



Press Release

Manassero and Thongchai to play in Maybank Malaysian Open 2014

Kuala Lumpur, March 12, 2014: Italian Matteo Manassero and Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee will join Lee Westwood and Louis Oosthuizen when the Maybank Malaysian Open 2014 tees off at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club (KLGCC) from April 17-20.

All four former champions are title sponsor Maybank's confirmed Star Players for this year's Maybank Malaysian Open which offers a prize purse of US\$2.75 million.

Young gun Manassero, who won the 2011 title two days before his 18th birthday, turns 21 on April 19, is hoping for another special celebration in Malaysia.

The Italian is the youngest golfer to win a European Tour event having won the Castello Masters Costa Azahar in Valencia, Spain on May 3, 2010.

Since winning in Malaysia three years ago, Manassero has steadily moved up the world rankings and is now inside the top 50 with four tournament victories to his name.

Thongchai, meanwhile, is a three-time Asian Tour Order Of Merit (OOM) winner and a two-time winner of the Malaysian Open, having triumphed in the 2004 and 2005.

A former paratrooper in the Royal Thai Army, Thongchai has 16 career wins to his name, including five on the European Tour.

Former world number one Westwood of England, who won the Malaysian Open in 1997, was announced as the bank's first Star Player early last month while Major winner Oosthuizen confirmed his participation at the end of February.

The rising status and prestige of the Maybank Malaysian Open in recent years has been due to several factors, key among them is the excellent teamwork and relationship Maybank has with all the stakeholders involved in the event. This close-knit relationship has gone a long way in ensuring the immense success of the Malaysian Open. The level of excellence the event has attained is the reason world class stars continue to make their way to our shores each year.





Having these four world class stars, who have huge followings in Malaysia, will certainly give the 2014 a big boost.

Maybank Chairman, Tan Sri Dato' Megat Zaharuddin Megat Mohd Nor, said, "We now have four former champions who have confirmed their participation for the Maybank Malaysian Open 2014."

"Manassero and Thongchai represent everything that's good about golf. One is a youngster who knows no fear and goes out and attacks the course. The other knows patience is the key to winning and that has been one reason why Thongchai has lasted so long at the very top echelon of the sport.

"I expect a tough battle as not only all four have tasted glory in the Maybank Malaysian Open and will surely want to hold the prestigious trophy aloft once again, but other rising talents are steadily making their mark worldwide."

Malaysian Golf Association (MGA) president Tan Sri Dato' Setia Mohd Anwar Mohd Nor said he hopes the four former champions will inspire the Malaysian players.

"I hope our 22 Malaysians will learn from this quartet and rise to the challenge to reach the top." said Tan Sri Dato' Setia Mohd Anwar.

The Maybank Malaysian Open was the first tournament in Asia to be co-sanctioned by The European and Asian Tours in 1999, the year Gerry Norquist took home the title.

For any media editorial enquiries on Maybank Malaysian Open 2014, please contact:

Media Twenty Four Seven Sdn Bhd

Zailatul Farita Mohd Yusof
+6019 300 7882

Abdullah Abdul Rahman
+6012 663 7454



GLOBALONE
INTERNATIONAL



About Maybank

The Maybank Group is South East Asia's fourth largest bank by assets. It has an international network of over 2,200 offices in 20 countries namely Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Hong Kong SAR & People's Republic of China, Bahrain, Uzbekistan, Myanmar, Laos, Pakistan, India, Saudi Arabia, Great Britain and the United States of America. The Group offers an extensive range of products and services, which includes consumer and corporate banking, investment banking, Islamic banking, stock broking, insurance and takaful and asset management. It has over 47,000 employees serving more than 22 million customers worldwide. (www.maybank.com)

About the Malaysian Golf Association

The Malaysian Golf Association (MGA) is the sole governing body of golf in Malaysia that was founded in 1929 by representatives of golf clubs to promote the sport while preserving its traditions and integrity. The non-government organization is run by passionate volunteers who have a love for the game of golf, with the help of a team of management staff. The association's portfolios have increased over the years ranging from conducting 14 state amateur opens, national amateur open, national amateur close, Malaysian Open to processing handicaps through its National Handicap System to promoting grassroots programs and training of athletes to represent Malaysia in international events.

