

LET returns to Germany for the first time in seven years



This week the Ladies European Tour returns to Germany after a seven year hiatus for the 2008 HypoVereinsbank Ladies German Open 2008 presented by Audi at the magnificent Golfpark Gut Hausern.

With some tremendous German talent on show, including tour winners Bettina Hauert, Martina Eberl and Elisabeth Esterl, and recent winners Gwladys Nocera, Lotta Wahlin and Emma Zackrisson, the event is likely to be a thriller. Golfpark Gut Hausern is Eberl's home course and so she may take advantage.

The golf course is set in the beautiful rolling countryside just outside the village of Market Indersdorf about 40km from Munich. Surrounded by lush farmland it is a calm and peaceful location. The Peter Harradine designed course is one of his most challenging layouts and the designer himself has described the course as the pinnacle of his career in golf course design.

It is a course which requires accuracy, length and solid iron play incorporating many strategically placed bunkers, woodlands and many water features. With its superbly blended hidden hazards, narrow fairways and some tough and testing putting surfaces on its contoured greens it will take a player with wise course management skills, a deft putting stroke and a good imagination to come out on top.

Pettersen secures Deutsche Bank Ladies Swiss Open



Suzann Pettersen was crowned Deutsche Bank Ladies Swiss Open champion on Sunday after the fourth and final round of the competition was cancelled at Golf Gerre Losone.

Tournament organisers took the decision to reduce the event from 72 to 54 holes at 11am on Sunday as many of the fairways and greens were flooded after heavy rainfall, making the course unplayable.

With the fourth round cancelled, the results at the end of round three were final. Pettersen's winning total of 194, 22-under-par, broke the Ladies

European Tour's record for the lowest winning 54-hole aggregate. This previously stood at 190 (-17), having been set by French woman Karine Icher at the 2004 Catalonia Ladies Masters. Pettersen revealed that she had been aiming to go much lower than that and beat Laura Davies' record of 25-under for 72 holes, set at the 1995 Guardian Holidays Irish Open at St Margaret's.

"I was going to try to get to 30; that was my aim from the last couple of days: get to 30 under so who knows. I would have had to have played really well today if that was the case but I think it was possible," she said.

Beat the Pro in Ascona



One hallmark of a good golf tournament is a wide and varied supporting programme with opportunities for participating, as well as spectating. The Deutsche Bank Ladies Swiss Open featured fun for young and old golfers and non-golfers alike, who could pick up a club and partake in the "Beat the Pro" competition at Ascona on Lago Maggiore.

In the competition, participants were challenged to drive balls onto a green on a floating island 50 metres out from the shore of the Lago (or Lake!) Maggiore. Each evening, top players such as Laura Davies and Suzann Pettersen competed against spectators who may have been strolling past Ascona's lakeside promenade, an extremely scenic venue. Prizes were on offer with 1,000 CHF being offered for a hole-in-one and Laura Davies came very close.

Each participant paid 3 CHF for three balls with the proceeds going to a local charity for kids called the Teatro Dimitri, a cultural centre in the nearby village of Verscio. The "Beat the Pro" area also featured a golf themed lounge, which was ideal for watching and refreshing.

Yang snares lead on the 2008 New Star Money List

The week of the Deutsche Bank Ladies Swiss Open proved to be a great one for South Korean teenager Amy Yang.

Not only did the 18-year-old record her first hole in one during the third round of the tournament, she also finished second overall, leapfrogging England's Lisa Hall into first place on the 2008 New Star Money List.

Yang, who lived in Australia when she won the 2006 ANZ Ladies Masters as a 16-year-old amateur, finished six shots behind the winner Suzann Pettersen in Switzerland after three superb rounds of 67, 68 and 65.



Her total earnings for the year are now €98,564, approximately €14,000 more than France's Gwladys Nocera, who moved up to second in the rankings after finishing in third place in Switzerland.

England's Lisa Hall, who had led the New Star Money List since her victory in this year's ANZ Ladies Masters in February, slipped down into third position, despite finishing in a highly commendable share of 11th place. Yang also won an expensive Omega watch for her hole-in-one at the 145-year seventh on Saturday, where she hit a soft seven-iron.

Hanns Michael Hölz hails successful tournament

Hanns Michael Hölz, head of corporate sports for Deutsche Bank, the title sponsor the Swiss Open, hailed the third edition of the event a great success. "This was even the best in our short tradition and history having had the third edition of the Deutsche Bank Ladies' Swiss Open and we are really proud that we have come along this way," said Hölz. "We learnt a lot from the first two years and we have taken the experience to upgrade not only the field but also all the circumstances. It is a media event to send the right message out regionally, nationally and globally and I want to thank all of you for your support. We decided this year to invite some lady professionals who are high ranked to join us and I think the best ambassadors for us are the lady professionals. We have encouraged the lady professionals to be good ambassadors for this tournament. We have reached a new platform and I think we have seen the best ever third day of a tournament I can remember."



He added: "We want to be seen as the number three event on the Ladies European Tour and plan for this to go on. We announced our date for next year, which will be once more in May, one week earlier. We do hope that the weather will co-ordinate with us."

Becker, Mullins-Lane and Zuel earn first pay-cheques



Germany's Denise Charlotte Becker, Australia's Bronwyn Mullins-Lane and England's Henrietta Zuel all earned their first pay-cheques at the Deutsche Bank Ladies' Swiss Open. Zuel, playing on a sponsor's invitation, collected €3,765 after posting rounds of 73, 73 and 69 and finishing in a share of 37th position on one-under-par.

Mullins-Lane collected €1,850.62 following rounds of 70, 76 and 72 for a share of 55th and Becker finished 65th, earning €1,365.

All three players will compete in next week's HypoVereinsbank Ladies German Open presented by Audi and will take increased confidence to the event after making the cut in such a strong field.

Rolex World Rankings

Rolex World Rankings as of 25th May 2008

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



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

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