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PAST CHAMPIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN MAYBANK MALAYSIAN OPEN 2011

Noh Seung-yul aims to successfully defend his title

Kuala Lumpur, 31 March 2011 – Noh Seung-yul will back to defend the Maybank Malaysian Open title next month and will be joined by former champions, Anthony Kang, Thongchai Jaidee, Peter Hedblom and Alastair Forsyth come 14-17 April at the Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club.

South Korea's Noh became the youngest ever player to win the Asian Tour Order of Merit last season, at the age of 19 years and 204 days. The catalyst for this success was his win at last year's edition of the Malaysian Open where, at the time, he became the second youngest golfer to claim a win on The European Tour. Noh's 2011 season was on the up-and-up when he recently qualified for his first WGC- Accenture Match Play Championship as one of the top 64 players in the Official World Golf Ranking.

"The first time playing in Malaysia, I had to adjust to the scorching weather. This time around, I have prepared myself mentally and psychically to withstand the heat, in hopes to win the Maybank Malaysian Open title for the second time in my career. The first win for me was meaningful because I had the opportunity to not only win on Malaysian soil but also defeat an idol of mine, K.J Choi. This time around it'll be for my parents who have dedicated their time to follow me to Malaysia," said Noh.

Korean-American Anthony Kang, who triumphed in 2009, will be back to play in the 2011 edition. Kang ended an eight-year title drought with a birdie on the 72nd hole two years ago. It was a third career victory which subsequently catapulted him to third on the Asian Tour Order of Merit. In 2010 he posted two Top 20 finishes to end the season in 13th place on the Tour's Order of Merit.





World renowned Thai golfer and former double Malaysian Open champion Thongchai Jaidee will lead the Asian challenge in the 156-strong field. Thongchai claimed three Asian Tour Order of Merit titles as well as 13 wins on the Tour alone. He became the only golfer to achieve this feat on the Asian Tour. He also became the first Thai to play in a Major at the 2001 US Open at Southern Hills where he tied for 74th and subsequently became the first Thai to play in all four Majors. The 41 year old has four career European Tour titles to his name and in 2004 he became the first Thai golfer to win an event on The European Tour with his victory at the Malaysian Open. He successfully defended that title in 2005.

Aside from Thongchai, another veteran, Sweden's Peter Hedblom has also confirmed participation. A member of The European Tour for over 20 years, the 41 year old picked up his first win at the 1996 Moroccan Open and went on to represent Sweden in the Dunhill Cup at St Andrews in that same year. In 2007 he took a huge leap forward by claiming his second victory at the Malaysian Open after shooting a final round of 68 to come from a seven shot deficit. He continued his good form with three top ten finishes in 2008 and secured the Johnnie Walker Championship at Gleneagles in the same year.

Scotland's Alastair Forsyth is looking for his first European Tour win since his success in the Madeira Islands Open BPI in Portugal back in 2008. He came close to claiming a third Tour title, but eventually finished tied for second at the Estoril Open de Portugal in that same year. The 35 year old Scot's first career title on The European Tour was obtained at the 2002 Malaysian Open.

Major winners Louis Oosthuizen and Martin Kaymer, who is currently ranked Number One on the Official World Golf Ranking, have also confirmed their participation. Oosthuizen and Kaymer will be joined by South Africa's Charl Schwartzel and Ireland's Rory McIlroy.

This year, the tournament reaches a milestone as it celebrates its 50th edition as some of the world's best golfers gather to compete at the renowned Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club from the 14th to 17th April 2011.





Making history as the first ever co-sanctioned tournament in Asia by both the European and Asian Tours in 1999, the Maybank Malaysian Open 2011 will feature top players from the rankings of both these world-leading circuits to make up the 156-player line-up.

Points earned at the Maybank Malaysian Open 2011 will go towards the Asian Tour Order of Merit, and will also add to the player's 2011 Race to Dubai Ranking, granting them a chance to qualify for the season-ending Dubai World Championship.

A star-studded field is expected at the 50th edition of the Maybank Malaysian Open, with the Malaysian professionals competing with some of the world's best players for the championship title. With a USD 2.5 million prize purse up on offer, spectators can expect an exciting tournament this April. The four-day co-sanctioned event will take place at the West Course of the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club from 14th - 17th April 2011.

