



BMW Golf Cup International 2008

BMW Golfsport

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Press Information

5th December 2008

BMW Golf Cup International 2008: Successful premiere in land of the Gauchos.

Argentina's golfing heroes Eduardo and Andrés Romero give exclusive golf clinic to 141 amateurs at the World Final.

Buenos Aires. This year's World Final of the largest international golf series for amateurs, the 2008 BMW Golf Cup International, was played out in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The winners of the final tournament, which was held in South America for the first time, are Florence Luron (Mauritius, Ladies), Eduardo Izbaile (Mexico, Men A) and Alain Desmurger (France, Men B). In the National Team Category, the team from Mexico was victorious, finishing ahead of Taiwan and Paraguay. Directly after the final putt on the 18th Green of the famous Jockey Club, the sporting part of the World Clinic was drawn to a close with a golf clinic. This allowed Argentina's top golfer Andrés Romero to demonstrate his extraordinary skill. Accompanied by his famous compatriot and namesake Eduardo, the two professional golfers rode in as traditional Gauchos.

"The visit from Andrés and Eduardo Romero was the highlight of a magnificent event," said Dr. Kay Segler, Head of Region Importers BMW Group, in Buenos Aires. "Successful Argentinean golfers like the two Romeros, Angel Cabrera and Roberto de Vicenzo are proof that golf is on the up in this country. South America is a prospering region and an important market for BMW. For this reason, I am delighted to see the World Final make its premiere in this fascinating South American country."

The event took place in ideal conditions on the two challenging courses at the Jockey Club. Last weekend's rain had helped the fairways and greens, then just in time for the start of the tournament the clouds parted to reveal a bright blue sky over Buenos Aires. The 141 world finalists from 49 countries put on an excellent show over three 18-hole rounds.

Andrés Romero, who gave tips on how to improve one's swing and revealed his strategic game for decisive situations, was also thrilled by the high standard of play at the World Final. The current number 32 in the world presented the trophies at the closing gala dinner, and expressed his opinion: "The amateur game is very important for the development of golf. There would not be any professionals without amateurs. They, and the sponsors, are the ones that support the sport. BMW is one of the largest partners of golf around the world – including the amateur scene. For this reason, it is very important for the golfing enthusiasts in Argentina that an event like this has been held here."



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Magnus Wiese, head of BMW Golfsport Marketing, was also more than happy about the venue for the 2008 World Final: "Buenos Aires is a fascinating city, and the Argentineans are great hosts. We have felt very at home, and were able to offer the world finalists a unique experience in a fascinating environment and relaxed atmosphere. It is always impressive to see people from so many countries make contact with each other, and to watch international friendships develop."

BMW attaches just as much importance to the social aspects as it does the golf itself, and the World Final traditionally offers a fascinating support programme. The highlights of this year's event were the "Tigre Delta Tour", on which participants explored the subtropical delta of the Parana River in traditional wooden boats, a tango dinner – must in Buenos Aires, the home of the world-famous dance – and an exclusive BMW driver training session. Under the guidance of trained instructors from BMW Argentina, the participants were able to drive and experience the dynamics of the BMW 320si, and to learn how to combine sheer driving pleasure with greater safety on the roads.

After an unforgettable week in Buenos Aires, the world finalists now head back to their homelands with many fantastic memories. The BMW Golf Cup International World Final is a worthy end to 2008, which has been full of highlights for BMW Golfsport.

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BMW Golf Cup International – Final Results.

Men Category A - Top Ten.

Single - Stableford; 54 Holes.

| Rank | Name, First Name | Country | HCP | R1 | R2 | R3 | Total |
|------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----|----|----|----|-------|
| 1 | Izbaile, Eduardo | Mexico | 11 | 41 | 37 | 33 | 111 |
| 2 | Singh, Rudratej | India | 10 | 35 | 38 | 35 | 108 |
| 3 | Dueck, Jeremy | Canada | 6 | 35 | 39 | 33 | 107 |
| 4 | Osborne, Chris | United Kingdom | 12 | 45 | 25 | 33 | 103 |
| 5 | Schickele, Alban | Belgium | 5 | 33 | 38 | 31 | 102 |
| 6 | Lane, Robert | Bahrain | 4 | 31 | 39 | 29 | 99 |
| 6 | Sato, Yuichi | Japan | 9 | 32 | 34 | 33 | 99 |
| 6 | Cataldo Carrizo, Hugo | Paraguay | 9 | 3 | 34 | 32 | 99 |
| 9 | Ortiz, Enrique | Chile | 12 | 33 | 38 | 27 | 98 |
| 10 | Ali, Ahamad | Trinidad & Tobago | 7 | 37 | 33 | 25 | 95 |
| 10 | Pieterse, Colville | South Africa | 7 | 41 | 31 | 23 | 95 |

Men Category B - Top Ten.

Single - Stableford; 54 Holes.

| Rank | Name, First Name | Country | HCP | R1 | R2 | R3 | Total |
|------|-----------------------|-------------|-----|----|----|----|-------|
| 1 | Desmurger, Alain | France | 20 | 36 | 36 | 40 | 112 |
| 2 | Loor, Karl | Russia | 22 | 33 | 34 | 40 | 107 |
| 3 | Ettl, Thomas | Germany | 23 | 35 | 36 | 35 | 106 |
| 4 | Geck, Robert | New Zealand | 28 | 39 | 27 | 39 | 105 |
| 5 | Chang, Chia Lin | Taiwan | 13 | 31 | 39 | 34 | 104 |
| 5 | Tuukkanen, Hannu | Finland | 16 | 32 | 35 | 37 | 104 |
| 5 | Ghezzi, Danilo | Brazil | 21 | 34 | 32 | 38 | 104 |
| 8 | El-Dakhakhny, Mohamed | Egypt | 21 | 35 | 34 | 34 | 103 |
| 9 | Padiglioni, Riccardo | Italy | 21 | 33 | 32 | 37 | 102 |
| 10 | Morales, Jose | Paraguay | 18 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 99 |

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Ladies - Top Ten.

