



Press Kit
20th May 2014

BMW PGA Championship: 1955 | 2005 | 2014 | 2018. Contents.

Pure Class.

For ten years BMW has been title sponsor of the “Players’ Flagship”, that this year also celebrates its 60th anniversary.

Driven in the quest for excellence.

The tournament is a fantastic statement of what BMW is about.

Enjoying the Major Feeling.

An interview with defending champion Matteo Manassero.

Eyeing the Players’ Flagship triple.

An interview with 2011 and 2012 champion Luke Donald.

Drama of the highest order.

Stories from the past ten years.

Magic moments galore.

Ten years with BMW, ten dramatic finishes, ten proud winners.

Major stars set for BMW PGA Championship.

60 years of top-class golf, a decade with BMW as Title Partner: “The Players’ Flagship” is living up to its name again in 2014.

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BMW PGA Championship: Pure Class.

For ten years BMW has been title sponsor of the “Players’ Flagship”, that this year also celebrates its 60th anniversary.

London. Ernie Els, one of the greatest players of the modern era and the man tasked with remodelling the iconic West Course at Wentworth, now rates the BMW PGA Championship among the most prestigious and best run tournaments in world golf.

It is ten years since BMW became a title sponsor of a championship that this year also celebrates its 60th anniversary – and Els is mightily impressed by what has evolved. “This is the flagship event on the European Tour, a tournament that I believe can hold its own in the very highest company,” Els said. “Everything about the BMW PGA Championship is pure class. The golf course is a proper championship test and we get a really strong field now.

“The way the tournament is run and the way the players are looked after is as good as it gets. Also the British golf fans are among the best in the world. It’s a pleasure to come back here every year.”

It would be impossible to argue with the four-times major champion. Millions of euros have been spent on course improvements, the greens have been rebuilt to USGA specifications, and the crowd numbers (100,000 came through the gates in 2013) have reached record highs. This year, extra seating has been provided in grandstands around the course, while the championship village will offer a high-class sanctuary for the weary and the curious. This is more than a day out, it is a lifetime’s experience.

“We now have a championship that showcases all that is great about the European Tour,” said George O’Grady, the tour’s chief executive. And who could contradict him? “From the feedback we were getting a few years ago, there’s no question the players are now appreciating the few tweaks we’ve made to the West Course since the original renovation,” Els said. “If you play well, then you can score well. But if you’re marginally off, then the golf course will punish you. I think we all agree that’s how it’s meant to be with top-class championship golf.



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“To be honest, I have so much passion for this event and for this golf course that I just want everything to be perfect for everyone.”

Last year, perfection came in the shape of Matteo Manassero who, at just 20 years and 37 days, became the youngest winner of the BMW PGA Championship and thus joined the pantheon of greats to have won this most coveted of titles. Alongside the likes of Severiano Ballesteros, Bernhard Langer and Sir Nick Faldo, the young Italian maestro is keeping company of the highest order.

“At the start you don’t understand how important a win it is, how much of an honour it is for the rest of your life to have that win,” he said.

When he comes through the gates of Wentworth this year, Manassero will have no such doubts. He will reacquaint himself with the splendid surroundings of this iconic golf club just outside London, will note the immaculate condition of the course, and the superb spectator facilities, and will be determined to do it all again.

Rory McIlroy has won the US Open in 2011 and US PGA Championship in 2012. The former World Number One said: “The BMW PGA Championship is always one of the highlights of the year and it is a title we are all keen to win. With it being The European Tour’s flagship event, it is a big week for everyone involved and there is always a great atmosphere. Some of the greats of the game have won the title over the years and it would certainly be nice to join them on the Championship’s 60th anniversary.”

Even though the course has been lengthened to a little over 7,300 yards, it does not necessarily play into the hands of the big hitters. Among the players long off the tee, Angel Cabrera won in 2005, the first year of BMW’s involvement, and Paul Casey – who sheepishly admits he used to “sneak” on to the course as a teenager – was champion in 2009. It cannot be a coincidence, however, that Luke Donald won back-to-back titles in 2011 and 2012 and Manassero, who is similar in style and physique, won last year. The West Course is now a thinking-man’s course. Highly strategic, it punishes wayward shots and rewards players with the best short games.

