

Bulgaria Plays Host to the UniCredit 2014 PGA Professional Championship of Europe



2014 PGA Professional
Championship of Europe

The qualification and the waiting is over as the 2014 UniCredit PGA Professional Championship of Europe will take place for a fourth time at the stunning **Peter Harradine** designed Pravets Golf & Spa Resort, Bulgaria, from 15 - 18 October.



A stellar field of PGA Professionals are set to travel to Bulgaria for the 2014 UniCredit PGA Professional Championship of Europe at Pravets Golf & Spa Resort, having gained their Passports to Pravets and the chance to play amongst some of the best players in Europe.

With a first prize of €10,000 and a total purse of €60,000 up for grabs, Europe's finest PGA Professionals will make their way to Pravets with determination in their eyes as they prepare to battle it out in the Association's flagship 72-hole strokeplay event.

The field of players from across the PGAs of Europe's Member Countries features stalwarts of the tournament that have continued to qualify through their national championship qualifier events such as the PGA of France's Benjamin Nicolay (2013 7th place) and Frederic Cupillard (2013 T-13th), both of whom represented France at the International Team Championship (ITC) in 2013. Also joining this French pair is 2014 French PGA Grand Prix Champion Laurent Poncelet, who will be looking to open his Championship account with a strong result.

So too returns PGA of Holland Professional, Ben Collier, who has contested the event a number of times and gained a solid T-10th place in the 2013 edition of the event.

But Collier will not be travelling alone from The Netherlands as no less than five Professionals make up the Dutch contingent, made up of other qualifiers from the Benelux Trophy in July, Ricardo Van de Vinn and Edwin Derkson, and two-thirds of the International Team Championship team that landed a historic win at the 2013 event, Ralph Miller (also 2014 National Champion) and Robin Swane.

The 2013 Championship was won by the PGA of Italy's Federico Elli by six shots from his nearest rivals from the PGA of Switzerland, Alec Roberts and Corsin Cavaziel, who will both be returning this year.



***Federico Elli, 2013 Champion
UniCredit PGA Professional Championship of Europe***

But it's not just the international visitors looking to make their assault on the tournament with local representation from Pravets Golf Club's very own Director of Instruction William Dow, along with Head Professional at St. Sofia Golf Club and Chairman of the PGA of Bulgaria, Richard Lane.

The Welsh contingent of Jon Bevan and Andrew Barnett are two players who have each represented their country on multiple occasions, including in the PGA of Great Britain & Ireland's PGA Cup, where GB&I's Professionals battle it out against the PGA of America's Professionals in a Ryder Cup-like format.

The Norwegian representation matches up exactly to that of last year as John Drummond and Knut-Alexander Schiager return to see if they can improve upon their 36th and T-19th places respectively.

The Scandinavian influences also continue with Swedish players, both of whom are past Swedish Club Pro Champions, Mark Dewdney (1995 Polish Open winner) and Magnus Persson Atlevi (previous member of the European Tour for 10 seasons).

The staging of the European Club Professionals' flagship Championship comes at the end of the busiest golf season Pravets has had to date. Pravets is becoming established as one of the favorite "event venues" for major European golf competitions and events. By the end of this season, Pravets will have hosted three of the European Golf Association's most significant events - the Mid-Amateur Championships, the Senior Men's Team Championships hosted by the Bulgarian Golf Association and the Men's Team Championships.