

EUROPEAN TOUR TOURNAMENT PREVIEW AND TIPS - ABU DHABI HSBC CHAMPIONSHIP

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All the big names are out in force this week. In recent years the HSBC Championship in Abu Dhabi has been like a major in terms of the field of players it attracts and this year it is certainly no exception. 3 of the world's top 5 ranked players feature this week as many consider it the springboard to their 2017 season as they all compete for a cut of the \$2,700,000 prize purse.

With Rory narrowly missing out last week at the BMW South African Open, a win this week will see the 4-time major winning champion back in the number one spot **UPDATE – Rory McIlroy pulls out of 2017 Abu Dhabi Golf Championship due to injury**. Last years winner Rickie Fowler also returns to the field and is sure to be looking to defend his title on a course he clearly likes.

Here's an insight into the course, the tournament and who we think will do well at this year's Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship.



**ABU DHABI
GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP
RECORDS**

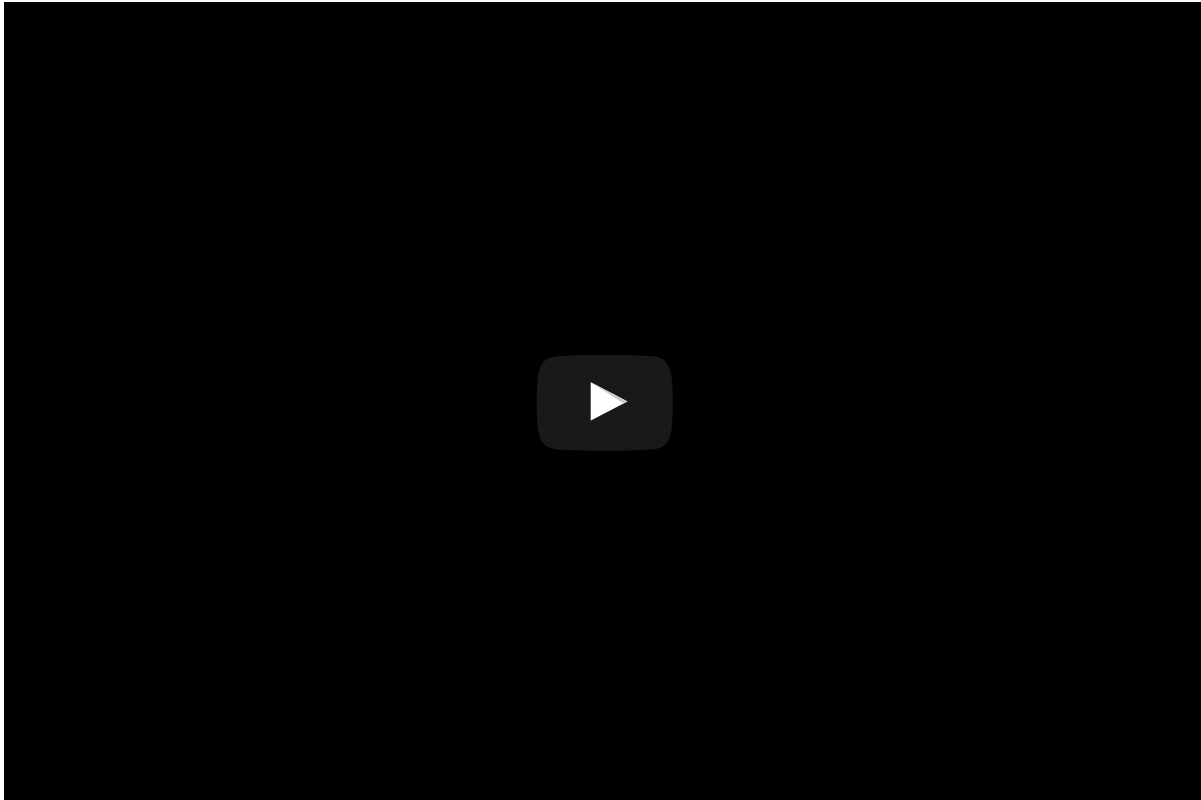
LOWEST ROUND HENRIK STENSON (62)
LOWEST TOTAL MARTIN KAYMER (-24)
LARGEST WIN MARTIN KAYMER (8 SHOTS)
MOST WINS MARTIN KAYMER (3 TIMES)
HOLE-IN-ONES 15
BIGGEST COME BACK GARY STAL (8 SHOTS - 2015)

Infographic by 

TOURNAMENT HISTORY

Making its European Tour debut in January 2006, the HSBC championship has always had a knack of attracting golf's biggest names and last year boasted the strongest field on the European tour with the exception of the 4 majors. Previous winners include two-time major winning champion Martin Kaymer who has his name on the trophy 3 times already, England's Paul Casey and Wales' Jamie Donaldson.

However, it is perhaps last years Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship that was the most exciting to date. America's Rickie Fowler had a commanding 3 shot lead heading into the turn and it wasn't till he parred 7 straight holes that Rory McIlroy and Henrik Stenson got a sniff. McIlroy came home with a 5 under par back down and the big Swede delivered with a 32 on the way back in leaving him just one shot of the lead. Then what happened next was truly brilliant from the man in orange – as he sunk a fantastic bunker shot and held his nerve on the last to reign victorious.



Rickie holes out en route to winning last year

THE COURSE

The course is designed by esteemed golf architect **Peter Harradine** who has over 180 golf courses to his name. **Harradine** Golf Course design is a family business set up in 1929 and since then has gone on to create some of the best golf courses all across Europe and Asia. Many of the courses play host to yearly PGA tour events and between them have won a multitude of awards.

**ABU DHABI GOLF CLUB
COURSE STATS**

YARDAGE - 7344 YARDS

PAR - 72

**DESIGNER -
PETER HARRADINE**

**OPENED
OCTOBER
2000**

your
golf
travel

par 3



Abu Dhabi Golf Club is the 5th longest golf course on the European Tour measuring a mammoth 7,583 yards but with McIlroy's opening drive last week measuring in at 392 yards, the course length will be no problem for some of the game's longest hitters.

Abu Dhabi Golf Club is one of the few courses that is constantly evolving as the TCA Abu Dhabi meet up with the Tournament Coordinators year on year as they aim to develop a new and more challenging layout for the constantly improving field of golfers on the European Tour today. This week player's will be greeted by a few craftily positioned bunkers designed to catch them out, whilst they will also be playing the final hole from a newly elevated tee which provides them with a different view of the finishing par 5 from what they are accustomed to.

THE FIELD

Finally DJ is going to play in Abu Dhabi, arguably golf's longest hitter is going to take on one of golf's biggest courses. Having won his first major at Oakmont in June last year, Johnson has proven that he has got the short game to match his massive hitting making him a force to be reckoned with this year. Your Golf Travel ambassador Lee Westwood also features in the field this year looking for his first win on the tour since 2014.