

Lorena Ochoa wins Ricoh Women's British Open



World number one Lorena Ochoa described her joy after her wait for her first Major title ended with victory in the Ricoh Women's British Open on Sunday. "It's been a blessing just the whole way, and a long way, too; 24 majors and finally I have this here and I think it's for a reason and I couldn't be more happy," she said.

The Mexican finished at five-under-par for the tournament, four shots clear of Sweden's Maria Hjorth and South Korean Jee Young Lee. It was her fourth victory of the year and she becomes the first ever winner of a professional women's tournament at St Andrews, Scotland.

"I have been waiting for a long time to be here (on the winner's podium)," she said, after being greeted on the 18th green by her father, Javier. "It was my time."

Ochoa immediately set her sights on future goals, but admitted that playing on the men's tour was not one of them. "Right now, I just love where I am and I prefer to dominate what I'm going to do so there's no need for reason for me to prove," she said.

"I think that there is always, you know, higher goals. "After last year and then this year being ranked No. 1 in the world, that was my goal at the end of the season to finish No. 1 in the Money List and to finish No. 1 in the World Ranking. "But at the same time, you always want to improve."

Annika defends the Scandinavian TPC



There will be a distinctive Swedish atmosphere at this week's Scandinavian TPC Hosted by Annika from 9-12th August – and not just because the event takes place at Barseback G&CC in Sweden.

Almost a quarter of the 132 players in the field will come from Sweden, all hoping to follow in the footsteps of former World number one Sorenstam – a six time winner of the tournament.

The 84-time tournament champion will be joined by compatriots including Sophie Gustafson, Catrin Nilsmark, Maria Hjorth, Cecilia Ekelundh, Carin Koch and Linda Wessberg. Meanwhile, her younger sister Charlotta will also feature, along with United States players Brittany Lincicome, Laura Diaz and Stacy Prammanasudh.

Six Swedish amateur players are in the field: Anna Nordqvist, Caroline Westrup, Pernilla Lindberg, Karin Kinnerud, Caroline Hedwall and Jacqueline Hedwall.

Imrie and Matthew endorse junior golf programme



The excitement surrounding the first professional women's golf tournament to be played on the Old Course, St Andrews, is helping to prompt the rearing of a new breed of young female Scottish golfers.

Scotland's national junior golf strategy, 'clubgolf', hopes to double the number of girls playing golf – and is recruiting some of the country's biggest sporting stars to help them.

Kathryn Imrie and Catriona Matthew, Scots who play on both the Ladies European Tour and the Ladies Professional Golf Association, have endorsed the programme.

Clubgolf volunteer coaches and professional golfers helped run a series of clinics at the Ricoh Women's British Open last week, with more sessions due to take place throughout Scotland this summer. "Until recently, nobody had ever asked girls what they would like from the game," said Audra Booth, clubgolf's Grampian Regional Manager.

Home-grown talent Catriona Matthew added: "Even when I played as a girl, there were very few girl members and it's happening in the UK in general, not just in Scotland."

It was revealed in 2005 that only 2,700 girls played golf in Scotland, while in Sweden – a country almost twice the size of Scotland – the number of girls playing stood at more than 22,000.

"It's something that we need to try and change and it's very encouraging to see that clubgolf is getting girls interested and giving them the chance to play," Matthew said.

More than 25,000 children have taken part in the clubgolf programme this year, with girls making up around half of that number.

Rolex World Rankings

Rolex World Rankings as of 30th July 2007

1. Lorena Ochoa MEX
2. Karrie Webb AUS
3. Annika Sorenstam SWE
4. Cristie Kerr USA
5. Se-Ri Pak KOR



For further information please see the Rolex Rankings on www.ladieseuropeantour.com

Volvo Cross Country Challenge begins in Sweden



One of the most potentially-lucrative competitions in world golf will get underway this week, as the Ladies European Tour heads to Scandinavia.

The Volvo Cross Country Challenge sees points awarded to those competing in the four Scandinavian events on the LET leading up to The Solheim Cup.

The first leg takes place at the Scandinavian TPC Hosted by Annika at Barseback G&CC this week.