The field once again will boast some of the strongest players in the world. In 2011 all four of the reigning major champions were in attendance – Charl Schwartzel (Masters), Louis Oosthuizen (Open), Graeme McDowell (US Open), Martin Kaymer (US PGA Championship) – and this year Henrik Stenson, the Race to Dubai winner, Justin



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Rose, the US Open champion, Ian Poulter, Sergio Garcia and Lee Westwood will all be looking to add their names to the trophy.

It is to be hoped the drama of recent years is repeated. Donald's win in 2011, when he played an exquisite wedge shot to within virtual tap-in distance to beat Lee Westwood in a play-off, will take some beating. Not only did the Englishman land his most prestigious title, but he moved to World Number One at the same time. To repeat the feat a year later merely underlined Donald's class.

It is why nothing can be taken for granted at the BMW PGA Championship and why Manassero faces a daunting task if he is to join Donald, Faldo (1980, 1981) and Colin Montgomerie (1998, 1999 and 2000) as the only players to have successfully defended their titles. Still, he is nothing if not confident. "I cannot wait to get back there and I'm looking forward to defending my title as best I can," he said.

Rest assured, we are in for a treat.



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BMW PGA Championship: Driven in the quest for excellence.

The tournament is a fantastic statement of what BMW is about.

London. From the moment Jamie Birkmyre was appointed Championship Director of the BMW PGA Championship in 2005, its inaugural year under the BMW banner, he knew he was in it for the long run. Now, as the championship celebrates its tenth year, he is able to reflect on a partnership that has gone from strength to strength. Beneath an urbane persona, lies a restless soul. The Englishman, like BMW itself, is driven in his quest for excellence. Only the best will do.

As the European Tour's flagship event – and as a magnificent showcase for BMW's commitment and support for the sport – the championship oozes class, style and quality (like the cars themselves, you might say). And it is Birkmyre who has been at the forefront, constantly looking for improvement, refusing to rest on his laurels. As well as the big picture, he has an intimate grasp of the fine details: a smooth operator for a smooth operation – also famous for his fancy socks.

"The three main parties – BMW, the European Tour and Wentworth Club – have really created something special," Birkmyre said. "In its own right, it has been a special event for many, many years. Previous sponsors did a huge amount to help set that standard. But what BMW has done is to come and say, 'Let's not just accept what happened last year, let's make it better. Let's change things, let's freshen it up and lift it again to a new level.

"If you don't improve your event 15 per cent each year, you are going backwards," he replied when asked what it is that sets the championship apart. "That's what we try to do as a minimum. In fact, we strive for even more.

"Each year, we ask ourselves, 'What do we need to change to make it even better? What do we need to do to give our spectators more of an experience, more of a day out?' And that's the challenge we set ourselves every year."



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Birkmyre is rightly proud of a championship that has blossomed into what many of the players say has the feel of a “fifth major”. The players themselves are royally looked after from the moment they arrive – and so, too, are their families. This year, for example, there will be a new players’ lounge alongside the practice ground, with a restaurant, rest area and a whole host of other features.

Among the many improvements this year, there will now be a grandstand alongside the first tee and an additional 500 seats in the grandstand surrounding the dramatic 18th, taking its capacity to 2,400. On the course, there will be a new grandstand at the 7th and extra seating in the grandstand behind the green of the par three 14th.

“Our aim is to enhance the experience of the spectators and the players to generate a great atmosphere,” Birkmyre said. To this end, the Championship Village, impressive already, has been extended by almost half the length of a football pitch. “We asked ourselves how we could give the event even wider appeal, to keep spectators and families there even longer?” Birkmyre continued.

Among the many attractions, will be an exhibition of BMW’s Classic Car collection, covering the 60 years of the championship itself and offering the perfect illustration of how great things evolve.

“This event is a fantastic statement of what BMW is about and it’s a wonderful expression of what Wentworth Club has to offer,” Birkmyre said. “From the moment you arrive, you will understand why it’s the European Tour’s flagship event. It just gets better and better. For that we have BMW to thank – and we are looking forward to the years to come.”





