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CHAMPS

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YES TRYOUTS

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■ GOLF: Course will host junior girls national championship in August

Canada's best coming to Sawmill

DAVE PAUL
The Observer

For the first time ever, a national golf champion will be crowned in Sarnia-Lambton, this August.

Canada's top junior girls golfers will be at Sawmill Creek Golf Resort and Spa, Aug. 3-6, to compete in the 2010 Royale Cup Canadian Junior Girls Golf Championship.

The field for the tournament — which has been contested since 1955 — will feature over 150 of the top junior female golfers from across the country.

The event "has been won by some of the greatest names in Canadian women's golf, including multiple LPGA winner Sandra Post (as well as) Lisa Meldrum and Alena Sharp, both of whom are currently on the LPGA Tour," said the RCGA's Matt MacKay, the tournament director, at a press conference, Wednesday at Sawmill Creek.

MacKay added the organization is looking forward to hosting an event in Sarnia-Lambton.

"It's no coincidence that perhaps Canada's finest golfer ever, Mike Weir, and one of the world's best amateurs, Matt Hill, are both from the area," said MacKay. "That's what happens when a community embraces a sport and supports its promising athletes."

The field for the tournament will be comprised of 156 players, all under the age of 19, with a handicap factor of less than 17.4. The RCGA is currently accepting registration at www.rcga.org/championships (if more than 156 golfers register, the highest handicaps will be dropped).

Sarnia golfers Miranda David, of Huron Oaks, and Stephanie Charteris, of Sarnia Golf and

Curling Club, have already registered to play in the event.

Participants will compete in 18 holes of stroke play each day from Tuesday-Friday on the week of Aug. 3-6. In addition to the individual championship, there will be a provincial team competition on the first two days of the tournament as the scores of the top-four finishers from each provincial junior girls championship will count toward their province's total.

Representatives from all 10 provinces are expected to participate.

Sawmill general manager Matt Alexander said the golf course had originally applied to host the 2007 Ontario Amateur Ladies championship and that is how they got on the RCGA radar. He added the links-style course (a relatively uncommon design in most of Canada) could provide a different test for many of the girls, than what they have grown accustomed to.

"If they're used to the tree-lined courses, without a lot of wind ... that's not what they're going to get here," he said.

Groundskeeper Jamie Downton said the course's condition is always top-notch and his staff will not need to do things differently, just because they are hosting a national championship.

"We provide a championship calibre golf course on a day-to-day basis," said Downton. "For us, it's just a matter of maintaining that same quality."

Margo Harrison, the host club's tournament chair said that over 200 volunteers will be needed for the event and she encouraged anyone who wants to be involved to contact Sawmill's Director of Golf, Paul



DAVE PAUL dpaul@theobserver.ca

Sawmill Creek will welcome the top junior ladies golfers in Canada, Aug. 3-6, when it hosts the 2010 Royale Cup Canadian Junior Girls Golf Championship. Meeting with media at Sawmill Creek on Wednesday to provide some details about the event were tournament organizers and members of the golf course's management team, from left: Sawmill Director of Golf Paul Dumont, Tournament Chair Margo Harrison, RCGA Tournament Director Matt MacKay and Sawmill GM Matt Alexander.

Dumont.

Harrison added the organizers would be looking to the business community for sponsorship support and involvement in the tournament.

Tourism Sarnia-Lambton's Vicky Prail said, in addition to the economic benefit that comes

with hosting an event such as this, the opportunity to host a national championship, "creates recognition for this community, across Canada."

The tournament's Communications Director, Dave Borody, confirmed that, to the best of anyone's knowledge, "it

is believed this will be the first national golf championship ever held in Sarnia-Lambton."

Spectators will be welcome at the tournament, he added, and there will be no admission charge for fans.

dpaul@theobserver.ca