

Final qualifying event for The European Solheim Cup Team in Wales



The wait is almost over and the excitement is reaching its climax – but for those players wishing to compete in The 2007 Solheim Cup at Halmstad, Sweden, this week represents the last chance to impress before the squad to face the US team is announced.

Next week, on August 21, European Team captain Helen Alfredsson will unveil her three 'captain's picks' at 12pm in Sweden. They will accompany those five players already included on Solheim Cup points' and the four who have qualified via the Rolex World Rankings. Alfredsson has been given plenty of opportunity to take a look at those looking to make her squad. Last week, the Swede travelled home to the Scandinavian TPC to get a closer look at some of the contenders.

The Wales Ladies Championship of Europe will offer those vying for a place one final shot at earning enough Solheim Cup points to take them to Sweden for next month's biennial match play tournament. And with plenty still to be decided, there is even more incentive for players to target a victory at this week's tournament.

Brewerton aiming to secure her Solheim Cup standing



WALES' Becky Brewerton is hoping that the home crowds will help her secure a place in the European Solheim Cup Team when she takes part in this week's S4C Wales Ladies Championship of Europe. The tournament will offer players one final chance to impress European Team captain Helen Alfredsson before she names her squad on August 21, and Brewerton is hoping she will do enough to get in.

"I can't deny that The Solheim Cup has been on the back of my mind," said the 24-year-old, who won her maiden LET title – the Ladies English Open – in July. "It's still hard to say about the ranking. I'm sure we will still see a few twists and turns. It's nice obviously to have the last event on my home soil. Probably all the home crowds will be behind me."

Meanwhile, there is still chance to grab the remaining tickets for this year's Solheim Cup, which will take place at the Halmstad Golf Club, Sweden, from September 14-16. And with crowds expected to swell to beyond 80,000 people, those wanting tickets to the biennial trans-Atlantic event have been encouraged to visit <https://solheimcup.evitbe.com> in order to avoid disappointment.

What's in the bag, Annika Sorenstam?



"Some of these clubs – we go way back; we have a lot of memories together. I'm one of those players who really doesn't change their clubs too often. If I find something I like, I stick to it. I think the key to golf is confidence. And if you change clubs a lot you really don't know how far you hit them. The last thing I want to worry about when I'm on the 18th hole is "I've only had this nine-iron for two weeks. Does it work?" I need to trust it. That's why I don't change very much. I do a lot of testing at Callaway. I'm happy to try clubs for them, but once I find something I like, I tend to stick to it."

Clubs – a mixture of new and older Callaway models – include: **Driver:** FT3 Fusion, 8.5 degrees. **Woods:** 4-wood and 7-wood. **Irons:** X18s – 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. **Wedges:** 60°, 54°, 48°, pitching wedge. **Putter:** two-ball blade putter. Balls: HX Tour.

Rolex World Rankings

Rolex World Rankings as of 13th August 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

Matthew leads Volvo Cross Country Challenge

Scotland's Catriona Matthew has taken the early lead in the Volvo Cross Country Challenge (Volvo XC Challenge) following her victory at the Scandinavian TPC Hosted by Annika.



The Volvo Cross Country Challenge sees points awarded to those competing in four Scandinavian events between August and September. The competition is open to any member of the Ladies European Tour who has competed in three of the four contributing events. Points are also awarded at the SAS Masters in Norway from August 24-26, 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 for any LET member who wins all of the four Volvo XC Challenge tournaments in a season. A further \$150,000 is 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.

England's Laura Davies won the Volvo Cross Country Challenge in 2006, while Cecilia Ekelundh was the inaugural winner in 2005. The 2007 champion will be announced at the conclusion of the Nykredit Masters in Denmark, on Sunday 9th September.

The 18 Finest by Banque Baring Brothers Sturdza SA

The next stage of **The 18 Finest** will take place at the Machynys Golf and Country Club in Wales this week, as players compete for the €55,000 top prize. The 'virtual golf course' competition, which is sponsored by Banque Baring Brothers Sturdza SA, selects 18 of the finest holes from nine of the courses on the LET circuit to comprise a season-long tournament.