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BMW PGA Championship: Enjoying the Major Feeling.

An interview with defending champion Matteo Manassero.

London. The 2013 BMW PGA Championship saw Matteo Manassero gaining the most significant victory of his fledgling career at Wentworth Club. The 20-year-old Italian etched his name alongside such greats as Seve Ballesteros, Bernhard Langer and Colin Montgomerie when he overcame Simon Khan and Marc Warren in a thrilling play-off. Speaking in an interview, Manassero recalls his biggest win, talks about the 'major' feel in Wentworth, the Ryder Cup and his relationship with BMW.

There are some great names on the BMW PGA Championship trophy, including Severiano Ballesteros, your idol. How did it feel to join them?

Matteo Manassero: "It means a lot. It's the biggest win of my career so far. The trophy is at home in my living room and surrounding my name are some of the biggest names in the history of the game. I hope that in 50 years, my name will be looked on in the same way."

How does it feel to be the youngest to have won it?

Manassero: "I'm very proud of the fact that I'm the youngest to have won such a huge event, but I don't think I'll hold the record for very long. I think the way golf is going, it's going to be beaten – and it's not going to take 44 years (the length of time the previous record stood, one held by Bernard Gallacher, the former Ryder Cup captain)."

What makes the BMW PGA Championship so special?

Manassero: "It's a tournament that everybody loves and Wentworth is a place that brings a smile to my face. Being the flagship event it's like the Players' event on the PGA Tour. It's a tournament we love. It gets really big crowds, who are so knowledgeable. For that reason it has a 'major' feel to it. You could call it a fifth major for the Europeans."



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The West Course is very challenging and yet you have done particularly well there in the past. What is your strategy for playing it?

Manassero: "It's not a short course, it's quite long. It doesn't offer many birdie opportunities, but you have to take them when they come along. Off the tee it is a really severe golf course. You need to be really precise with your tee shots and once you are on the green, you have to be a killer. Save pars, accept the occasional bogey, don't waste too many shots and take your birdies when the chances come along. I'm also mentally strong. When I'm up there (in contention), I react well. It's something I've been gifted with. But this course really tests your nerves. You need a lot of patience."

What are your ambitions for this year?

Manassero: "Obviously, I'd like to defend this title. I also want to keep progressing and hopefully win again. If I could win between now and September it would give me a chance of making the Europe Ryder Cup team."

On the subject of the Ryder Cup, what would it mean to you to make the Europe team? And do you enjoy match play golf?

Manassero: "I like match play because it's one against one – taking on another player rather than the course, which makes a nice change. I was behind the scenes at Celtic Manor (in 2010) and I really got a flavour of what it means. I want to be there. I'd love to be a part of Paul McGinley's team, but there's a long way to go. I'm just concentrating on week after week. If I do well on tour, making the Ryder Cup team will look after itself. Paul has been speaking to me and has been really nice. He gives you confidence and tells you to keep doing what you're doing. It's so different to anything else we have ever experienced, though. You are going to shake on every shot."

BMW is not only title partner to the BMW PGA Championship, but also to the BMW Masters in Shanghai, the BMW International Open and the BMW Championship on the PGA TOUR. Which of these tournaments is the one you would like to win next?

Manassero: "I think the BMW International Open is pretty special, but I'd have to go for the BMW Championship because of the quality of the field. If you win that one, it's like winning a major."





With the BMW Championship in mind, are you planning on playing more often on the PGA TOUR?

Manassero: "I'll stay here (in Europe) for sure. But I like to play in the US after the desert swing in Europe. But I'm not considering giving up playing in Europe. I'd like to be a global player – that's the future of the game."

BMW partners you personally. What does that mean to you?

Manassero: "It's a company that is so involved with golf, but more than anything it's an amazing company. Everybody speaks so highly of BMW and its approach to everything it does. I'm really lucky that my favourite cars have always been BMWs. I'm so lucky to have this relationship with the company. Obviously winning its flagship event in Europe was pretty special. Everything worked out just perfect."

If you could pick just one of BMW's cars, which one would it be?

