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HONG KONG
PGA CHAMPIONSHIP 2019

BlackRock to sponsor rejuvenated HKPGA Championship

History-rich golf event will be preceded by innovative charity challenge featuring local and international celebrities including Linda Wong, Alan Mak, Jodie Kidd, Kieran Dyer and Zac Purton

BlackRock, the world's leading investment manager, has confirmed its sponsorship of the 2019 Hong Kong PGA Championship this coming January, boosting the status of this history-rich event and underlining its commitment to the Hong Kong sports community.

The BlackRock HK PGA Championship, will take place between 7-10 January 2019, and will be played in its traditional three-course format, with Clearwater Bay Golf and Country Club hosting the first round before the players move to the New Course at Hong Kong Golf Club for the second round. The Club's Eden Course – and its famous 18th hole, which has decided the outcome of so many tournaments – will provide a fitting finale for the all-important last round.

The rejuvenated championship differs from typical golf tournaments, with the main tournament rounds preceded by a Pro-Am event on the first day and an innovative charity challenge event to be staged on day two at Clearwater Bay. The latter, which, is the first of its kind to be held in Hong Kong, will feature teams of local and international celebrities and sportspeople going head to head to raise funds for their nominated charity.

Celebrity participants taking part in the event include singer and actor Linda Wong Hing-ping, award-winning film director Alan Mak Siu-fai and English supermodel and television personality Jodie Kidd. They will line up alongside former England football star Kieran Dyer, former All Black rugby player Ali Williams and World Long Drive champion Joe Miller.

Hong Kong's horseracing community will be particularly well represented, with Zac Purton, Casper Fownes, Tony Cruz and his wife Paulene also confirming their participation.

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The Clearwater Bay
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Ryan Stork, Asia Pacific Chairman for BlackRock, said: "We are committed to helping our clients invest for their financial future because we understand how much this means to their well-being. As with the game of golf, investing requires patience, precision and practice. We see the Championship as an important component in developing golf in Hong Kong and the golfing community around the region."

The tournament, which boasts a prize purse of HK\$250,000, was first played in the 1970s and has provided both Hong Kong and regionally-based professionals with an elite platform in which to develop their games and showcase their skills. It has also featured some of golf's most notable names, including 1999 Open runner-up Jean van de Velde, mainland Chinese trailblazer Zhang Lian-wei and former USPGA Championship winner Wayne Grady.

Former HKPGA Championship winner Dominique Boulet, who now holds the position of chairman of the HKPGA, was effusive in his praise for BlackRock's investment and involvement in his organisation's premier event.

"To have a sponsor of the caliber of BlackRock is a real shot in the arm for local professional golf," said Boulet, who participated on the Asian Tour for most of his playing career. "Not only does their backing ensure renewed interest in the championship around the region – it also provides a wonderful stage for local professionals to make a name for themselves, which is of course great for Hong Kong golf."

Rugby World Cup winner and keen amateur golfer Ali Williams, who was capped 77 times by the All Blacks, said: "The tournament is sure to be a lot of fun. It's always been a great event but the new set-up for 2019, involving the charity challenge and Pro-Am elements, is what I'm looking forward to most.

"As an amateur, to pit your wits against some of these great professionals is something that doesn't happen every day. It's unique and all the more special for it," he added.

Likely contenders for the Championship include five-time champion Unho Park of Australia, former PGA Tour professional Charlie Wi of South Korea and Malaysia's Danny Chia, while former Hong Kong internationals Shinichi Mizuno and Steven Lam Tsz-fung, who finished in first and second respectively on the 2018 HKPGA Order of Merit, are expected to lead the local challenge.

New tournament promoters and organisers, Hong Kong-based Carinat Sports Marketing, are set to announce more celebrity and golfing participants in the coming weeks.

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About the 2019 BlackRock HKPGA Championship

Sponsored for the first time by BlackRock, the world's leading investment manager, the 2019 HKPGA Championship will be held between 7-10 January 2019. The tournament rounds, which commence on 8 January, will be played at Clearwater Bay Golf and Country Club and the Hong Kong Golf Club (New and Eden Courses). The celebrity Pro-Am will take place on 7 January, with the Charity Challenge being held on 8 January.

Organised by Hong Kong-based Carinat Sports Marketing, the event's other Official Sponsors include BMO Bank of Montreal and Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong. Official Suppliers include Elemis and TaylorMade, with Golf Digest Hong Kong as Official Media Partner.

Visit www.hkpgachamps.com for more information.

About the Hong Kong PGA

The Hong Kong Professional Golfers' Association was founded in 1970 with the purpose to develop Professional golf in Hong Kong by running professional golf tournaments and instruction for its members on how to coach all aspects of the game.

Every year the Association has been successful in staging an official tournament Order of Merit for its members. The HKPGA has achieved worldwide recognition as a 'not for profit' making association and is regularly invited to send a representative team to compete in the Qualifying Tournament for the World Cup of Golf. Annually, leading players are selected as representatives who participate in international invitation tournaments and reciprocate by way of the HKPGA Championship, where players from Asia [China Singapore, Burma, Taiwan and Malaysia] are invited to compete and exchange ideas and new concepts on development of golf with local professionals.

Now, the Association has now grown in size and has 139 members and 43 Trainees.

Visit www.hkpga.com.hk

For further Media Enquiries:

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