

Media Information

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BMW International Open 2023 with star-studded field.

+++ Luke Donald (ENG) and his European Ryder Cup vice captains to play in Munich +++ German starters on top form +++ International greats such as defending champion Li Haotong (CHN) and "Player of the Year" Ryan Fox (NZL) to tee off from 21st to 25th June +++

Munich. The BMW International Open will be held for the 34th time this year. Once again a very interesting field will gather at BMW Group's headquarters for Germany's most prestigious and most tradition-steeped pro golfing event. The tournament loved by spectators and athletes alike, thanks to its special atmosphere, will be held at Golfclub München Eichenried from 21st to 25th June 2023. This year, the Ryder Cup, taking place in Rome (ITA) in autumn with Worldwide Partner BMW, will also play an important role.

With only a few months to go until the unique duel between the best golfers in Europe and those of the defending champions, the USA, at Marco Simone Golf & Country Club, the Ryder Cup teams will slowly take shape, and the captains will become clearer on who they want as wild card picks. Europe's captain **Luke Donald** will have the opportunity to take a look at a wide range of aspirants in Munich. The former world number one and two-time winner of the BMW PGA Championship will also be reaching for his clubs himself. The tournament's huge significance for the Ryder Cup's Team Europe is highlighted by the fact that all three vice captains – **Thomas Bjørn** (DEN, two-time BMW International Open champion), **Edoardo Molinari** (ITA) and **Nicolas Colsaerts** (BEL) – will be teeing off.

No doubt the quartet will be keeping a close eye on the many German players who have been attracting attention with excellent results on the two major world tours in recent months. **Yannik Paul** in third place on the "European Points List" would even qualify for the European team immediately as it stands. Paul won his first title on the DP World Tour (DPWT) last year, as did **Max Kieffer**, and both golfers will be in action in Munich. **Matti Schmid**, who made a splash on the PGA Tour when he finished in tied sixth place at "The

American Express" in January, will also be teeing off in his home state of Bavaria.

In **Marcel Siem**, the player of the hour is returning to the golf club in which he grew up as the child of the then club restaurateurs. The 42-year-old not only recently reached the impressive milestone of 500 DPWT tournaments, he also won the Hero Indian Open last weekend, which saw him celebrate a title win once again, more than eight years after his last victory (BMW Masters). **Alex Cejka**, who has been enjoying success on the Champions Tour since 2020, has won two majors there, and is currently ranked seventh in the season standings, will return to Germany and the DPWT for the BMW International Open.

A range of younger European players who have increasingly attracted attention and will also be part of the field at Golfclub München Eichenried have good reason to hope for a spot on the Ryder Cup team. These include 21-year-old Danish twins **Nicolai** and **Rasmus Højgaard**, who with two and three DPWT wins to their name respectively have already proved they have what it takes on several occasions. In Abu Dhabi, France's **Victor Perez** won the first Rolex Series tournament of the year, and his third title on the DPWT. The interesting quartet is rounded off by **Robert MacIntyre** of Scotland, who so far on the DPWT has won the "Rookie of the Year 2019" award and two tournaments.

Last year's winner **Li Haotong** (CHN), whose emotional reaction to winning the play-off will be remembered for many years to come, will be looking to defend his title in June. Last year's third-placed golfer, **Ryan Fox**, will also be teeing off again. The New Zealander was presented with the Seve Ballesteros Award for the best DPWT player of the year after an incredible 2022 season – beating majors winners Rory McIlroy (NIR) and Matt Fitzpatrick (ENG) to win the award. Spectators can also look forward to seeing three players who are as successful as they are likeable and popular: the two Spaniards **Rafa Cabrera Bello** and **Pablo Larrazábal** (two-time BMW International Open champion) and **Andrew "Beef" Johnston** (ENG), who are also eager not to miss out on the BMW International Open.

Entry to the BMW International Open Pro-Am tournament is free on Wednesday 21st June 2023. Entry is free for children and young people up to the age of 16 on all days.

Day tickets and tournament tickets, as well as VIP tickets for the Fairway Club, are available to purchase online: www.bmw-golfsport.com/tickets

See the online ticket shop for further information on all ticket categories – and on concessions for young people over the age of 16, pupils, students, and people with disabilities.

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In 2022, the BMW Group sold nearly 2.4 million passenger vehicles and more than 202,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2021 was €16.1 billion on revenues amounting to €111.2 billion. As of 31 December 2021, the BMW Group had a workforce of 118,909 employees.

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