Manassero: "The BMW i8 is amazing, but I couldn't drive around the city in it. For me, it's not an everyday car. It would be a tough battle, but I'd go for the new BMW M4."





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BMW PGA Championship: Eyeing the Players' Flagship triple.

An interview with 2011 and 2012 champion Luke Donald.

London. Luke Donald has won the European Tour's flagship event on more than one occasion. His victory in 2011 saw the Englishman move to the top of the world rankings. One year later, Donald became only the third pro, after compatriot Sir Nick Faldo (1980, 1981) and Scotland's Colin Montgomerie (1998, 1999, 2000) to successfully defend his title. Speaking in an interview, Donald discusses his victories, the secret to success on the West Course, and the importance of BMW as a global golf partner.

Luke, what are your thoughts on the BMW PGA Championship in general?

Luke Donald: "I think it's a really special event. It's our flagship event. And what is more, BMW runs amazing events. Whether here in Wentworth, at the BMW International Open in Munich, the BMW Masters in Shanghai or the BMW Championship on the PGA TOUR: BMW puts on a great show. Well done to BMW on reaching its tenth year of sponsorship of the BMW PGA Championship. The continuous support year after year across the globe epitomises its dedication to our sport, and for that we must all be extremely grateful. Having competed in so many BMW events, I know what a slick and professional job BMW does in running some of the biggest tournaments in golf. Congratulations again BMW. I look forward to many more of your events in the future. Here in Wentworth, the crowds they get make it fantastic even when the weather has been bad. The tournament has a great feel to it. There are some amazing names on that trophy – Monty, Faldo, all the European greats have won around there. The course also has lots of history, having hosted the match play as well."

Which was the more satisfying of your two wins at the BMW PGA Championship?

Donald: "I suppose it was the first one because there was more on the line. I knew that if one of us were to win (Donald and Lee Westwood), we would go to Number One in





the world. I'd had a couple of opportunities a few weeks before that and came up just short. So to beat Lee in a play-off and to win that tournament for starters was something special. The rewards that came with it were amazing. I was in the Number One spot for quite some time – 55/56 weeks in total – and I really enjoyed it. I relished the challenge of being there and knowing what got me there. I think that spurred me on to keep working hard.”

Speaking of the course: How did you tame the West Course when others struggled?

Donald: “The course has changed over the years. Everybody has different opinions about the design of the course. For me it particularly suited my game. There is a lot of emphasis on the short game because of the ‘sectioned off’ greens. That, plus the fact that there are some tougher pin positions makes you think a lot more into and around the greens. The surfaces of the greens were changed and from that moment my improvement level went up and I was able to gain a few shots. It played to one of my strengths, which is putting. Before, you could miss short putts without actually hitting a bad putt. I hope they can maintain them to a good level.”

Which are the three keys holes from your point of view?

Donald: “I’ve always thought the first three holes were the key holes. You need to get off to a good start and 1 and 3 are two of the toughest par fours that we play. I’ve always thought that if I was level par after three holes, I could have a good round.”

What about the 18th?

Donald: “They have gone through a lot of tweaking at that hole and I think they have now got it right. You can challenge the hole with a driver now, whereas a few years back the fairway sloped off and with bunkers fairly tight it was not really worth the risk. Even if you did hit a great drive, you’d invariably be on a downslope going into a green that was elevated and over water (very, very difficult). Now they have flattened out the fairway and made the green a little more accessible. It’s an exciting hole now. We saw that last year with Matteo, hitting a great shot in the play-off for a birdie against Simon Khan. The 18th is pure drama. I think par five ending holes are fun anyway.”





Your earliest memories of Wentworth?

Donald: "I used to go down there as a kid. My first memory ... I remember walking down to the 13th green and it's a blind second shot. Seeing this ball come in to about three feet. And I'm thinking 'Wow, these guys are great'. It was Chip Beck and he ended up missing the putt. So I thought, 'Oh well, maybe there's still a chance for me'. Also, I remember running around the course, watching Ernie, Faldo, all those guys. That was fun for me and gave me the appetite to be in that position. That's where it all started."



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BMW PGA Championship: Drama of the highest order. Stories from the past ten years.

