

**For Immediate Release**

## **LAGUNA NATIONAL GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB TO HOST 'THE CHAMPIONSHIP'**

Laguna National Golf and Country Club in Singapore was today named as the new venue for The Championship from May 1-4, 2014.

It marks a return to the island country for The European Tour and the Asian Tour, which co-sanctioned the Singapore Masters there in the six years between 2002 and 2007 and the Singapore Open from 2009 to 2012.

It also marks a return of top level professional golf to the Masters Course at Laguna National, an Andy Dye design which has regularly been ranked among the top courses in the world by Golf Digest International and Asian Golf Monthly, and one which has garnered a host of awards through the years.

The Championship at Laguna National – formerly the Ballantine's Championship – was originally scheduled to be played in Korea next month but when staging issues made it clear that was not going to be possible, tournament organisers acted quickly and decisively to move the tournament to Singapore.

As originally planned, a field of 156 players will battle it out for the lion's share of a US\$1.5 million prize fund, while television pictures of the spectacular Laguna National Golf and Country Club will be beamed to a potential television audience of over 450 million homes in 60 countries. The field will consist of players from Europe, Asia, Korea and Singapore.

Keith Waters, Chief Operating Officer and Director of International Policy for The European Tour, said: "We are delighted to announce that The Championship will be played at the Laguna National Golf and Country Club in Singapore, a venue we have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with in the past and one that I know our members will enjoy returning to next month.

"It shows the strength of our relationship with Laguna National that they have been able to help us out at relatively short notice and we would therefore like to put on record our thanks to owner Peter Kwee and all his staff for their assistance."

Kyi Hla Han, Chairman, Asian Tour, said: "It is wonderful news that The Championship will now be staged at Laguna National. Singapore golf fans will enjoy having a major tournament back in the country and we look forward to co-sanctioning it with The European Tour. It will be fantastic for the finest players from both Tours to compete alongside Singapore's best golfers once again."

Peter Kwee, owner of Laguna National Golf and Country Club, said: "We have always valued our relationship with The European Tour, The Asian Tour and PMG, and are pleased to pledge our support for the event. Our expansion and upgrading plans, which are now underway, include a five-star branded resort hotel and full upgrading of the clubhouse and amenities. Nurturing and hosting of a European Tour event is a significant part of our long term commitment to growth at the Club."

David Ciclitira, Chairman of tournament promoters Parallel Media Group, said: "I would like to thank Laguna National Golf and Country Club for its tremendous support. We look forward to working with Laguna National again to hold the event on their fantastic golf course and hope this marks a new era of professional golf, at its highest level, in Singapore. Further event sponsors will be announced shortly.

With the Championship aiming to return to Korea in 2015, the event continues to feature both Korean players and to be extensively broadcast in Korea."

This year's champion will join an eclectic mix of former winners of the event which includes former US Open champion Graeme McDowell, Thongchai Jaidee and Marcus Fraser, who all won at Pinx Golf Club on Jeju Island; and former European Tour Number One Lee Westwood, Bernd Wiesberger and Brett Rumford who all triumphed at Blackstone Golf Club near Seoul.

Former winners of the Singapore Masters at Laguna National Golf and Country Club include eight time European Tour Number One Colin Montgomerie, Nick Dougherty, Arjun Atwal, the Chinese duo of Zhang Lian-wei and Liang Wen-chong and Singapore's own Mardan Mamat.

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**About The European Tour**

The European Tour is committed to celebrating the game of golf from the origins of the professional game, building a proud history of achievement, sportsmanship and integrity as well as showcasing our diverse global talent and rich landscapes. The European Tour's innovative approach enables us to embrace the world, combining championships of tradition with new tournaments in the cities and countries of the future. The European Tour International Schedule, which from 2009 has incorporated The Race to Dubai, is a thriving global brand which, in 2014 will feature a minimum of 48 tournaments spread across all five continents of the world; the European Challenge Tour focuses on the up and coming players of the future; while the European Senior Tour provides a new start for champions celebrating their 50th birthday. The European Tour's corporate identity features the

iconic silhouette image of six-time Open Champion Harry Vardon who gives his name to The Harry Vardon Trophy, presented to the player who is crowned European Tour Number One and winner of The Race to Dubai at the end of the season.