A winner is determined by whoever completes the 18 holes with the lowest number of strokes, although players are only eligible to compete if they make the cut at every qualifying event. They are allowed one 'bye' over the course of the season, which can be used on one course's two qualifying holes in which they either did not enter or did not make the cut. However, a four-stroke penalty is imposed.

The Wales Ladies Championship of Europe features two holes to be included in the competition – the par-four fourth, and the par-fourth 16th. Gary Nicklaus - who oversaw the design of the Machynys course, described the fourth as "the most unique [hole], a short-ish par-four but a very challenging and a difficult one nonetheless." The 16th, a par-four that is played across the lake from right behind the clubhouse, is probably one of the most beautiful holes on the course. The view from the green of the whole bay is spectacular, whether the tide is in or out."

Germany's Martina Esterl – at four-under-par – currently holds the lead over England's Laura Hudson and Australian Nikki Garrett.



NEW STAR MONEYLIST 2007

following the Scandinavian TPC

#	Name	€	Played
1	Maria Hjorth	192,657.54	6
2	Trish Johnson	173,334.00	13
3	Catriona Matthew	147,797.28	3
4	Gwladys Nocera	140,307.22	14
5	Bettina Hauert	139,024.60	13
6	Linda Wessberg	135,982.80	8
7	Becky Brewerton	122,232.60	13
8	Sophie Gustafson	116,941.47	3
9	Nikki Garrett	107,394.82	13
10	Paula Marti	105,130.65	12



THE 2007 SOLHEIM CUP STANDINGS

following the Scandinavian TPC

#	Name	Pts;	Played
1	Gwladys Nocera	244.00	30
2	Trish Johnson	141.15	28
3	Laura Davies	125.00	16
4	Becky Brewerton	115.25	28
5	Annika Sorenstam	105.83	10



RYDER CUP WALES ROOKIE OF THE YEAR 2007

following the Scandinavian TPC

#	Name	€	Played
1	Louise Stahle	70,464.66	10
2	Amy Yang	32,820.47	8
3	Jade Schaeffer	28,736.85	10
4	Anna Rossi	22,798.25	9
5	Kiran Matharu	18,190.25	10



Stroke Averages

following the Scandinavian TPC

#	Name	Avg	Rounds
1	Becky Brewerton	72.07	44
2=	Gwladys Nocera	72.08	48
2=	Catriona Matthew	72.08	12
4	Sarah Kemp	72.15	39
5=	Linda Wessberg	72.33	30
5=	Sophie Gustafson	72.33	12



Total Number of Eagles

following the Scandinavian TPC

#	Name	Eagles	Rounds
1	Bettina Hauert	7	41
2=	Virginie Lagoutte-Clement	6	49
2=	Nikki Garrett	6	41
2=	Sarah Kemp	6	39
5=	Ludivine Kreutz	5	45
5=	Karen Lunn	5	40
5=	Kirsty Taylor	5	34



Total Number of Holes in One

following the Scandinavian TPC

#	Name	Total	Rounds
1=	Virginie Lagoutte-Clement	1	49
1=	Rebecca Coakley	1	45
1=	Lisa Hall	1	43
1=	Sarah Kemp	1	39
1=	Elisabeth Esterl	1	34
1=	Anna Rossi	1	30
1=	Ellen Smets	1	27
1=	Cassandra Kirkland	1	27



Total Strokes above/below Par

following the Scandinavian TPC

#	Name	-Par+	Rounds
1	Catriona Matthew	-3	12
2	Becky Brewerton	-1	44



Total Number of Birdies

following the Scandinavian TPC

#	Name	Birdies	Rounds
1	Gwladys Nocera	156	48
2	Becky Brewerton	152	44
3	Trish Johnson	143	43
4	Veronica Zorzi	137	41
5	Virginie Lagoutte-Clement	136	49



Average Number of Birdies per Round

following the Scandinavian TPC

#	Name	Avg	Rounds
1	Mhairi McKay	3.75	4
2	Kaisa Ruuttila	3.71	7
3	Linda Wessberg	3.70	30
4	Catriona Matthew	3.50	12
5	Laura Davies	3.47	17

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