

World Cup as popular as ever



The Women's World Cup of Golf may have only been played on three previous occasions, but it has already grown into one of the premier events on the world's sporting calendar.

The tournament has steadily built the kind of stature required to rival the Women's Soccer World Cup, the Olympic Games and Grand Slam tennis. Billions of viewers worldwide will tune into this tournament that tees off at the Gary Player Country Club from 18-20 January.

The inaugural Women's World Cup of Golf was played at Fancourt in 2005 when the Japanese pair of **Ai Miyazato** and **Rui Kitada** claimed the title. In 2006 the event was moved to its current venue at Sun City, and this time Sweden, led by **Annika Sorenstam**, stole the show to win by three shots over Scotland. Last year, the little known Paraguayan pair of **Julieta Granada** and **Celeste Troche**, stunned the field to win by an astonishing seven shots over the United States.

LET season underway with Women's World Cup

The 2008 Ladies European Tour season gets underway this week with The Women's World Cup of Golf at the prestigious Gary Player Country Club at Sun City, South Africa.

The venue hosts the \$1.4-million tournament for the third year in a row but this year the format has changed slightly. Betterball replaces the Singles format on the final day. Format of play will now be Better-ball on Friday, with alternate shot Foursomes on day two on Saturday and Better-ball on day three on Sunday.



A world-class field, headlined by the return of defending champions Paraguay, will see 20 teams of two compete for the title.

It's like Disney World in Africa says Paraguay's Troche



Paraguay is a country that boasts just six golf courses. Fancourt alone has three and Sun City – venue for this year's Women's World Cup – has two.

If one considers these facts, one can begin to understand the astonishing achievement of **Julieta Granada** and **Celeste Troche**, the Paraguayan pair who blew away the field to win the World Cup by seven shots last year. Troche finished top of the individual leaderboard last year, while Granada ended third.

Troche has been blown away by Sun City in her two visits to the North West resort. "It's like Disney World in Africa," she says. "It's just a magical place. We love the golf course, the hotel and the people are so friendly. It's great to be back."

LET goes wild in South Africa



Some of the world's best women golfers were treated to an evening game drive in the lead up to the Women's World Cup of Golf.

The party visited the Pilanesberg National Park, just next to Sun City, which houses virtually all of the animal species of Southern Africa, including the Big Five: lions, elephants, giraffe, rhinos and leopards.

Players who attended included **Maria Hjorth** from Sweden, Germany's **Bettina Hauer** and **Martina Eberl**, Wales' **Becky Brewerton** and **Becky Morgan**, England's **Danielle Masters** and **Trish Johnson**, Australia's **Nikki Garrett** and **Linsey Wright**, Spain's **Paula Marti** and **Tania Elosegui**, French duo **Gwladys Nocera** and **Virginie Lagoutte-Clement**, **Dorothy Delasin** from the Philippines, South Africa's **Ashleigh Simon** and Scotland's **Mhairi McKay**.

Hjorth, who was visiting South Africa for the first time, was also on her first safari and commented: "Seeing the elephants and giraffes out in the wild was great!" The group spotted many animals including elephants, zebras, antelope, baboons, giraffe, springboks, rhino and lions.

Rolex World Rankings as at 14th Jan 2008

1. Lorena Ochoa (Mexico)
2. Suzann Pettersen (Norway)
3. Karrie Webb (Australia)
4. Annika Sorenstam (Sweden)
5. Paula Creamer (USA)



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

Danielle hopes to Master the Gary Player in Taylor's absence



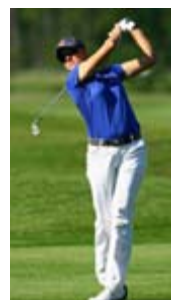
England's Women's World Cup of Golf challenge suffered a setback with the late withdrawal of **Kirsty Taylor** due to illness. However she has been replaced by 24-year-old former Curtis Cup player **Danielle Masters**.

"I'd rather Kirsty be going than me, really," said a sympathetic **Masters**. "It's a great opportunity for me, but it is not what I wanted my first World Cup entrance to be based on."

Masters will compete alongside **Trish Johnson**, who boasts over a hundred top-10 finishes on the LET.

"Trish and I get on really well," said **Masters**. "I love playing with Trish. With all her experience she's a really confident player. We get on really well so I'm hoping that luck will be on our side and we'll click straight away."

Teams to watch



Paraguay has arrived this year with the same team in **Julieta Granada** and **Celeste Troche** and their odds of winning are 10/1 according to **Ladbroke's**. However they can expect a challenge from the long hitting Swedish pair of **Maria Hjorth** and **Sophie Gustafson**, who are the favourites with odds of 3/1. **Gustafson** recently won the LET's 2007 New Star Money List.

Last year's runner-up, the USA's duo of **Julie Inkster** and **Pat Hurst** have odds of 4/1 with Korea, represented by **Ji-Yai Shin** and **Eun-Hee Ji**, the next best rated team with odds of 5/1. Scotland and Japan both have odds of 12/1. The

Scots are represented by **Catriona Matthew** and **Mhairi McKay** while the Japanese are represented by **Shinobu Moromizato** and **Miki Saiki**.