END

Past winners of the Malaysian Open

YEAR	WINNER	VENUE
2010	Noh Seung-Yul (Korea)	Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club
2009	Anthony Kang (USA)	Saujana Golf & Country Club
2008	Arjun Atwal (India)	Kota Permai Golf & Country Club
2007	Peter Hedblom (Sweden)	Saujana Golf & Country Club
2006	Charlie Wi (Korea)	Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club
2005	Thongchai Jaidee (Thailand)	Saujana Golf & Country Club
2004	Thongchai Jaidee (Thailand)	Saujana Golf & Country Club
2003	Arjun Atwal (India)	The Mines Golf Resort
2002	Alastair Forsyth (Scotland)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
2001	Vijay Singh (Fiji)	Saujana Golf & Country Club



2000	Yeh Wei-Tze (Taipei)	Templer Park Country Club
1999	Gerry Norquist (USA)	Saujana Golf & Country Club
1998	Ed Fryatt (United Kingdom)	Saujana Golf & Country Club
1997	Lee Westwood (England)	Saujana Golf & Country Club
1996	Steve Flesch (USA)	Templer Park Country Club
1995	Clay Devers (USA)	Templer Park Country Club
1994	Joakim Haeggman (Sweden)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1993	Gerry Norquist (USA)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1992	Vijay Singh (Fiji)	Bukit Jambul Country Club
1991	Rick Gibson (Canada)	Kelab Golf Negara Subang
1990	Glen Day (USA)	Royal Perak Golf Club
1989	Jeff Maggert (USA)	Ayer Keroh Country Club
1988	Tray Tyner (USA)	Saujana Golf & Country Club
1987	Terry Gale (AUS)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1986	Stewart Ginn (AUS)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1985	Terry Gale (AUS)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1984	Lu Hsi Chuen (Chinese Taipei)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1983	Terry Gale (AUS)	Kelab Golf Negara Subang
1982	Denny Helper (USA)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1981	Lu Chien Soon (Chinese Taipei)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1980	Mark McNulty (United Kingdom)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1979	Lu Hsi Chuen (Chinese Taipei)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1978	Brian Jones (AUS)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1977	Stewart Ginn (AUS)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1976	Hsu Sheng San (Chinese Taipei)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1975	Graham Marsh (AUS)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1974	Graham Marsh (AUS)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1973	Hideyo Sugimoto (JPN)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1972	Takashi Murakami (JPN)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1971	Takaaki Kono (JPN)	Royal Selangor Golf Club



1970	Ben Arda (PHIL)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1969	Takaaki Kono (JPN)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1968	Kenji Hosoishi (JPN)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1967	Ireneo Legaspi (PHIL)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1966	Harold Henning (South Africa)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1965	Tommo Ishii (JPN)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1964	Tommo Ishii (JPN)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1963	Bill Dunk (AUS)	Royal Selangor Golf Club
1962	Frank Phillips (AUS)	Royal Selangor Golf Club

About Maybank

Maybank was incorporated on 31 May 1960 and commenced operations on 12 September 1960. On 17 February 1962, Maybank was listed on the then Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (today Bursa Malaysia).

The Maybank Group is the country's leading financial services group with an international network of over 1,750 branches and offices in 14 countries namely, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, People's Republic of China, Bahrain, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, United Kingdom and United States of America.

The Group offers a comprehensive range of financial services and products ranging from commercial banking, investment banking, Islamic banking, credit cards, offshore banking, leasing and hire purchase, insurance, factoring, trustee services, asset management, stock broking, nominee services, venture capital and Internet banking.

In December 2005, Maybank signed on as the Title Sponsor of the country's premier golf tournament, the Malaysian Open from 2006 until 2010.

Website: www.maybank.com



About the Malaysian Golf Association

Founded in 1929, the Malaysian Golf Association (MGA) as the sole governing body of golf in Malaysia has been entrusted to promote the game while preserving its traditions and integrity.

It's a non-government organization that runs by volunteers who are passionate about the game with the help of a team of management staff.