Single - Stableford; 54 Holes.

| Rank | Name, First Name | Country | HCP | R1 | R2 | R3 | Total |
|------|--------------------|----------------|-----|----|----|----|-------|
| 1 | Luron, Florence | Mauritius | 25 | 37 | 39 | 35 | 111 |
| 2 | Jitwises, Prim | Thailand | 16 | 45 | 31 | 32 | 108 |
| 3 | Chou, Hsiu Chen | Taiwan | 23 | 36 | 38 | 33 | 107 |
| 4 | Voswinckel, Monika | Brazil | 19 | 37 | 37 | 30 | 104 |
| 5 | Valencia, Livier | Mexico | 16 | 37 | 27 | 38 | 102 |
| 6 | Reeka, Ellen | Spain | 24 | 32 | 35 | 34 | 101 |
| 7 | Mino, Tokiko | Australia | 9 | 37 | 30 | 31 | 98 |
| 8 | El-Halawani, Amina | Egypt | 21 | 37 | 32 | 28 | 97 |
| 9 | Seo, Hye Lee | Guatemala | 17 | 37 | 21 | 38 | 96 |
| 10 | Szymura, Emma | United Kingdom | 9 | 35 | 33 | 27 | 95 |
| 10 | Bhattia, Madhu | Dubai | 19 | 43 | 25 | 27 | 95 |

National Team Category - Top Ten.

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|----------|
| 1 st | Mexico | 307 pts. |
| 2 nd | Taiwan | 301 pts. |
| 3 rd | Paraguay | 291pts. |
| 4 th | Australia | 289 pts. |
| 5 th | United Kingdom | 288 pts. |
| 6 th | Brazil | 285 pts. |
| 7 th | Finland | 284 pts. |
| 7 th | Japan | 284 pts. |
| 9 th | Belgium | 282pts. |
| 10 th | Egypt | 281 pts. |
| 10 th | Germany | 281 pts. |

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BMW Golf Cup International 2008: Interview with Andrés Romero.

“BMW is one of the most important sponsors of golf.”

To round off the World Final in Buenos Aires, Argentinean pro Andrés Romero joined his compatriot and namesake Eduardo to give an exclusive golf clinic. In the evening they presented the trophies at the celebratory gala dinner to close the event. In an interview, the 27-year-old talks about amateur golf, his recipe for success, and his goals for the coming season.

Andrés Romero, it will be a special experience for the competitors at the BMW Golf Cup International World Final to receive tips from you. Is amateur golf important to you?

Andrés Romero: “Amateurs golf is, for me, extremely important for the sport. There wouldn’t be professionals without amateurs. They and the sponsors support the game.”

For the first time, the world final is being held in your home country, Argentina. The country currently boasts two world-class pros: yourself and Angel Cabrera. How do you assess the development of the sport in Argentina?

Romero: “Argentina is the most important golfing country in South America. One of the reasons is the high quality of Argentine professionals playing all around the world. Of course Angel and I gave an important “push” to the development of golf in Argentina, but there are also about 50 Argentine professionals playing on different tours who also help to promote the sport.”

Has an international tournament series for amateurs, such as the BMW Golf Cup International, got what it takes to increase the popularity of the sport?

Romero: “BMW is known as one of the most important sponsors of golf all around the world - not only in the professional field, but also for amateurs - so it is very important for the local golfers to receive such an important event.”

You play at tournaments all over the world and get to know people from the most diverse cultures. The world final is also contested by participants from 49 different nations, brought together by a shared passion for their sport. Do you enjoy this aspect of golf?

Romero: “Everyday I have important experiences travelling and meeting new people from different countries. I am sure this will be another exiting opportunity for all of us to welcome players from so many countries. I am also sure that all they will enjoy visiting our country.”

The world final will be held on the Jockey Club's 'Red' and 'Blue' courses. How would you characterise these two courses and what tips can you give the finalists?

Romero: "My advice to the new finalist is to be patient. The course is fantastic, but you must be concentrated to fight against it. Do not be aggressive at the Jockey Club. Just wait for the moment to attack. It has been voted as the best golf course in South America by professionals."

Let's talk about preparation: you often secure particularly good results at the Majors, and in your first year on the PGA Tour you succeeded in winning a tournament right away.

What is your approach to, such important events? What is your recipe for success?

Romero: "I enjoy the challenge of playing the Majors too much. They give me a special motivation. I don't have a different preparation for Majors than for other tournaments. My mind works differently during those weeks."

You have had an excellent golfing year. What goals have you set yourself for 2009?

Romero: "My goals for 2009 are to win a Major and to arrive at Dubai in the best position possible."

In 2008, you finished sixth in the European Tour's "Flagship Tournament", the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth, and were one of only 70 PGA Tour pros that qualified for the BMW Championship. Will the European golfing enthusiasts have the chance to witness Andrés Romero teeing up for the BMW golf events again in 2009?

Romero: "Of course I will attend the European BMW events in 2009. I am planning to play both the BMW PGA Championship and the European Tour."

As you say on your website, the BMW X5 is your favourite car. What features give you that much driving pleasure when sitting at the wheel of this vehicle?

Romero: "Everybody knows that cars are one of my hobbies. For that reason I am very demanding when I buy a car. The BMW X5 is an extremely confident, comfortable and exciting car to drive."

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