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Min woo lee masters

The European Tour is a leading men's professional golf tour in Europe, founded by the Professional Golfers' Association through the 1970s. The organisation operates three tours: the main PGA European Tour, the Challenge Tour for development, and the European Senior Tour for players aged 50 or older. The European Tour has its headquarters at Wentworth Club in England and is run by a professional staff controlled by its playing members via a board of directors composed of 12 elected past and present top players. The chairman of the Board is Eric Nicol, who replaced David Williams in 2023. Most tournaments are held in Western Europe, with the most lucrative events taking place in the UK, Ireland, Germany, France, and Spain. The PGA European Tour is a golfer-controlled organisation whose primary purpose is to maximise the income of tournament golfers. The tour has a significant presence in Ryder Cup Europe, a joint venture including the PGA of Great Britain and Ireland and PGA of Europe, with the PGA European Tour holding 60% interest in the organisation. In June 2023, it was announced that the PGA Tour, LIV Golf, and the European Tour would merge under a single organisation. The history of professional golf in Europe dates back to Scotland, where clubmakers, greenkeepers, and wealthy patrons competed in "challenge matches" for purses. The first multi-competitor stroke play tournament, The Open Championship, was introduced in 1860. The growth of golf tournaments offering prize money was a gradual but steady process. Initially, most events were held in the UK, but as time passed, "national opens" sprouted up across Continental Europe. In 1901, The Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) was formed to represent professional golfers from Great Britain and Ireland. This marked the beginning of the European Tour's development. The creation of the Harry Vardon Trophy in 1937 recognized the PGA member with the lowest stroke average in major tournaments. Over time, the method for calculating this award shifted from stroke average to a points system and eventually money earned. Tournament selection for the Order of Merit varied annually, with the PGA determining which events would be included. Following World War II, prize money became more significant, attracting sponsors due to television coverage. This led to professional golfers being able to sustain themselves financially through their playing careers alone. The PGA Tour in the US had been established since the 1930s but in Europe, many tournaments remained independently organized until the creation of an integrated European tour in 1972. This season marked a significant milestone for the PGA European Tour, with eight major Continental European events included on the Order of Merit schedule. However, the British and continental circuits continued to run separately until 1975, when the Tournament Players Division was formed to give tournament organizers more autonomy. The European Tour expanded its reach over the years, gradually lengthening its season from six months in 1972 to November by 1982. The tour's first event outside Europe took place that year, with the Tunisian Open. The PGA European Tour gained independence from the Professional Golfers' Association in 1984 and became "all-exempt" the following year, eliminating pre-qualifying for tournaments. As its global presence grew, the European Tour remained vigilant about the risk of losing top players to the rival American tour. The European Tour has implemented various strategies to compete with the PGA Tour and offer better opportunities for its players. One key move was introducing the "Volvo Bonus Pool" in 1988, providing extra prize money at the end of the season to successful players who participated in a large number of events on the tour. This initiative aimed to incentivize players to stay within the European Tour schedule. In recent years, the tour has expanded its reach globally by visiting new regions. Notably, the first visit to East Asia occurred in 1992 at the Johnnie Walker Classic in Bangkok, which has since become a significant and recurring event on the tour's calendar. The success of this initiative is attributed to the growing popularity of golf in East Asia. The European Tour has also begun co-sanctioning tournaments with other PGA Tours, such as the South African PGA Championship, the PGA Tour of Australasia, and the Asian Tour. This policy allowed for more cross-pollination between tours and increased opportunities for players. Furthermore, the tour added the three U.S. majors – the Masters Tournament, the PGA Championship, and the U.S. Open – to its official schedule in 1998, making their prize money count towards the Order of Merit. The inclusion of World Golf Championships (WGCs) events, such as the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational and the WGC-Cadillac Championship, has provided additional opportunities for players to compete against a global field. The minimum number of events required for tour membership has been adjusted over time, with the current requirement being 13. This change allows team events like the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup to contribute to a player's eligibility. The European Tour's minimum requirements for membership were revised in 2016, reducing the number of events from five to four, excluding majors and World Golf Championships. This change allowed non-eligible players to maintain membership while competing on the PGA Tour. In 2018, the minimum was reduced further to four events. The tour was rebranded as the DP World Tour in 2021, following a sponsorship agreement with Dubai-based DP World. The European Tour entered into a strategic alliance with the PGA Tour in 2020, resulting in increased collaboration and shared revenue streams. As part of this agreement, the PGA Tour acquired a 15% stake in European Tour Productions and gained co-sanctioning rights for several tournaments. The Irish Open also secured new sponsorship and prize funds. In response to LIV Golf's emergence, the tours announced an increased PGA Tour stake to 40% and further changes, including higher prize funds and exclusive access to PGA Tour cards for top performers in the DP World Tour Rankings. Despite its lower total prize money compared to the PGA Tour, the European Tour retains significant standing due to its high minimum world ranking points and prize money for major tournaments. Historically, the European Tour has served as a stepping stone for elite golfers from non-European countries, particularly during the late twentieth century. However, this trend has diminished in recent years as top players have continued to base themselves in the United States. The number of European countries producing winners on the European Tour and PGA Tour has increased, with