

All top 40 LET players play AIB Ladies Irish Open supported by Fáilte Ireland



After a week off, all top 40 players on the Ladies European Tour will tee up at the AIB Ladies Irish Open this week as part of a field of 129 set to face a tough links challenge.

Led by Norway's Marianne Skarpnord, runner-up to compatriot Suzann Pettersen at the 2008 event, players will compete at Portmarnock Links in Dublin for the second year running.

This year's winners, Laura Davies from England, Skarpnord, Spain's Tania Elosegui, Jade Schaeffer from France and Sweden's Johanna Westerberg, will be joined by the big hitting Swedes Maria Hjorth and Sophie Gustafson.

According to Yvonne Cassidy, Tournament Director of the AIB Ladies Irish Open for the Ladies European Tour, "It is a very rare occurrence" for every one of Europe's top 40 ranked professionals to enter a tournament. This demonstrates the success of the 2008 event at Portmarnock Links, which, with a 500,000 Euro prize fund, quickly established itself as one of the tour's premier tournaments.

Davies and Gustafson vie for honours

This year's event is an exciting prospect for all golf enthusiasts as with the Solheim Cup just two months away, Europe's finest will be out to impress at what is now the fourth most prestigious event on the LET.

Golfing Legend Laura Davies will be on a mission to equal Sophie Gustafson's record of three Ladies Irish Open titles and claim the top prize of €75,000.

Davies won the event in 1994 and 1995 at St Margaret's. Gustafson won the 1998 Donegal Irish Ladies Open at Ballyliffin, followed by the 2000 event at Faithlegg and the 2003 instalment at Killarney Golf and Fishing Club (Mahoney's Point).



Maguire twins join the LET's finest



Identical twins Lisa and Leona Maguire will take on the cream of the Ladies European Tour's professionals in the AIB Ladies Irish Open, supported by Fáilte Ireland.

Along with 21-year-old Danielle McVeigh, the 14-year-old teenagers from Cavan are two of three Irish players on the nine-member Great Britain and Ireland Vagliano Team, who are all playing in the tournament at Portmarnock Hotel and Links, near Dublin, as part of their preparation for next month's event in Hamburg.

Lisa won the '3' Irish Ladies Open Strokeplay at Douglas golf club in Cork on Sunday and is also the Irish Ladies Close champion. Leona is the French International U/21 champion and won the Irish Close last year.

The trio, along with eight other amateurs, will join the field which includes all top 40 players on the Ladies European Tour's Henderson Money List.

Both Maguire sisters have played Portmarnock Links before and when asked their expectations for the week they gave an identical reply: "I'll just try to play my best."

Kirsty Runs the Race For Life

England's Kirsty S. Taylor ran Cancer Research UK's Race for Life in Basingstoke on Fathers' Day.

The Hampshire 30-year-old was thrilled to have completed the 5km circuit in a personal best time of 29 minutes and 28 seconds along with her friend Nicole Robinson, a pool player, for England.

"It was a really emotional day being Fathers' Day and the thought of that pushed me through to the end," said Kirsty, whose father Richard passed away with cancer six years ago.

"It was a huge personal achievement and to do it in a personal best was even better. My friend was going to run it in under 30 minutes and she ran with me. There were some mega hills and I thought at one point I couldn't finish but just before I crossed the line my friend said "Look at clock" and we did it in just under 30 minutes."



Reid to star on screen



England's Melissa Reid has taken part in a national advertising campaign for games manufacturer Nintendo's new Wii Sports Resort game and their controller accessory MotionPlus.

The second year LET player, ranked third on the Henderson Money List, will be seen showing four other young athletes how to play the golf game on television at the end of next month.

"I recently spent several days filming an advertising campaign for Nintendo's new Wii Sports Resort game on Wii, as well as for their new controller accessory, the Wii MotionPlus. It was an amazing experience, both from the point of view of being on a film set for the first time, but particularly to try out Wii Sports Resort with Wii Motion Plus," Reid said. "The game will feature 12 sports, one of which is obviously golf. I filmed the ad with four other athletes from various different sports and the Wii MotionPlus gives an amazing new dimension to playing sports on Wii. It is even sensitive & precise enough to be able to draw and fade the ball!"

Reid has returned from filming to play at the AIB Ladies Irish Open, with the aim of securing her place on captain Alison Nicholas' European Solheim Cup team, due to travel to the USA for the competition from August 21-23.

We ask European No.1 Marianne Skarpnord.... What is your ultimate dream?



What is your ultimate dream?

