





**Bonallack & Patsy Hankins Trophies** Vidago Palace GC, Portugal

16-18 March 2016



PATSY HANKINS TROPHY TEAM EUROPE SELECTIONS

**ELAINE BATCLIFFE** Non-Playing Captain

The European 12-woman team will comprise the following players to compete against the best amateur players from the Asia-Pacific region for the first time in this newly-introduced international match played at Vidago Palace Golf Course in Portugal from 16-18 March.



<sup>()</sup> ausanne, March 2016: The 2016 Patsy Hankins Trophy Let Selection Committee, led by non-playing Captain Elaine Ratcliffe, is pleased to announce the 12 highly-talented players who have been selected to represent Europe against Asia-Pacific at the Vidago Palace Golf Course in Portugal from 16-18 March.

The players have been selected based on their R&A/USGA World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) and high-level golfing performances. Special attention was paid to match play results, particularly those attained in the European Golf Association's (EGA) International Matches and European Team Championships.

Spain will be represented by Maria Parra Lugue and Luna Sobron Galmes.

Parra Lugue, reigning European Ladies' Amateur Champion, winner of the 2015 Copa Andalucia and the Girls' European Team Championship with Spain, can look back on a very successful last season. Currently ranked second in the World Amateur Golf Rankings, Parra Lugue progressed to the semi-finals at the Girls' British Open Amateur Championship and the Spanish Ladies' Amateur Championship. Additionally, she finished runner-up at the Annika Invitational Europe and played in the PING Junior Solheim Cup 2015. Parra Lugue started the new season with wins at the 2016 Copa Andalucia and the Portuguese International Ladies' Amateur Championship. Sobron Galmes, who focused mainly on professional events in 2015, finished tied 13th at the Ricoh Women's British Open and enjoyed four top-5 (including three top-3) finishes in LET Access Series events. The year before, she won the European Ladies' Amateur Championship and the Campeonato Absoluto C Valenciana. In 2013, she played in the final of the Ladies' British Open Amateur Championship. Sobron Galmes has gained great experience in international matches having been selected for the 2015 Vagliano Trophy and the 2011 PING Junior Solheim Cup.

The two South Zone representatives will be supported by the two Italians Lucrezia Colombotto Rosso, winner of the 2015 Italian Ladies' Stroke Play (Isa Goldschmid Trophy) and Match Play Championship (Giuseppe Silva Trophy), and Bianca Fabrizio, who won the 2015 Seminole Match Up and SEC Championship.















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Fabrizio also finished fourth at last year's European Ladies' Amateur Championship.

From Central Europe, Swiss players Gioia Carpinelli and Albane Valenzuela, as well as Emma Spitz from Austria and Laura Fünfstück from Germany will join the team.

Carpinelli won the 2015 Swiss National Match Play and Ticino Championships. She placed fourth at the Austrian International Amateur Championship and fifth at the ASGI Ladies Open, a LET Access Series event. In 2014, she finished runner-up at the Trophée Cecile De Rothschild and third at the Slovenian Amateur Championship. Valenzuela, who just finished runner-up at the Portuguese International Ladies' Amateur Championship, tied second in the 2016 Mexican Amateur, won the 2015 Spanish International Stroke Play and the Junior Orange Bowl Championship. She also achieved fourth at the European Nations Cup Individual. In 2014, 9th at the Lacoste Ladies Open de France, a professional event, made her leading amateur. In the same year, she won the Swiss International Championship. Her international match experience includes the PING Junior Solheim Cup and Vagliano Trophy in 2015 and the Junior Vagliano Trophy in 2013.

Spitz, who has just recently claimed first place at the 2016 European Nations Cup Individual, won the 2015 Italian International Amateur Championship, tied third place at the 2015 German International Amateur and scored the lowest score at the Individual European Girls' Team Championship Qualification. In 2013, she won the English U13 Girls' Open Championship. Spitz gained international match experience at the Junior Vagliano Trophy and PING Junior Solheim Cup last year. Fünfstück finished runner-up at the Palmetto Intercollegiate CAA Championship and third at the Westbrook Invitational in 2015. Additionally, she enjoyed four top-10 finishes in U.S. College events and the European Ladies' Amateur Championship 2015. The previous year she won the CAA Championship, Pinehurst Challenge.

From Great Britain and Ireland (GB&I), Meghan MacLaren (ENG) and Olivia Mehaffey (IRL) will join Team Europe.

MacLaren, winner of the 2015 C-USA Championship, the Mountain View Collegiate and JU Amelia Island Collegiate, tied fourth place at the 2015 Ladies' British Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship, the tournament she won in 2014 alongside the Mary Fossum Invitational. In 2015, she was part of the Vagliano Trophy team. Mehaffey, winner of the 2015 Welsh Ladies Open Stroke Play Championship, the Helen Holm Scottish Open Stroke Play Championship and Irish Girls' U18 Open Strokeplay, finished runner-up at the Ladies' British Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship and Irish Women's Close Championship in the same year. In the 2015 Ladies' British Open Amateur Championship, she progressed to the semi-finals. Mehaffey will play alongside some of last year's teammates from the Vagliano Trophy and PING Junior Solheim Cup. One of which is Puk Lyng Thomsen (DEN), 2015 winner of the DM slagspil, who finished third at the Danish International Amateur Championship in 2015 and in 2014 won the DGU Elite Tour Damer 1 & Titleist Tour Finale and was runner-up the Danish International Amateur Championship. Thomsen started into the 2016 season with a third place at the Portuguese International Ladies' Amateur.

The Swede Frida Kinhult will complete the 12-woman European team. Kinhult progressed to the quarter-finals at the Girls' British Open Amateur Championship and round two at the Internationaux de France U21 (Trophee Esmond) last year and played in the 2015 Junior Vagliano Trophy.

Team Europe will make its way to Portugal, where the three days of play will include five foursome matches followed by five fourball matches on days one and two and twelve single matches on the final day.

Members of Patsy Hankins' family will attend the first edition of this newly introduced event. The late Patsy Hankins was one of the most respected golf administrators playing a key role in the amalgamation of men's and women's golf in New Zealand.

All tournament information including livescoring will be available on the EGA website:

http://www.ega-golf.ch/content/patsy-hankins-trophy

Please also follow #TeamEurope on (f) and (a)!

## For further information, please contact: Arnaud Baratçabal

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