



29 juin > 2 juillet
GOLF NATIONAL
 Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines

ALSTOM

NOVOTEL



29th of May 2006

Open de France ALSTOM

The best ready to battle it out

With 3 weeks to go before the end of registrations (Thursday the 15th of June at midnight), the leaders of the European Circuit have announced they would compete.

Former winners

All the former winners have been invited to come and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the event. Some of them also competing on the Senior Tour or too old to travel have declined the invitation. Twenty of the golfers having won the tournament have decided to take part in the event. The oldest, **Dave Thomas** (winner in 1959), **Ramon Sota** (1965), **Denis Hutchinson** (1966) and **Jean Garaialde** (1969), will however come without their golf clubs.

The 16 others with decent chances of triumphing again will be at the start on the Golf National on the 29th of June. The confrontation between generations will indeed be one of the day's themes with **Alan Murray** (1962), **Barry Jaeckel** (1972), **Vincent Tshabalala** (1976) or **Sandy Lyle** (1981) ready to battle it out against the most recent winners: **Jean-François Remésy** (2004-2005), **Philip Golding** (2003), **Malcolm Mackenzie** (2002), **José Maria Olazabal** (2001) or **Colin Montgomerie** (2000). Also at the start will be very popular **Seve Ballesteros** (four-time winner: 1977-1982-1985-1986), **Paul Broadhurst** (1995), **Mark Roe** (1994), **Costantino Rocca** (1993), **Miguel Angel Martin** (1992), **Eduardo Romero** (1991), **Phillip Walton** (1990).

The French

The French competing on the European Tour will all be present including two-time title holder Jeff Remésy of course, **Jean Van de Velde**, recently a winner of the Madeira Open, **Thomas Levet** (back from the United States), **Raphaël Jacquelin**, **Christian Cevaër**, **Grégory Havret**, **François Delamontagne**, **Jean-François Lucquin**, and all those who will have managed to qualify in Chantilly on the 13th of June.

The elite of the European Tour

Some serious contenders for a place within the European team for the Ryder Cup held in Ireland at the end of September will be competing. Indeed the 4 million Euro prize money could allow them to be on the team or confirm their spot. Among the champions, the leaders of the European Order of Merit: **David Howell**, **Henrik Stenson**, **Thomas Björn** and the other big guns: **Darren Clarke**, **Padraig Harrington**, **Niclas Fasth**, **Nick Dougherty**, **Graeme MacDowell**, **Lee Westwood**, will certainly be keenly expected.

Finally, over 40 players already registered for the Open de France have already won a tournament in the last 18 months. Among them, the young and flamboyant Spaniard **Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano**, UK star **Ian Poulter**, winner of the British (and of Jean Van de Velde) **Paul Lawrie**, etc... not forgetting of course some huge champions who would love to add their names to the prestigious Open De France record book like **Michael Campbell** (European n°2 last year behind Montgomerie) or **Miguel Angel Jimenez**.

Half the competitors already at their best

Just looking at the 70 players already registered, this 100th edition should be the scene of some fantastic confrontations at the height of expectations and of the prize money, on an Albatros course beautifully prepared with care and expertise at the highest level of requirement.

See you from the 29th of June to the 2nd of July at the Golf National, in St Quentin en Yvelines.

For all the information (access, tariffs...) the official website

www.opendefrance.fr

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