notable golfing depth developing in Scandinavian countries. However, many young golfers from around the world now start their careers directly in the United States, often after attending college as amateurs with golf scholarships. Some American players have also sought to begin their professional careers in Europe, having failed to qualify for the PGA Tour or its development tour. For instance, Peter Uihlein, a former world number one amateur, chose to start his professional career in Europe in 2012, playing on the European Tour and Challenge Tour through sponsor's exemptions. This route has been successfully followed by major winners like Brooks Koepka. The finances of the European Tour are heavily dependent on the Ryder Cup, with significant profits made in years when the event is held in Europe. In non-Ryder Cup years, the tour reportedly loses money, while making a tidy profit in years when the event is played in the United States. The European Tour has also extracted significant concessions from Ryder Cup venues, including commitments to host tour events for over a decade and guaranteed purses. The current season, 2024 European Tour, follows a similar pattern to previous years, with events held outside Europe until late March, followed by a focus on European events with higher prize money. The schedule includes major championships, World Golf Championships, and the HSBC Champions, with minor variations from year to year. The Race to Dubai's bonus pool was initially set at \$10 million but reduced to \$7.5 million in the global economic downturn of 2009. The winner would take home a maximum of \$1.5 million from this pool, with the top 15 players earning some part of it. A new tournament, the Dubai World Championship, contributed to the name change and added another \$7.5 million prize fund. The leading 60 golfers in the Race following the Hong Kong Open would compete for this total. Winners received exemptions ranging from ten years on the European Tour to five years in the Dubai World Championship. The bonus pool shrunk to \$3.75 million by 2012, with only the top 10 earning a share, while the winner received \$1 million. In contrast, by 2014, it had grown back to \$5 million, splitting among the top 15 golfers. The 2019 season made further changes: the bonus pool was reduced to just five finishers on the Race to Dubai, with the first-place golfer taking an additional \$2 million prize compared to Francesco Molinari's \$1.25 million in 2018. 1. Rory McIlroy 2. Jon Rahm 3. Lee Westwood 4. Henrik Stenson The European Tour has been awarding its top golfer since 1972, with Nick Faldo holding the record for most wins (3). Other notable winners include Seve Ballesteros, Ian Woosnam, and Bernhard Langer. The tour has had five Chief Executives since its inception: John Jacobs, Ken Schofield, George O'Grady, Keith Pelley, and Guy Kinnings. The European Tour has expanded globally, with events held in Asia, Africa, Australasia, South America, and North America. In 2021, the tour was renamed DP World Tour. The Ladies European Tour is a separate professional women's golf tour. There have been several notable moments in the history of the European Tour, including controversies over prize money and player freedom. The tour has also undergone significant changes, including mergers with other organizations like the PGA Tour and LIV Golf. Some key statistics mentioned in the text include: * 1972: The year the European Tour was formed * Nick Faldo: Most wins on the European Tour (3) * Seve Ballesteros: Two-time winner of the European Tour's top prize * Ian Woosnam: Winner of the European Tour's top prize in 1987 * Bernhard Langer: Three-time winner of the European Tour's top prize Overall, this text provides an overview of the history and organization of the European Tour, as well as some notable highlights and statistics. European Tour Developments Over The Years The European Tour has undergone significant changes since its inception. In 1984, Raymond Jacobs wrote about a satellite tour taking off in The Glasgow Herald. This marked the beginning of a series of developments that would shape the tour into what it is today. One key change occurred in 2008 when the European Tour increased its minimum tournament requirement. This decision was aimed at improving the competitiveness and quality of events on the tour. The Ryder Cup, Seve Trophy, and Presidents Cup were also made to count towards European Tour points, as reported by Rex Hoggard in 2012. This move was designed to enhance the tour's credibility and attract top players from around the world. In 2015, Will Medlock wrote about significant changes to the European Tour for the 2016 season. These included a new qualifying format and a revamped points system. The Ryder Cup qualification process also underwent changes in 2017, with a new format introduced to determine the teams that would represent Europe. A closer working alliance between the PGA Tour and European Tour was announced in 2020, with Iain Carter reporting on the agreement reached by both organizations. This partnership aimed to strengthen ties between the two tours and enhance the overall golfing experience for players and fans alike. The Irish Open prize money increased to €5 million from 2022, as reported by Phil Casey in August 2021. The tour has also announced plans to co-sanction three tournaments with the PGA Tour in 2023, as stated in a press release. LIV Golf's impact on the European Tour was discussed by Iain Carter in June 2022, highlighting the strengthened partnership between the DP World and PGA Tours to combat the Saudi-funded series. The European Tour, previously known as the PGA European Tour, has undergone several changes in its title sponsorship and awards over the years. In 2016, it launched the Rolex Series, a series of high-profile golf tournaments sponsored by Rolex. ^ "European Tour Launches the Rolex Series". The following year, HNA Group became the title sponsor of the Open de France. ^ "HNA Group named title sponsor of the Open de France". The tour has also recognized its top performers through various awards. One such award is the Seve Ballesteros Award, which was previously known as the Players' Player of the Year Award. It was renamed in 2017 to honor the late Spanish golfer Seve Ballesteros. ^ "Fitting legacy as Seve Ballesteros' name goes on top award". The award is given annually to recognize outstanding contributions to European golf. In addition to individual awards, the tour also recognizes its most promising rookies through the Rookie of the Year Award. ^ "Sharma leads the race for European Tour Rookie of the Year". The European Tour has a rich history dating back to 1960 when Anglo-Scot gained a Special Prize. ^ "Anglo-Scot gains Special Prize". The tour's leadership has also undergone changes, with Guy Kinnings becoming its CEO in 2024. ^ "Guy Kinnings becomes European Tour Group CEO".