The second leg is the SAS Masters in Norway from August 24-26, followed by the Finnair Masters in Finland from August 31 – September 2, and the Nykredit Masters in Denmark from September 6-9.

Although each tournament has its own prize fund, a \$1,000,000 bonus is on offer to any LET member who can win all four tournaments.

A further \$150,000 will be distributed amongst the top ten players on the final Volvo XC Challenge Order-of-Merit, while a Volvo XC70 is also given to the winner.

Only LET members can qualify for the Volvo XCC Order of Merit and they must have competed in at least three of the four tournaments to qualify. England's Laura Davies won last year's Volvo XC Challenge after strong results in Scandinavia including a victory at the SAS Masters in Norway and a runner-up spot at the Nykredit Masters in Denmark.



NEW STAR MONEYLIST 2007

following the Ricoh Women's British Open

#	Name	€	Played
1	Maria Hjorth	167,352.54	5
2	Trish Johnson	165,511.50	12
3	Bettina Hauert	136,872.10	12
4	Gwladys Nocera	134,085.97	13
5	Linda Wessberg	129,761.55	7
6	Becky Brewerton	122,232.60	12
7	Nikki Garrett	107,394.82	12
8	Paula Marti	97,990.65	11
9	Sophie Giquel	83,703.65	11
10	Annika Sorenstam	82,669.70	2



THE 2007 SOLHEIM CUP STANDINGS

following the Ricoh Women's British Open

#	Name	Pts;	Played
1	Gwladys Nocera	244.00	29
2	Trish Johnson	141.15	27
3	Laura Davies	125.00	16
4	Becky Brewerton	115.25	27
5	Linda Wessberg	105.33	24



RYDER CUP WALES ROOKIE OF THE YEAR 2007

following the Ricoh Women's British Open

#	Name	€	Played
1	Louise Stahle	52,089.66	10
2	Amy Yang	22,180.47	7
3	Anna Rossi	21,197.00	8
4	Jade Schaeffer	18,096.85	9
5	Cassandra Kirkland	14,930.16	9



Stroke Averages

following the Ricoh Women's British Open

#	Name	Avg	Rounds
1	Becky Brewerton	71.90	42
2	Gwladys Nocera	71.95	44
3	Sarah Kemp	71.97	37
4	Linda Wessberg	72.15	26
5	Minea Blomqvist	72.29	14



Total Number of Eagles

following the Ricoh Women's British Open

#	Name	Eagles	Rounds
1	Bettina Hauert	7	37
2=	Virginie Lagoutte-Clement	6	45
2=	Nikki Garrett	6	39
2=	Sarah Kemp	6	37
5=	Ludivine Kreutz	5	41
5=	Karen Lunn	5	36
5=	Kirsty Taylor	5	30



Total Number of Holes in One

following the Ricoh Women's British Open

#	Name	Total	Rounds
1=	Virginie Lagoutte-Clement	1	45
1=	Rebecca Coakley	1	43
1=	Lisa Hall	1	39
1=	Sarah Kemp	1	37
1=	Elisabeth Esterl	1	30
1=	Anna Rossi	1	26
1=	Ellen Smets	1	25
1=	Cassandra Kirkland	1	25



Total Strokes above/below Par

following the Ricoh Women's British Open

#	Name	-Par+	Rounds
1	Becky Brewerton	-8	42
2	Gwladys Nocera	-6	44
3	Sarah Kemp	-3	37



Total Number of Birdies

following the Ricoh Women's British Open

#	Name	Birdies	Rounds
1	Gwladys Nocera	150	44
2	Becky Brewerton	147	42
3	Trish Johnson	135	39
4=	Virginie Lagoutte-Clement	126	45
4=	Rebecca Hudson	126	41



Average Number of Birdies per Round

following the Ricoh Women's British Open

#	Name	Avg	Rounds
1=	Sophie Gustafson	3.75	8
1=	Mhairi McKay	3.75	4
3	Linda Wessberg	3.73	26
4	Kaisa Ruuttila	3.71	7
5	Becky Brewerton	3.50	42

Sponsors