London. Plots and subplots. For every storyline that has unfolded in the BMW PGA Championship over the West Course at Wentworth these past ten years, another has invariably caught the attention. We have been blessed with drama of the highest order, four days of competition each year in which 156 of the finest players in the European game have taken to the stage in their quest to be crowned champion. Each, in one way or another, has left his mark.

As victory celebrations go, **David Howell's** low-key affair in **2006** may take some beating. Modest to a fault, this most amenable of Englishmen settled for a cup of tea. How English. Howell's favourite memory of that momentous day, however, was not in lifting the trophy, but in sharing his moment in the sun with his parents. "One of the nice things was that my mum, who has since passed away, was there to watch me," he said with a warm glint in his eye. "She and my dad hadn't been together for a few years, but we managed to get a nice photo of the three of us together. It's still up on the wall at home. It was my proudest day – and it was shared with my mum and dad, which was rare. It was a nice end to a great day."

If ever the gods have smiled on a player, then **Miguel Ángel Jiménez** may just be that man. In **2008**, the veteran Spaniard had a hole in one at the 5th hole in the final round, to take the lead for the first time, and eventually went on to beat Oliver Wilson in a play-off. For Jiménez, the week was made even better when Thomas Bjørn, the great Dane, gave him his Ryder Cup souvenir watch from 2004 after finding out that the Spaniard's own one had been stolen. Jimenez had played that year in Detroit, while Bjorn had been one of Bernhard Langer's vice captains.

Robert Karlsson's Wentworth story falls into the bizarre category. In **2010**, the giant Swede was so convinced he would miss the cut after 36 holes that he headed home to Monaco, only to turn around again and head back to Wentworth when he received a phone call telling him he had got through to the weekend. Karlsson, who had been within 500 metres of home when he got the call, flew from Nice to Paris, and from there to London in a private jet, arriving at the course just before 7am, a couple of



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hours before he was scheduled to tee off. The outcome? A course-record 62 that moved the 2008 European Number One from joint last to joint second, two strokes behind Chris Wood, the third round leader. Alas, he could not keep up the momentum and fell away in the final round.

Living the dream that year was **Simon Khan**, who had lost his Tour card the previous season and had to return to Q School to get back his playing rights. Now, playing on a sponsor's exemption, he went on to win Europe's biggest event, his final round of 66 beating Luke Donald and Fredrik Andersson Hed into second place. "If you stop dreaming, you might as well stop," Khan said.

A year later and **Luke Donald** was stretching credibility with an opening round of 64 in such difficult conditions that his fellow competitors were left scratching their heads in disbelief. It prompted a memorable and witty response from Lee Westwood, for whom insult was added to injury when he had to take a random drugs test after a so-so round of 72. "I don't know why they tested me, they should have tested Luke," he said. "That 64.I can't quite work that one out."

The "Ole Seve" pro-am in **2011** was a fitting tribute to **Severiano Ballesteros**, who had died from cancer just a few weeks earlier. Among those who put their hands in their pockets at the charity auction later in the day was Ryder Cup hero **Ian Poulter**, who paid £55,000 for a gold putter once owned by the great man himself. It will take pride of place in my trophy cabinet at home," said Poulter, whose collection of golfing memorabilia included a ball given to him by Seve at the British Masters in 1991. At the time, Poulter was a wide-eyed young schoolboy. In total, the event raised more than £600,000 for the Ballesteros Foundation and Cancer Research UK. Among other items auctioned, **Paul Casey** paid around £65,000 for a Rolex watch formerly owned by Ballesteros.

Speaking of Seve, one of the most iconic images of the five-time major champion was of him dressed in bright green trousers and giving the ball a mighty thwack on his way to victory at the Open Championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes in 1988. Fast forward 25 years to last year and **Matteo Manassero**, for whom Seve was an idol, is dressed in similar garb – his own 'final day' tribute to the swashbuckling Spaniard – and waltzing towards the record books as the youngest winner, at 20, of the BMW PGA Championship. Seve would have approved.