The Association's portfolios have increased over the years ranging from conducting 14 state amateur opens, national amateur open, national amateur close, Malaysian Open to processing handicaps through its National Handicap System to promoting grassroots programs and training of the athletes to represent Malaysia in the international events.

We take our responsibilities seriously in promoting the game in Malaysia while simultaneously upholding the Rules of Golf as prescribed by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews (R&A).

About the European Tour

The PGA European Tour, a company limited by guarantee, operates a broad range of business initiatives essential to its primary mission of administering professional tournament golf. It is a unique business which generates profits for the benefit of the Members – the tournament players – who receive their dividends by way of competing and winning prize money.

The European Tour International Schedule, which from 2009 incorporated the inaugural Race to Dubai, is a thriving global brand; the European Challenge Tour focuses on the future; and 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 and a world skyline graphic depicting many of the geographical elements built into The 2011 Race to Dubai, featuring a minimum of 50 tournaments in 29 destinations.





George O’Grady, the Chief Executive of The European Tour, heads the administration staff of 155 based at headquarters in Wentworth, Surrey, with a Board of Directors comprising 12 elected past and present Tour Members and a Tournament Committee of 15 players.

The present Board is: Neil Coles MBE (Chairman), Angel Gallardo (Vice-Chairman), Maurice Bembridge, Paul Eales, Chris Hanell, David Jones, Robert Lee, John O’Leary, Mark Roe, David J Russell, Ove Sellberg and Jamie Spence.

The present Tournament Committee comprises: Thomas Björn (Chairman), Paul Casey, Darren Clarke, Gonzalo Fernandez-Castaño, Richard Finch, Joakim Haeggman, David Howell, Raphaël Jacquelin, Miguel Angel Jiménez, Robert Karlsson, Barry Lane, Paul Lawrie MBE, Paul McGinley, Colin Montgomerie OBE and Henrik Stenson.

The growth and development of The European Tour is well documented. In 2010 The European Tour International Schedule consisted of 48 tournaments in 27 destinations with prize money of €132,204,838 compared to a total prize fund of €350,000 when the Tour was born in 1972. The European Challenge Tour and the European Senior Tour had prize funds of €4,826,454 and €9,078,267 respectively in 2010. The European Challenge Tour consisted of 25 tournaments in 18 countries and the European Senior Tour 20 tournaments in 15 countries.

The funds drawn from sponsors and suppliers, television and ticket sales, hospitality and governments, support a thriving international community in which The European Tour actively promotes the game at all levels.

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 J.Lindeberg (Official Apparel Partner), Ricoh (Official Office Solutions Provider), Inetol Headwear (Official Headwear Supplier), Royal Selangor (Official Trophy Supplier), Singha Beer (Official Beer), Pan Pacific (Official Hotel), BlackBerry (Official Mobile) and Srixon (Official Ball). The Asian Tour has offices in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore

About GlobalOne

GlobalOne is an executive lifestyle sports marketing consultancy founded in 1987 and works with sports governing bodies, broadcasters, commercial sponsors and other partners to create effective sports properties and events that deliver on the bottom-line. Our extensive experience blankets executive lifestyle sports marketing as well as media marketing which spans across all sports, cultures and geographies.

GlobalOne serves an expanding stable of prestigious Asia-Pacific clients through a network offices in Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Indonesia. We have in the past created partnerships in golf, motor racing, sailing, tennis, rugby, skiing, athletics, basketball, cycling and skiing. Today, GlobalOne's primary focus and area of sports rights ownership is professional golf.

GlobalOne currently stages two highly successful tournaments in Asia – the Maybank Malaysian Open and the Enjoy Jakarta Astro Indonesia Open – all of which enjoy European Tour and Asian Tour co-sanctioning. Over the past six years, GlobalOne has promoted a total of 21 events, all co-sanctioned by the European and Asian Tours, with total prize money in excess of US\$20 million. GlobalOne has also staged the first World Cup of Golf in Asia, at China's Mission Hills in 1995, and a second World Cup of Golf event in Kuala Lumpur in 1999.

For more information, log onto www.maybankmalaysianopen.com

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