



40 golf stars in the Comunitat Valenciana European Nations Cup

Meet the stars of the second Comunitat Valenciana European Nations Cup, which takes place on the fairways of La Sella Resort in Alicante, Spain, from 23-26th April 2009.

Qualified Countries

Austria

Nicole Gergely and Eva Steinberger

Austrians Nicole and Eva are great skiers as well as golfers and although relative outsiders for the title, they will be doing their best to finish in the top five teams. Eva is starting her fifth season on the LET, while Nicole is beginning her fourth year as a professional.

Belgium

Ellen Smets and Lara Tadiotto

After finishing equal second at last year's event with Germany, this year the Belgian team will be at La Sella with one mission: to win. Ellen's best finish on the LET was second at the 2007 SAS Masters in Norway, while Lara has recorded six top ten finishes including a career best of joint seventh.

Denmark

Lisa Holm Sorensen and Iben Tinning

Iben Tinning and Lisa Holm Sorensen will represent the 10% of the Danish population that play golf. Iben was the official European number one player in 2005 and has represented Europe at The Solheim Cup on four occasions. She is a five-time winner on the LET. Meanwhile, Lisa won her maiden victory at the 2005 Finnair Masters in Finland.

England

Laura Davies and Lisa Hall

Laura Davies, who is ranked first on the Ladies European Tour's Money List, secured her 72nd career victory at the Women's Australian Open in February and is a four-time major champion. Lisa Hall brings four LET titles into the equation. Together the English pair will defend the trophy won by Trish Johnson and Rebecca Hudson last year at the inaugural event on the same golf course. They will be a sure-fire favourite this time.

Finland

Kaisa Ruuttila and Ursula Wikstrom

Ursula Wikstrom and Kaisa Ruuttila played together last year and although they finished fairly down the leader board in 17th position, don't rule them out this time. Ursula recorded a career best finish of second at the Finnair Masters in Finland last year and is building momentum, while she and Kaisa will be more familiar with each other's games in 2009.

France

Gwladys Nocera and Anne-Lise Caudal

Last year's LET Player of the Year Gwladys Nocera, who won the 2008 New Star Money List after claiming five victories throughout the season, will pair up with her good friend Anne-Lise Caudal, who won her maiden title at the 2008 Portugal Ladies Open. Anne-Lise was 13th on the 2008 New Star Money List and this will definitely be one team to watch.

Germany

Martina Eberl and Denise Charlotte Becker

Martina Eberl, who finished in equal second alongside Anja Monke last year, will represent Germany with Denise Charlotte Becker, who is one of the LET's most promising talents, who was fourth at the UNIQA Ladies Golf Open in only her first season on tour. Martina had an outstanding year in 2008. After appearing at La Sella she went on to win both the BMW Ladies Italian Open and the Nykredit Masters in Denmark. She was also runner-up at the S4C Wales Championship and finished third on the New Star Money List. She is regarded as one of the friendliest players on the LET and last year at La Sella she commented: 'It's amazing the number of German spectators following our game. I am happy to share this moment with my compatriots.'



Laura Davies



Gwladys Nocera



Anne-Lise Caudal

Ireland

Rebecca Coakley and Martina Gillen

Martina Gillen and Rebecca Coakley form Ireland's team for the second consecutive year and they are looking to improve on last year's result of joint 13th in this competition. Both players delivered strong performances on the LET in 2008. Rebecca's best finish was a tie for 11th at the Deutsche Bank Ladies Swiss Open where she fired a career low round of 63 (-11) on day one. Martina meanwhile was sixth at the Portugal Ladies Open where she shot 66 on the last day.

Italy

Giulia Sergas and Veronica Zorzi

Giulia Sergas and Veronica Zorzi are two great veterans who will have a strong chance of success at the Comunitat Valenciana European Nations Cup. Veronica competed with Stefania Croce last year and the pair finished fifth. Veronica is a two-time winner of the French Open on the Ladies European Tour and her best finish last year was second at the Dubai Ladies Masters.

Netherlands

Christel Boeljon and Marjet Van der Graaff

Marjet van der Graaff and Christel Boeljon are the youngest team in the Cup. Christel, a rookie on the LET, has played in only two events as a professional. However she has already shown her potential with a tie for 13th place at the Women's Australian Open. Marjet is beginning her second season on tour.

Norway

Lill Kristin Saether and Marianne Skarpnord

Lill Kristin Saether, who was second at last year's Scandinavian TPC and Marianne Skarpnord, who was second at the AIB Ladies Irish Open, together form a very competitive team. They are good friends who know each other well, which is important in the Double modality Valencian Cup format.

Russia

Maria Verchenova and Anastasia Kostina

Anastasia Kostina, a Duramed Futures Tour player, competed at the Comunitat Valenciana European Nations Cup with her sister Maria last year. This year, Maria Verchenova joins the Russian team and she is running high on momentum after a strong performance at the Dubai Ladies Masters last year. Both players will show that they have much more to offer than pretty faces.

