

Bad Ragaz PGA Seniors Open Media Bulletin

14th Bad Ragaz PGA Seniors Open: Starting the Summer holidays with defending champion John Bland, Sam Torrence, Costantino Rocca, & Co.

Bad Ragaz, February 23rd 2010 – There are some new things in store for the 14th edition of the Bad Ragaz PGA Seniors Open. First, the date has changed. It will take place this year from July 2nd to July 4th. Another change is the prize money which, regardless of the economic crisis, is rising once again. Of course, something that is not changing is our traditionally high level of competition among the world class players. Leading the way is John Bland, last year's winner in an exciting play off against Bob Boyd. Bland will be joined by the best from the PGA European Tour and Ryder Cup heroes such as, among others, fan favourites Costantino Rocca and Sam Torrence.

The year started well for Ralph Polligkeit, Bad Ragaz PGA Seniors Open OK President and Grand Resort Bad Ragaz Director of Golf & Sports. At the end January he received the "Swiss Golf Hotel of the Year 2009" and "Swiss Golf Course of the Year 2009" awards at the "World of Golf" in Zurich. Both the 18 Hole PGA Championship Course and the 9 Hole Executive course were considered by the organisation to be outstanding. However, that was not all for Mr. Polligkeit. He announced, "The PGA European Seniors Tour was able to reserve our requested dates for the tournament." The 14th edition of the Bad Ragaz PGA Seniors Open will take place at the beginning of the Summer holidays from July 2nd to July 4th, 2010. This is 6 weeks earlier than past years and directly before the start of the high tourist season in the "Swiss Golf Resort of the Year 2009".

Good news for the competitors

The change of date is not the only good news that Ralph Polligkeit is able to announce. The prize money has also seen some changes. "We are extremely pleased to say that we can raise the prize money by 30,000 Euro regardless of the difficult economic situation. This year the pros in Bad Ragaz will be playing for a total of 250,000 Euro", said the OK President.

The winner of the 14th Bad Ragaz PGA Seniors Open will receive a check for more than 37,500 Euro (2009: 33,000 Euro). The prize money is not all the winner will receive. The spouse of the Bad Ragaz winner will receive a gift certificate to Grand Resort Bad Ragaz. This is something the spouses past winners have greatly appreciated, as Beryl Mason, wife of two time Bad Ragaz winner Carl Mason, confirmed after his successful title defence in 2008.

Bland, Mason, Rocca, and Torrance already confirmed

It is not just about the prize money at the 14th Bad Ragaz Seniors Open in the beginning of July. It is also very much about the honour. The crystal ball trophy from Switzerland is something that the participants of the PGA European Seniors tour hold in high regard. This honour also includes defending the Bad Ragaz title. The South African John Bland, who at

63 years and 10 months old became the 2nd oldest winner of the PGA European Seniors Tour in Switzerland on August 9th, 2009, has already confirmed his place for July 2010. He is not the only one to do so. Ralph Polligkeit has already received positive answers from 4 fan favourites. Sam Torrance has said he will be coming back to Switzerland this year. Costantino Rocca, Carl Mason, and Glenn Ralph all personally confirmed their presence for July. Of course, exciting duels and world class golf can be expected once again. Ryder Cup hero Torrance and Rocca have a score to settle with the course. Both came within striking distance of a win in their Bad Ragaz debut – Rocca in 2007 and Torrance in 2006. Rocca, from Northern Italy, was not able to realize his dream in the last 2 years due to health reasons. However, always in a good mood, Rocca has not given up his dream just yet – and neither has Torrance. The Scot was forced to miss the practice round last year because his Golf bag was still in the airport in London. The bag made it here in time for the beginning of the tournament, but it would cost Torrance. A 72 first round lost him a spot in the playoffs and perhaps a chance at victory.

Golf fans can also look forward to even more in the beginning of July this year in Bad Ragaz. It always creates a buzz when a Golf legend is with us here on the course. Sir Robert “Bob” Charles, from New Zealand, at 75 years old is still a sure bet, even when he set somewhat of a modest goal for himself. “Whenever I get out to the course my aim is to play a round under my age.” It seems to always work out for him in Bad Ragaz. The fans always appreciate his extraordinary level of play and always give him the respect he so deserves. By the way, this will be the last opportunity to experience Sir “Bob” Charles at a PGA tournament in Switzerland. The charismatic lefty is making his farewell tour in 2010 and will only be playing in 3 tournaments in Europe. Aside from Bad Ragaz, he will be going to Wales (Ryder Cup Wales Senior Open from June 18th to 20th) and Scotland (British Seniors Open Championship)

BILD:

To victory: With a glass of champagne, John Bland celebrates with the trophy and his wife Sonja from Mozambique.

For more information:

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