On the other hand, **2013** was also the year of a very cruel moment: Club professional **Jason Levermore**, a regional qualifier, thought he had scooped a top-of-the-range BMW M6 Gran Coupe when he landed a hole in one at the par-three 2nd. Levermore, who had driven to the course from his home on the outskirts of London in a six-year-old jalopy, could not believe his luck. He celebrated with high-fives all round, only to be informed a little while later that the car was in fact on offer for a hole in one at the 14th.



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BMW PGA Championship: Magic moments galore.

Ten years with BMW, ten dramatic finishes, ten proud winners.

London. The European Tour's flagship event bears the letters BMW in its name for the tenth time this year. The partnership between the European Tour and BMW, which stretches back a quarter of a century, first incorporated its most important tournament in 2005. The first winner of this successful new era was Argentina's Angel Cabrera, who went on to win the 2007 US Open and 2009 Masters. Last year's event was won by Italian Matteo Manassero, who in doing so became the youngest winner in the history of the tournament. Join us as we look back at the last ten years of the BMW PGA Championship at the Wentworth Club.

In **2005**, at the inaugural BMW Championship, as it was named at that time, Argentina's **Angel Cabrera** proved the ultimate driving machine as he raced to a two-shot victory over Ireland's Paul McGinley. Cabrera shot a final round 66 for a 15 under par total of 273 to finally win The European Tour's flagship event. Twice before (2001 and 2004), 'El Pato' ('The Duck') had finished runner-up, but this time around it was a case of third time lucky. "This is a huge victory for me. It's really the best moment of my life winning the biggest event in Europe after The Open Championship," Cabrera said.

David Howell – the man whom Tiger Woods nicknamed 'Cool Dude' – was calmness personified as he compiled a near faultless final round of 69 to capture the BMW Championship in 2006. In finishing five strokes ahead of compatriot Simon Khan at Wentworth Club, Howell became the first English winner of the famous championship since Nick Faldo's record breaking fourth title in 1989. Howell was imperious throughout, as he cruised to his second BMW title following his success at the BMW International Open the previous year. He said: "I am overwhelmed by winning the BMW Championship – it supersedes everything else I have done. Outside the four Majors this is the one to win."

In **2007**, the tournament was renamed the 'BMW PGA Championship' and for the first – but by no means the last – time under the BMW banner, 'sudden-death' drama gripped the West Course. An enthralling final day ended with **Anders Hansen** holing



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a tremendous 25-foot birdie putt in the play-off against England's Justin Rose. Level par after the first two days, not many observers would have tipped the Dane to lift a second BMW PGA Championship title following his win in 2002, but in the end, England's Justin Rose was the only man who could match Hansen's eight under total. "I think it means a lot more to me this time than the first time I won it," smiled Hansen. "It's just a fantastic feeling because I have put in so much hard work and effort recently."

By winning in Wentworth in **2008, Miguel Ángel Jiménez** completed his BMW title hat-trick. In 2004, the most successful year of his career to date, "The Mechanic" won both the BMW Asian Open and the BMW International Open. Following two nerve-wracking extra holes in the playoff against Englishman Oliver Wilson, the Spaniard prevailed with his final birdie putt. "It feels great," said Jiménez as he lit his first cigar. "I have won all three. This is my 20th season on the Tour and to win the most important tournament on The European Tour on my 20th anniversary, is great, fantastic."

Victory at the **2009** BMW PGA Championship was a dream come true for **Paul Casey**. The Englishman ended the tournament on 17 under par to finish ahead of compatriot Ross Fisher (-16) and Denmark's Søren Kjeldsen. (-13). It was Casey's tenth title on the European Tour – and the long-awaited first victory at a BMW tournament. "This was a tournament I used to watch growing up as a kid," Casey said. "I have great memories. It's quite strange thinking I used to stand there listening to the sound of a ball go off the golf club and whistle past my head and now I'm on the other side of the ropes."

Incredible drama played out on a sunny day four of the **2010** BMW PGA Championship. England's **Simon Khan**, the world number 471 at that time and not even due to play the event until Monday, was in dreamland at the Wentworth Club, as he came from seven shots off the lead to win the BMW PGA Championship. Khan produced the biggest final- day comeback in the history of the European Tour's flagship event. A 20-foot birdie putt on the last, which curled round the back of the cup before toppling in, gave Khan the title, one shot ahead of England's Luke Donald and Swede Fredrik Andersson Hed. "This is what I've always dreamed of doing," said Khan. "This means everything. This tournament is the reason I started playing golf."