To own an Aston Martin (car).



HENDERSON MONEY LIST 2009 following the Portugal Ladies Open

Pos.	Name	Represents	€	Played
1	Marianne Skarpnord (NOR)	Innesvingen Webster-Clarke	116,534.68	6
2	Tania Elosegui (ESP)	Finca Cortesin/Credit Agricole	91,488.70	6
3	Melissa Reid (ENG)	England	89,912.40	4
4	Jade Schaeffer (FRA)	Puma, Les Bijoux du Golf	62,883.33	6
5	Johanna Westerberg (SWE)	Kallfors GolfKlubb, Sweden	45,389.18	6
6	Karen Lunn (AUS)	Australia	42,873.08	6
7	Laura Davies (ENG)	England	42,540.62	2
8	Paula Marti (ESP)	Spain	40,975.41	4
9	Emma Zackrisson (SWE)	Sweden	36,054.57	6
10	Diana Luna (ITA)	Conte of Florence, Italy	33,849.54	6
11	Becky Brewerton (WAL)	Wales	33,543.60	6
12	Gwladys Nocera (FRA)	Societe Generale, Lacoste	32,421.37	6
13	Anne-Lise Caudal (FRA)	Lacoste, France	28,148.50	6
14	Georgina Simpson (ENG)	SpecialSteelGroup, Eurocontrol	27,151.30	6
15	Iben Tinning (DEN)	Denmark	25,710.83	4
16	Ursula Wikstrom (FIN)	Finland	25,533.71	6
17	Nicole Gergely (AUT)	Golf Resort Kremstal, AUT	25,239.16	4
18	Bettina Hauert (GER)	Germany	24,412.87	6
19	Martina Eberl (GER)	Wilson, HVB, Duca del Cosma	24,271.54	5
20	Nikki Garrett (AUS)	Oakley, Magenta Shores C.C.	22,525.27	6
21	Lisa Hall (ENG)	England	21,390.61	6
22	Stacy Lee Bregman (SA)	South Africa	20,742.59	6
23	Lee-Anne Pace (SA)	South Africa	20,475.70	6
24	Emma Cabrera-Bello (ESP)	Canary Islands, Spain	17,749.37	6
25	Beatriz Recari (ESP)	Daily Sports/Arcos Gardens	17,475.26	6

RYDER CUP WALES ROOKIE OF THE YEAR 2009 following the Portugal Ladies Open

Pos.	Name	€	Played
1	Christel Boeljon (NL)	13,480.84	6
2	Krystle Caithness (SCO)	10,831.87	4
3	Jessica Ji (KOR)	9,486.25	5
4	Breanne Alicia Loucks (WAL)	9,235.83	4
5	Malene Jorgensen (DEN)	8,958.75	4
6	Pamela Feggans (SCO)	8,773.33	3
7	Anna Nordqvist (SWE)	8,557.50	1
8	Florentyna Parker (ENG)	8,123.65	6
9	Michele Thomson (SCO)	7,685.00	3
10	Vikki Laing (SCO)	7,582.50	4
11	Caroline Rominger (SWI)	3,272.50	2
12	Hee-Kyung Seo (KOR)	3,230.70	1
13	Tara Delaney (IRE)	1,653.75	4
14	Barbara Genuini (FRA)	1,522.50	4
15	Tandi Cuningham (SA)	1,375.00	1
16	Stephanie Na (AUS)	1,175.90	3
17	Elizabeth Bennett (ENG)	1,000.00	4
18	Claire Louise Aitken (ENG)	960	3
19	Bing Lim (MAL)	707.91	2

THE 2009 SOLHEIM CUP– European Standings following the Portugal Ladies Open

Pos.	Name	Represents	Points	Played
1	Gwladys Nocera (FRA)	Societe Generale, Lacoste	186.00	32
2	Tania Elosegui (ESP)	Finca Cortesin/Credit Agricole	117.00	30
3	Laura Davies (ENG)	England	115.17	20
4	Martina Eberl (GER)	Wilson, HVB, Duca del Cosma	114.65	30
5	Annika Sorenstam (SWE)	Callaway	103.30	9
End of qualifying positions				
6	Melissa Reid (ENG)	England	96.88	20
7	Suzann Pettersen (NOR)	Norway	95.00	7
8	Marianne Skarpnord (NOR)	Innesvingen Webster-Clarke	91.87	27
9	Helen Alfredsson (SWE)	Sweden	80.50	6
10	Paula Marti (ESP)	Spain	73.67	26

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