



Scottish Boys and Girls U14 Stoke Play Championship in association with Loretto School

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate publication

Thursday 10 July 2008

Talented U14's Head For The Glen

Whilst action hots up at on the banks of Loch Lomond at the Barclays Scottish Open, tomorrow's talented hopefuls will descend on the The Glen golf course to tee up in the Scottish Boys and Girls Under 14 Stroke Play Championship *in association with the Loretto School Golf Academy*.

Scotland's youngest age group event which gets underway tomorrow (11 July) has attracted a strong field with over 100 hopefuls, 84 boys and 28 girls hoping to angle for their first national title.

With the absence of last year's winners Woburn's Harry Whittle and Kilmacollm's Eilidh Briggs in the line up, the contest looks wide open for the 18 hole championship. However, last year's winner of the Paul Gibson Trophy for the leading U12 player, Ewan Scott (St Andrews) will hope to move up a gear this year to take a title in the next age level.

Other likely contenders for the crown are Ross Dallas (Kirriemuir Players'), son of former Ladies European Tour player Karyn Dallas, whilst another player from strong golfing heritage - Paul Reilly – son of PGA Pro at Lochwinnoch Golf Club – will also test his mettle in the open event.

Baltimore's Jack McKenna – younger sibling of Fraser McKenna, a member of the U18 national B squad will be keen to follow in his brother's footsteps and take the opportunity to make a name for himself among the junior ranks.

Former winners of the title which includes - Peter McLachlan (2001) who went on to win the Youths title in 2005 and Paul McPhee (2006) who will represent Scottish hopes at the R&A Junior Open at Hesketh next week - illustrate the calibre of players that enter this tournament. With one of the lowest handicap ballots in the event's recent history, the players will have to be at the top of their game to contest the championship silverware in what looks set to be testing weather conditions tomorrow.

The Loretto School Golf Academy is now in its fifth year of sponsorship and have agreed to continue their support of the national showcase event through to 2009. The association with the Golf Academy at Loretto as one of the UK's best independent

golfing schools has been hugely positive, as the national event continues to go from strength to strength.

- Ends -

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- The Scottish Golf Union (SGU) is the governing body for men's amateur golf in Scotland. The SGU exists to further the cause of golf; to attract newcomers to the game; to develop golfing skills at all levels and to provide support and advice to clubs.
- The Loretto Golf Academy, set up in 2002, offers pupils an opportunity to develop their golfing talents in parallel with an all-round Loretto education. Loretto Golf Scholarships are offered to outstanding or promising golfers who show exceptional potential from the age of 12 and upwards.
- The Under 14's received 99 boys entries and the ballot on 17.4 resulted in 15 reserves. For your information this compares to previous years as follows:

YEAR	VENUE	NO. OF ENTRANTS	BALLOT	NO. OF RESERVES
2000	Hirsel	49	N/A	N/A
2001	Edzell	84	23.3	4
2002	Ratho Park	75	N/A	N/A
2003	Helensburgh	87	22	3
2004	Ralston	104	18.0	20
2005	Craigielaw	104	18.0	20
2006	Deeside	99	18.2	15
2007	Brunston Castle	118	14.8	34

For event news and results, please visit Scottish Golf Union online, at www.scottishgolfunion.org. To find out more information on the Loretto School Golf Academy, visit their website at www.lorettoschool.co.uk/golf

For further information please contact:
Kate Weldon
SGU Communications Manager
Mobile: 07751 478722
Email: k.weldon@scottishgolfunion.org