

BMW International Open 2015



Media Information

24th June 2015

BMW International Open 2015: Cool quartet – Major winner, World Cup winner, handball punk and pop star.

Star group with Martin Kaymer, Thomas Müller, Stefan Kretzschmar and Tim Bendzko at Pro-Am tournament.

Munich. Stars aplenty at Golfclub München Eichenried: a host of world-class golfers were in action on the Championship Course on the eve of the BMW International Open, giving well-known amateurs from the world of sport and entertainment an insight into golf at the highest level. One of the earliest groups on the first tee on Wednesday morning featured two-time Major winner Martin Kaymer. His playing partners: football World Cup winner Thomas Müller, handball star Stefan Kretzschmar and singer Tim Bendzko.

“That was the best and funniest Pro-Am I have ever played,” said Kaymer. “We had a super round. It was great fun with Thomas, and Stefan is a great guy who is very easy-going. Tim was also on good form. The practice round was useful to get a feel for the course again. However, the priority for today was to have a lot of fun. And we definitely did that.”

“It was great fun, although I have definitely played better,” said Müller. “I don’t mind playing in front of a lot of people. If I get a shot wrong, I just get frustrated with myself. We all got on very well in our group. Tim Bendzko said he was nervous – but he still managed to score quite a lot of points for us. I think Martin is capable of anything at this tournament. He has shown often enough that he has what it takes to win. I don’t want to put him under too much pressure, but I obviously want to see his name at the top.” Müller’s caddy was Assistant Head Greenkeeper Willi Herrmann – sporting a German football shirt, of course.

Bendzko said: “It was a round of highs and lows today. I started dreadfully. My heart was beating like crazy in front of all those people on the first tee. After four or five holes I eventually started playing something resembling golf. Martin said that too. The atmosphere in the group was great, and we all hit decent shots every now and again. Thomas more often than me, but he also lost more balls. He really gives it a good wallop. And when you are trying to hit the ball over 340 metres, then you are going to lose the odd ball.”

BMW International Open 2015



“That was an awesome experience,” said Kretzschmar after his round. “When you play alongside Martin Kaymer for 18 holes, you have to say that that is real golf. What you are doing is nothing in comparison. It was a very humbling round. Martin makes everything look so easy. Thomas Müller is a very good golfer, and very competitive. But it was a great laugh and we had a blast. There was also a bit of competition.”

Group number 33 was all about Olympic gold medals: Olympic luge champions Felix Loch, Tobias Wendl and Tobias Arlt showed off their golf skills alongside professional Oliver Fisher (England). There was a relaxed atmosphere in the football group, led by Joost Luiten (Netherlands): Sportschau presenter Matthias Opdenhövel talked shop with former football stars Hasan Salihamidžić and Patrick Owomoyela. “You are obviously very tense when you suddenly have so many people watching you play,” said Opdenhövel. “I have every respect for the pros. It is incredible what the guys can do. As an amateur, you are almost pleased when they have to play the odd ball out of the thick rough. But they can do that too – they just play it out without any trouble at all. That is very impressive.”

Runner-up in the two-man bobs at the World Championship, Johannes Lochner, Olympic ski-jumping champion Dieter Thoma, Martin Bader (Sporting Director of 1. FC Nürnberg), Tobias Zellner (assistant coach of FC Augsburg) and professional golfers Sophia Popov and Karo Lampert also warmed up for the BMW International Open in the Pro-Am tournament.

TV footage is available to download at the following link: <http://etns.ucom.de>. Please register to receive access to the material.

Copyright-free images for editorial purposes can be downloaded in the BMW Group PressClub Sport at www.press.bmwgroup-sport.com.

Note to editors: You can find the latest press releases, media folders and copyright-free images for editorial purposes regarding BMW Golfsport online at: www.press.bmwgroup-sport.com

BMW International Open 2015

**Media contact:**

BMW Sport Communications

Nicole Stempinsky

Phone: +49 (0)151 – 174 177 25

E-mail: Nicole.Stempinsky@bmw.de

Internet: www.bmw-golfsport.com