



PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday, 1st April

Woosnam confirmed for Conwy campaign

Ian Woosnam has joined the race for one of the biggest prize funds in European Seniors golf after announcing today that he will compete in the Ryder Cup Wales Seniors Open alongside one of the strongest fields ever assembled for a European Seniors Tour event.

The 2006 Ryder Cup captain and former Masters winner will return to his golfing origins after confirming his entry for the event which returns to Conwy (Caernarvonshire) Golf Club for the second year running between 13th and 15th June.

Having turned 50 at the beginning of March, Woosnam is looking forward to a season on the Seniors Tour, and in particular will relish the opportunity to play in front of Welsh supporters at the Ryder Cup Wales event which attracts an illustrious international field.

Currently in the Dominican Republic, Woosnam said, "It will be fantastic to return to Wales in June for the Ryder Cup Wales Seniors Open and to compete on home soil for what will be the first time since the Wales Open in 2006. With the support from the Welsh golf fans, I am looking forward to the challenge where I will be up against some of my greatest friends and rivals.

"By taking events like the Seniors Open around Wales, we are sending out the message that Wales is becoming a serious alternative to the likes of Scotland and Ireland as a golfing destination. Events like this bring important economic benefits to the area and shows that the hosting of The Ryder Cup in 2010 is already having all-Wales benefits."

The links course at Conwy has been described as one of Woosnam's personal favourites and it is renowned throughout the area as one of the most challenging of its kind. Laid out on a stunning peninsula, the 6,647 yard links offers a stern test and breathtaking backdrop situated at the mouth of the estuary of the River Conwy.

As one of Europe's greatest golfers with 29 official European Tour titles to his name, Woosnam became the first person representing Wales to ever win a "Major" Championship. In 1991 he emulated his British rivals, Sandy Lyle and Nick Faldo, by winning the US Masters. In the same year he reached the top

of the Official World Golf Rankings, eventually spending 51 consecutive weeks as World Number 1.

The Ryder Cup has been a huge part of Woosnam's career, playing in eight contests and captaining Europe in 2006 to a record equalling victory where his Team won all five sessions for the first time in the biennial contest to secure an unprecedented third successive victory.

The Seniors event has always attracted some of the game's biggest names and this year is no exception. In 2007 the line-up included former Ryder Cup players Sam Torrance, Costantino Rocca and José Rivero – winner of the event in 2006 at the Vale Hotel, Golf & Spa Resort. Carl Mason went on to take the event title after he also enjoyed success at the event in 2005 at Royal St David's.

Golf enthusiasts from all over the country and overseas will have another chance to see world class international golf at a tournament which is adding to Wales' growing reputation as a golfing nation. Golf fans will also be able to see event highlights which, for the first time, will be televised every evening after play.

John Jermine, Chairman of Ryder Cup Wales, said, "With Ian in the field it guarantees that 2008 will see our best ever entry and will give spectators an exciting opportunity to see some of the world's greatest players, including two "Major" winners – Sandy Lyle and Ian Woosnam – competing on Welsh soil. It promises to be a great week, highlights of which will be televised throughout Europe, and we look forward to welcoming a record number of spectators to Conwy."

The event, which is the second richest on the Seniors Tour, has a prize fund of £500,000 and first prize of £75,000. The Ryder Cup Wales Seniors Open has previously been hosted at Royal St David's in Harlech and the Vale Hotel, Golf & Spa Resort in South Wales.

(ENDS)

**For media enquiries, please contact Alex Bolton at
alex.bolton@rydercupwales2010.com or tel 029 2082 8970**

www.rydercupwales2010.com