

A Passport to Pravets: Championship Field Takes Shape

As more member PGAs stage their qualifiers, and several additional ones in the coming weeks, the field is beginning to form for the 72-hole PGA Professional Championship of Europe at the new and magnificent PRAVETS Resort in Bulgaria on September 27-30.

England, France, Poland and Wales have now named at least one of their trio to add to names already selected to take part by Sweden (Peter Grimfjord, Fredrik Tillgren and Claes Björklund) and Luxembourg (Leon Marks).



France have confirmed their complete trio in Jean-Paul Cixous, Frederic Cupillard, and Charles Dubois, the leading three in the French Championship while one of England's trio will be Chris Gill, an honour earned by his placing in the Glenmuir British Club Professional Championship staged at the Belfry. Andrew Barnett of Wales, who could be among the favourites, qualified by a similar route.

Poland will be represented by Maximillian Saluda justified his selection by his form in the Deutsche Bank BMW Pro-Am Tour event at Sierra Golf Club at the beginning of July. During the month of August Passport to Pravets qualifiers are being staged by Austria, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Holland, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland and Slovakia.

Portugal, Finland, Croatia, Bulgaria and Belgium have staged their qualifiers recently and are in the process of selecting their representatives.



GolfBuddy, a global leader in golf GPS technology, is to play an important role in the return of the prestigious Championship when an elite field of 60 professionals from the association's 31 full member countries will use GolfBuddy World Platinum GPS rangefinders to plot their way around the challenging course– in the first ever international professional-only golf tournament to be played in the country.

GolfBuddy, a corporate partner of the PGAs of Europe and Europe's leading golf GPS brand, is making its acclaimed World Platinum model available to all players, who qualified for the final through their respective national competitions. John Ennis, GolfBuddy Europe General Manager said: "As a brand with such a dominant presence in Europe, we're delighted to be supporting this championship as well as the International Team Championship

"It's great to see the individual competition back on the playing schedule. The Peter Harradine-designed course at Pravets is challenging and the TouchPoint technology in the GolfBuddy World Platinum – which gives instant yardage readings to and from any point on a hole – will certainly benefit the competing professionals.

“Our professional mappers have walked the Pravets course on foot to create extremely accurate readings.”



The magnificent, multi-facility host Resort, in scenic surrounds with lakeside location and mountain backdrop, featuring its Peter Harradine course, was officially opened only recently and has become the perfect venue for the re-launch of the PGAs of Europe's Blue Riband Championship, after an absence of six years.

A parkland-style design, the course has a signature hole in the par-three eighth with its tantalising island green as a target though the most difficult holes are reckoned to be 15th and 16th, which also bring water into play. The 9th and 18th holes are united as one large green, a feature taken from the Old Course at St Andrews

Back in its Starwood-sponsored days the Championship winners were almost inevitably British, including Welshmen Richard Dinsdale and Sion Bebb along with Englishmen Andrew George (twice) and Paul Wesselingh but the mainland Europe challenge has heightened so substantially in the intervening years that the outcome will be far less predictable.