### **About The Asian Tour**

As the official sanctioning body for professional golf in Asia, the Asian Tour leads the development of golf across the region, enhancing the careers of its members while maintaining a commitment to the integrity of the game. The Asian Tour, through its membership of the International Federation of PGA Tours, is the only recognised pan-Asian professional golf tour in Asia. This unique feature positions the Asian Tour at the pinnacle of professional golf in Asia; providing its events with Official World Ranking status. Tour Partners include Abacus (Official Apparel Partner), Inetol Headwear (Official Headwear Sponsor), Oakley (Official Eyewear and Footwear Sponsor), Saxo Capital Markets (Official Statistics Partner), Singha Beer (Official Beer), Srixon (Official Ball), Subway (Official Quick Service Restaurant) and Rolex (Official Timekeeper). The Asian Tour has offices in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. Also, visit us at [www.asiantour.com](http://www.asiantour.com), [www.facebook.com/asiantourgolf](https://www.facebook.com/asiantourgolf), [www.twitter.com/asiantourgolf](https://www.twitter.com/asiantourgolf), [www.youtube.com/theasiantour](https://www.youtube.com/theasiantour) and [www.weibo.com/asiantourgolf](http://www.weibo.com/asiantourgolf).

### **About Parallel Media Group**

Parallel Media Group plc is a leading communications agency specialising in Sport, Entertainment and Media. Founded in 1987 by its Chairman David Ciclitira and listed on the London Stock Exchange's AIM since 2001. During its 27 years of experience, Parallel Media Group has promoted over 45 events on the European Tour. Parallel Media Group aims to provide its clients with world class professional service, combining local market knowledge with international business expertise to deliver a new vision for sport.

### **About Laguna National Golf & Country Club**

A prominent golf club in the local and regional golf scene since its inauguration in 1993, Laguna National is one of Singapore's premier golf and country clubs offering two eighteen-hole championship courses. A private Members' Club, it also hosts corporate events through invitation and reference only, and offers food and beverage options as well as tennis facilities. Laguna National is elevating its game with a multi-million dollar facelift, which includes a full redesign and upgrade of the existing clubhouse. The construction of a branded boutique resort hotel is underway, with target completion at the end of 2015. Upon its launch, Laguna National will boast a state-of-the-art union of a world-class golf club, and 206-room and villa branded resort hotel with full facilities including a spa, a driving range, and a fitness center.

Over the years, Laguna National has won various local and international accolades. Its two eighteen-hole championship courses, namely World Classic and Masters Courses, have hosted Tiger Woods, Ernie Els, Colin Montgomerie, Nick Dougherty and Vijay Singh. The Masters Course served as home for the European Tour's Singapore Masters from 2002 through 2007. The Club has since solidified its reputation further by receiving Tiger Woods on its World Classic Course for a private event during his maiden visit to Singapore in November 2011. In November 2012 Laguna National hosted the first ever overseas Korean LPGA Tour event and the inaugural Prudential Causeway Trophy in June 2013. The Prudential Causeway Trophy continues its second edition at Laguna National's World Classic Course in June 2014.

### **About The Masters Course**

The award-winning Masters Course is best known for hosting world class golfers such as Ernie Els, Colin Montgomerie, Nick Dougherty and Vijay Singh. From 2002 through 2007, the Masters Course served as host of the European Tour's Singapore Masters.

Ranked amongst the top courses in the world by Golf Digest International and Asian Golf Monthly, the Masters Course is characterised by a beautiful parkland landscape as it administers a stern test of golf. The Masters Course is over 7109 yards from the Championship Tees with a par of 72. The course rating is 74.0 and has a slope rating of 144.

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