In **2011, Luke Donald** emerged triumphant from one of the most dramatic finishes ever witnessed at the BMW PGA Championship. The tournament ultimately came





down to a play-off between the top two golfers in the world at that time: Donald and Lee Westwood. Having seen Donald land his third shot within ten feet of the hole, Westwood played an almost identical approach shot, only to see his ball spin back into the water guarding the green. Donald ultimately holed his putt to leave the Wentworth Club with the BMW PGA Championship trophy and the title of World Number One. "It doesn't get much better," Donald said. "I'm not sure if there will ever be a case where Number One and Number Two in the world are playing off for the tournament, but also a chance for the Number One ranking in the world. I think history has been made."

In **2012**, the BMW PGA Championship had the same winner as the year before, but this time it was a totally different story. **Luke Donald** produced a commanding performance on the biggest stage on the European Tour to successfully defend the BMW PGA Championship title. With this win, the Englishman returned to World Number One in style and made him only the third player – Sir Nick Faldo and Colin Montgomerie are the others – to win The European Tour's flagship event two years in a row. "To come and defend and get back to Number One is very sweet indeed. What a great one to do it at. This is our biggest event on The European Tour," Donald said.

Matteo Manassero won the **2013** BMW PGA Championship in a dramatic four-hole play-off. The Italian defeated England's Simon Khan and Marc Warren (Scotland) in extra time to win his fourth title on the European Tour since turning pro just three years ago. In doing so, the 20-year-old from Verona became the youngest ever winner of the European Tour's flagship event, beating the previous record of Bernard Gallacher in 1969, who was 60 days older. "I obviously feel amazing. I feel really proud and honoured to have won the flagship event," said Manassero. "Anyone out on the course could see how unbelievable this tournament is and how big the crowds are. It has a Major feeling. Thanks to the European Tour and BMW for being such a great sponsor. I feel extremely happy because this place has always had a really special feeling to me."





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Major stars set for BMW PGA Championship.

60 years of top-class golf, a decade with BMW as Title Partner: “The Players’ Flagship” is living up to its name again in 2014.

London. No fewer than 11 Major Champions will tee up in a sparkling field for the diamond edition of the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth Club later this month.

Justin Rose, last year’s US Open Champion, is joined by four-time Major winner **Ernie Els** and 2011 Masters Tournament champion **Charl Schwartzel** for the 60th edition of The European Tour’s flagship event, while Northern Ireland’s trio of Major winners, **Darren Clarke**, **Graeme McDowell** and **Rory McIlroy**, will attempt to win the title for the first time.

Padraig Harrington, a three-time Major champion, **Martin Kaymer**, the 2010 US PGA Champion, **Retief Goosen**, the two-time US Open Champion, and **Michael Campbell**, who won the 2005 US Open Championship, are also in the star-studded line-up.

Peter Walker, General Manager of BMW Sports Marketing, said: “The BMW PGA Championship is one of the highlights of the British sporting calendar and it is fantastic to see so many of the world’s top golfers confirmed for this year’s event. 2014 marks BMW’s tenth year as title Partner and this is, without doubt, one of the highest quality fields we have seen during that time. With the 2014 Ryder Cup looming on the horizon, the players will be desperate to impress Captain, Paul McGinley. All the ingredients are in place for another sensational BMW PGA Championship.”

Jamie Birkmyre, Championship Director of the BMW PGA Championship, said: “The BMW PGA Championship is our flagship event and I am delighted that the British public will get to see so many of the world’s best golfers in action in this special anniversary year. To have 11 Major Champions, and all of the Medinah Ryder Cup team, is a real coup. Fans coming to Wentworth this year are in for a real treat.”

