

RAK to host Challenge Tour event

Penultimate round of feeder tier season will take place October 26-29

Ras Al Khaimah: Ras Al Khaimah will host the penultimate round of golf's European Challenge Tour season — the RAK Golf Challenge — at the Peter Harradine designed Al Hamra Golf Club from October 26-29 this year, it was confirmed on Wednesday.

The Challenge Tour is the second tier in European golf with the best players at the end of the season earning their cards to play on the main European Tour.

Haitham Mattar, chief executive officer of the Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority said: "I am delighted to announce that one of the biggest sporting events in the UAE, will officially be hosted, for the first time, in Ras Al Khaimah. The contract has now been finalised and ahead of October 2016, our efforts will be concentrated on fine tuning details to ensure the event will be a huge success."

Alain de Soultrait, Challenge Tour director, added: "The Challenge Tour is proud of its reputation for breaking new ground so we are excited to be visiting Ras Al Khaimah for what will be the biggest sporting event in the Emirate's history.

"We have already introduced professional golf events to nations such as Czech Republic and Kazakhstan with great success, and one of our missions is to spread the game to promising new destinations.

"The confirmation that we will visit Ras Al Khaimah for the penultimate event of our 2016 season is great news for all involved and will hopefully be a major step in establishing Ras Al Khaimah both as a spectacular venue for our Tour and as a major player in the golf tourism market."