

Brilliant for Bulgaria

The Peter Harradine-designed course at Pravets Golf & Spa resort is to welcome the return of an important PGAsE tournament to the international diary.



Pravets is an attractive and challenging course and should make an excellent PGAsE venue

THE PGAs of Europe is to bring back its premier stroke play championship after a six-year break. Terra Tour Services, the owners of Pravets Golf & Spa, agreed with the PGAs of Europe to underwrite and host the event for three years starting in October 2011 and will be named the "PGA Professional Championship of Europe".

This will be the first international individual professional golfing event ever staged in Bulgaria, where Pravets is just one of a number of high quality new courses and resorts being developed. It is hoped that Pravets' hosting of such a high profile championship will assist in developing the game of golf domestically as well as increasing its growing image as a golf destination.

Welcoming the opportunity to return the 72-hole individual championship to the schedule, PGAs of Europe chief executive, Ian Randell, said: "We are thrilled to be able to re-establish the PGA Professional Championship of Europe with Pravets Golf & Spa. To be crowned as the champion of PGA professionals in Europe is a great honour and I would like to thank all involved at Pravets and their golf management partners, Braemar Golf, for their wonderful support and commitment to ensuring the return of the Championship for the coming years."

The Peter Harradine-designed course at Pravets Golf & Spa resort is situated a mere 40 minutes drive from Sofia and with the stunning Stara Planina Mountain

and picturesque Lake Pravets as its backdrop, it is sure to provide a tough but fair challenge. Pravets is the first and only club in Bulgaria, managed by an international golf management company, Braemar Golf, based in the Home of Golf, St Andrews, Scotland.

The golf course is opening officially in June 2010 and will be the most accessible golf course in Bulgaria and also includes a state-of-the-art golf academy available for complete beginners to the elite golfers in Bulgaria.

A visit to Pravets in the Spring gave Peter Harradine the opportunity to decide on the final strategic touches to bunkers and trees and the course is on track to be opened as scheduled. The resort features the splendid RIU Pravets Hotel with restaurants and nightclub, superb SPA centre and fully equipped fitness centre, all-round sporting facilities including water sports on the lake, a 450-seater conference centre, casino and attractive wooded surrounds. **GBD**

• www.pravets-golfclub.com

The eighth green deserves maximum respect



MIDDLE EAST

Award-winning Harradine Golf

Harradine Golf has recently been honoured in the 'Middle East Gopher Awards' for 2009. The awards won by the company are for 'The Best Golf Course in the Middle East' – that is Abu Dhabi 'National' (pictured here) – and for 'The Best Designed Hole in the Middle East' which is the 16th hole at Doha Golf Club.

Abu Dhabi Golf Club was again voted as The Best Golf Course in the Middle East (overall), beating the challenge of the three other golf courses which host European Tour Events in the region – Doha Golf Club, Majilis course of Emirates Golf Club and the Earth at Jumeirah Golf Estate.

The Par 4 16th Hole at Doha Golf Club won the title of the Best Designed Hole in the Middle East. This is the second award for the best designed hole in the Middle East for Doha as last year's title went to the Par 4 15th Hole.

The holes which were competing for this award were: 18th at the Address Montgomerie, 18th at Majilis, 17th at Earth, 9th and 18th at Abu Dhabi Golf Club and 18th at Al Badia Golf Club.

The awards were based on the year of 2009 and were chosen by Middle East golfers.

• www.harradine-golf.com