Ian Poulter, who won four points from five in inspiring Europe to what is now known as the ‘Miracle at Medinah’, will return to Wentworth’s hallowed West Course, as will



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his team-mates **Nicolas Colsaerts, Luke Donald, Sergio Garcia, Peter Hanson, Paul Lawrie, Francesco Molinari** and **Lee Westwood**.

Donald will attempt to become only the fifth player in history to win the BMW PGA Championship three times or more, following his magnificent back-to-back triumphs in 2011 and 2012. He would follow Sir Nick Faldo (four victories), Peter Alliss, Bernhard Langer and Colin Montgomerie (all three victories).

The Englishman is one of five former World Number Ones in action, with McIlroy, Westwood, Els and Kaymer all having reached the summit of the Official World Golf Ranking in the past.

Henrik Stenson, who won The 2013 Race to Dubai in such swashbuckling fashion, makes his first appearance in the event since 2010, while current Race to Dubai leader **Thomas Björn** will be seeking a 16th European Tour victory, and his first at Wentworth Club.

Italy's 21-year-old **Matteo Manassero** will defend the title, having won in record-breaking style 12 months ago, when he became the youngest winner in the event's history. At the other end of the spectrum, **Miguel Ángel Jiménez**, one of eight BMW PGA Champions in the field, will be looking to extend his record as The European Tour's oldest champion.

The Spaniard will be joined at Wentworth by fellow former winners Donald, **Simon Khan, Paul Casey, David Howell, Scott Drummond** and **Olazábal**.





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BMW PGA Championship: The anniversary programme.

Tuesday, 20th May	Official Practice Day Gates open 8:00 AM
Wednesday, 21st May	BMW PGA Championship Pro-Am Shotgun start 8:00 AM and 1:00 PM
Thursday, 22nd May	First round of the BMW PGA Championship Gates open 6:30 AM.
Friday, 23rd May	Second round of the BMW PGA Championship followed by the cut. Gates open 6:30 AM
Saturday, 24th May	Third round of the BMW PGA Championship with the top 65 players and all those on the same score Play begins depending on cut size
Sunday, 25th May	Final round of the BMW PGA Championship Play begins depending on cut size Prize giving ceremony on 18 th Green
Prize Money:	€ 4,750,000
Defending Champion:	Matteo Manassero (Italy)



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BMW PGA Championship: The capital of golf.

The Championship Village offers pure class away from the fairways.

London. Right from the moment visitors arrive at the 'Welcome Pavilion', there is plenty on offer for all the family. Emerging on the other side, fans find themselves in a world of food, fun and fashion. As always, the Championship Village will showcase the very best of BMW, with visitors able to view a wide range of BMW models: highlights such as the BMW i3 and BMW i8, the new M4 Convertible and the M3 Saloon as well as the 2 Series Active Tourer, the 4 Series Gran Coupé and the X4 will form the centrepiece.

Also on offer is an extensive variety of food and drink, ranging from the popular Theatre of Food adjoining the Warsteiner Lounge to the luxury Moët & Chandon Brasserie. 'Shopaholics' can satisfy their appetites at The Hugo Boss Lifestyle Merchandise Unit, the BMW Lifestyle Shop and the Oakley sunglasses stand, while the BMW Owners' Lounge is a wonderfully relaxing refuge from the cut and thrust of the Championship taking place out on the West Course.

And once the younger members of the crowd have exhausted the various activities on display in the Village, the BMW crèche is on hand to take the strain and allow the adults to catch up on the action out on the golf course. The Show Stage will once again feature The Allstars Band, who will close proceedings on Saturday and Sunday evenings, while Andrew Cotter returns by popular demand during the day. 'Cotter's Questions' sees Andrew joined on stage by leading golfers and the occasional celebrity.



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The BMW Group.

The BMW Group is the leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles in the world with its BMW, MINI and Rolls-Royce brands. As a global company, the BMW Group operates 28 production and assembly facilities in 13 countries and has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2013, the BMW Group sold approximately 1.963 million cars and 115,215 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax for the financial year 2013 was € 7.91 billion on revenues amounting to approximately € 76.06 billion. As of 31 December 2013, the BMW Group had a workforce of 110,351 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company has therefore established ecological and social sustainability throughout the value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to conserving resources as an integral part of its strategy.

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