Scotland

Lynn Kenny and Clare Queen

Clare Queen and Lynn Kenny have played in many tournaments together over the years, including this one last year, when together they finished in a share of 13th position. They will be hoping to draw on all their experience this year to hoist the Saltire for Scotland.

Slovakia

Zuzana Kamasova and Veronika Falathova (Am)

The Slovakian team could be the big surprise this year as they are a relatively unknown combination. Zuzana Kamasova has played in 36 LET tournaments since joining the tour in 2004 but her playing partner Verónica Falathova is an amateur player and will give her prize to a non-profit organisation.

Spain

Tania Elosegui and Paula Marti

Spain will once again be represented by the 2002 European number one Paula Marti and Tania Elosegui, who finished seventh at last year's event. The pair will be hoping to improve on last year's performance at La Sella, when Marti declared: 'This modality is of two. I liked it a lot but have to acknowledge that it requires an excellent relationship with your partner.' Since that time, Tania has emerged as one of the dominant players on the LET. She was second at the recent Australian Open so a win is next on her agenda.

Sweden

Lotta Wahlin and Carin Koch

Lotta Wahlin said last year at La Sella, 'What a great course, but how difficult'. She was paired with Johanna Westerberg and the pair tied for eighth place. This year she will hope for a better result with four-time Solheim Cup player Carin Koch, who has won three victories, including two on the LPGA. Lotta had a phenomenal 2008 season, winning her first LET title by 12 strokes at the Garanti American Express Turkish Ladies Open. She also won the S4C Wales Ladies Championship, defeating Martina Eberl at the second extra hole in a playoff.

Switzerland

Florence Luscher and Frederique Seeholzer

Coming from Switzerland, it is little surprise that Florence Luscher and Frederique Seeholzer are both expert skiers and snowboarders. Last year, Frederique tied for eighth alongside her playing partner Nora Angehrn. Let's see if playing with her good friend Florence, she can do even better.



Martina Eberl



Maria Vernechova



Paula Marti

Wales

Becky Brewerton and Lydia Hall

Becky Brewerton has been a member of the Ladies European Tour for five years and over this time, she has become one of the tour's most experienced professionals.

After claiming her maiden victory at the 2007 Ladies English Open, she became the first Welsh player to represent Europe at The Solheim Cup and gave an exemplary performance.

She has played in four Women's World Cups and always been in the mix. However her team partner Lydia Hall has more experience of La Sella, having played last year with compatriot Eleanor Pilgrim.



Lotta Wahlin

Invited Countries

Australia

Joanne Mills and Nikki Garrett

This will be Nikki Garrett's first Comunitat Valenciana European Nations Cup. She has had much success in Spain, having won the Tenerife and Spanish Opens back to back in 2007. Joanne Mills visited La Sella last year when she represented Australia with Karen Lunn and finished in equal 15th place. Joanne has also won twice on the LET: at the 1997 German Open and 2007 Wales Ladies Championships.

USA

Beth Daniel and Meg Mallon

With 30 years' tour experience, Beth Daniel has amassed 33 LPGA victories, including one major championship. The 2009 U.S. Solheim Cup Team Captain is an LPGA and World Golf Halls of Fame member. She was born in Vancouver, Canada. Meg Mallon has 18 LPGA titles to her name, including four major championships (the 2004 US Open among them). Like her team partner, she was an eight-time Solheim Cup player and she will serve as one of two US assistant captains at The Solheim Cup at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove, Illinois, this August.

Ladies European Tour

Money List

Following the 2009 Women's Australian Open

1. Laura Davies (England) €42,540.62
2. Tania Elosegui (Spain) €28,128.70
3. Melissa Reid (England) €18,024.90
4. Gwladys Nocera (France) €15,588.87
5. Marianne Skarpnord (Norway) €9,664.68
6. Nikki Garrett (Australia) €8,567.77
7. Becky Brewerton (Wales) €7,773.60
8. Anne-Lise Caudal (France) €7,180.17
9. Stacy Lee Bregman (South Africa) €5,971.76
10. Anna Rawson (Australia) €5,673.30

The 2009 Solheim Cup European Team Automatic Selection

Following the 2009 Women's Australian Open

1. Gwladys Nocera 180.75 points
2. Laura Davies 115.17 points
3. Annika Sorenstam 103.30 points
4. Martina Eberl 101.90 points
5. Suzann Pettersen 71.75

End of qualifying positions

Top Four players eligible from the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings as at 13th April 2009

- [Suzann Pettersen - World No.5]
- Helen Alfredsson - World No.9
- Maria Hjorth - World No.16
- Karen Stupples – World No.26
- Sophie Gustafson World No35

European Captain Alison Nicholas will also have three Captain's selections.

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