The European Tour

The European Tour is committed to celebrating the game of golf from the origins of the professional game, building a proud history of achievement, sportsmanship and integrity as well as showcasing our diverse global talent and rich landscapes. The European Tour's innovative approach enables us to embrace the world, combining championships of tradition with new tournaments in the cities and countries of the future. The European Tour International Schedule, which from 2009 has incorporated The Race to Dubai, is a thriving global brand which, in 2013, will feature a minimum of 45 tournaments spread across all five continents of the world; the European Challenge Tour focuses on the up and coming players of the future; while the European Senior Tour provides a new start for champions celebrating their 50th birthday. The European Tour's corporate identity features the iconic silhouette image of six-time Open Champion Harry Vardon who gives his name to The Harry Vardon Trophy, presented to the player who is crowned European Tour Number One and winner of The Race to Dubai at the end of the season.



GLOBALONE
INTERNATIONAL



About the Asian Tour

As the official sanctioning body for professional golf in Asia, the Asian Tour leads the development of golf across the region, enhancing the careers of its members while maintaining a commitment to the integrity of the game. The Asian Tour, through its membership of the International Federation of PGA Tours, is the only recognised pan-Asian professional golf tour in Asia. This unique feature positions the Asian Tour at the pinnacle of professional golf in Asia; providing its events with Official World Ranking status. Tour Partners include Abacus (Official Apparel Partner), Inetol Headwear (Official Headwear Sponsor), Oakley (Official Eyewear and Footwear Sponsor), Saxo Capital Markets (Official Statistics Partner), Singha Beer (Official Beer), Srixon (Official Ball), Subway (Official Quick Service Restaurant) and Rolex (Official Timekeeper). The Asian Tour has offices in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. Also, visit us at www.asiantour.com, www.facebook.com/asiantourgolf, www.twitter.com/asiantourgolf, www.youtube.com/theasiantour and www.weibo.com/asiantourgolf.

About Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club

Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club (KLGCC) is a member of Sime Darby Property Bhd and a propriety Club wholly-owned and operated by KLGCC Berhad. The club has won numerous accolades from both local and foreign golfing fraternity, the latest being voted the 'Best Course in Malaysia' for the second time in a row for its championship West Course at the 2013 Asian Golf Monthly Awards, the second runner up for the Best Championship Course in Asia Pacific and nominated as Top 10 Best in Asia Pacific for Best Clubhouse and Best Pro-Shop categories. At the same time, KLGCC was voted Best Golf Experience for the Best of Malaysia Awards 2013 Travel Awards by The Expatriate Lifestyle Magazine readers. Today, KLGCC is a landmark as the most luxurious golf resort development in Malaysia and KLGCC has in recent years hosted numerous international championships such as the Maybank Malaysian Open and the Sime Darby LPGA Malaysia.

About GlobalOne

GlobalOne (Emerald Evolution Holdings Sdn Bhd) is an executive lifestyle sports promoter and we create sports event ownerships.

We specialise in providing the full spectrum in sponsorship event management and have an excellent track record in planning and delivering on PGA European Tour golf events for Malaysia (Maybank Malaysian Open), Singapore (Singapore Masters) and Indonesia (Indonesia Open) since 1999. We have strong relations with sports governing bodies, the media and commercial sponsors and technical partners to deliver on the bottom line.





We assist all our clients to create super-strategic, high-return, best practice sponsorship to provide a strong, unified vision, across departments and stakeholders, of the broad range of marketing and business objectives that can be achieved through this sponsorship. We also form and maintain strong relationship with players managers to source the best players.

GlobalOne currently stages a highly successful and prestigious tournament in Asia – the Maybank Malaysian Open, which is co-sanctioned by the European Tour and the Asian Tour providing the event with Official World Ranking status. Our long term partners include Emirates (Official Airline), Carlsberg (Official Beer & Stout), Ricoh (Official Office Equipment), Astro (Official Satellite TV), DoubleTree (Official Hotel), 100Plus (Official Isotonic Beverage), Crestlink (Official Apparel), Transview (Official Golf Accessories & Equipment), Mal-Tel (Official Radio & Communications), Spritzer (Official Water), Singleton (Official Whisky), Srixon (Official Range Balls), Havana (Official Cigars).

