hole to ignite the celebrations.

At home in Florida, Norman had been pacing the room and had even hit the gym as play unfolded, so tense was he as the three Australians in contention tried to do what he could not despite his best endeavours.

“I can imagine how everyone else felt when I was playing,” he quipped.

Greg admitted that Adam’s victory had brought a tear to his eye, knowing the burden of expectation placed on him during the tournament.

“He probably had more pressure on him today than any other player on the planet because he was playing for the millions of people in Australia,” Greg said. “I’m very, very proud of him. I was a very proud stepfather in a way.”

In typical Australian fashion, Adam said that he hoped to sit down for a beer with the Shark to share this crowning achievement with him.

Back home on the Gold Coast, Adam’s childhood mates got a head start on the celebrations after superstitiously deciding not to watch the action together, as they had done when he lost at Lytham in the Open Championship last year.

Adam’s father Phil was in Augusta to share the moment with his son but mother Pam and sister Casie had to endure the tension at home. When the final putt dropped, their leap for joy was perhaps just that bit higher than the rest of their countrymen.

“We were sitting on the bed all morning from four o’clock and couldn’t contain ourselves. It was just such a relief,” Pam said, before moving on to celebrate with the crowd that had gathered at the Sanctuary Cove Golf & Country Club.

For Australians, this win ranks with such seminal sporting moments as Cadel Evans’ win at the Tour de France and even Cathy Freeman’s gold medal performance at the 2000 Olympics.

It was inevitable that an Australian would one day win the Masters but who it might have been, and when it might happen, are the questions we’ve pondered for decades.

In the end, it was Adam Scott who would step up to the plate to provide Australian golf fans with perhaps the greatest Monday of our lives. ●