



Volvo World Match Play Championship

Finca Cortesín, Andalusia, Spain
17 - 20 May, 2012

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Dates

Championship Dates

17 - 20 May, 2012

Qualification

Qualification Criteria for 2012

- i) Defending Champion
- ii) The leading player** not otherwise exempt above from the 2011 Portugal Masters
- iii) The top four players not otherwise exempt above from the final 2011 Race to Dubai Rankings
- iv) The leading player** not otherwise exempt above from the 2012 Volvo Golf Champions
- v) The leading player** not otherwise exempt above from the 2012 Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship
- vi) The leading player** not otherwise exempt above from the 2012 Commercialbank Qatar Masters
- vii) The leading player not otherwise exempt above, based upon his nationality, listed on the OWGR, from each of the following regions following the completion of the 2012 US Masters:
 - Europe ■ Africa/Middle East ■ North America
 - South America ■ Asia (comprising China, SE Asia, India, Japan and Korea)
 - Australasia (comprising Australia, Fiji and New Zealand)
- viii) The leading two players not otherwise exempt above from the OWGR following the 2012 US Masters
- ix) The current holders of the four Major Championships not otherwise exempt above following the 2012 US Masters. *NOTE: In the event of such a Champion (s) being otherwise exempt in (i - viii) or not taking up this exemption the resultant places in the field will be allocated to (x) below
- x) The leading player (*and in accordance with the note in (ix), up to a maximum of 4 further players taken in ranking order) not otherwise exempt above from the 2012 R2D Rankings following the 2012 US Masters
- xi) The leading player** not otherwise exempt from the 2012 Volvo China Open
- xii) One sponsor invite from the top 50 of the OWGR following the 2012 US Masters

**NB (i) In each case to a floor of fifth place. Ties will be determined by the lowest final round score and if still tied by the lowest third round, second round and then first round scores. If still tied, the highest ranked player from the Race to Dubai Rankings following completion of that event will qualify.

**NB (ii) To qualify through categories (ii, iv, v,vi and (xi), a player must already be a member of the European Tour at the time of qualifying or in the case of a qualifying player being the nominated event winner, he must take up 2012 European Tour membership.

Notes on Qualification

Prior to the seeds being announced at 0900 on Monday of the Championship any places in the field unfilled from categories (i – vi) and (xi), (through withdrawals, players not taking up their exemption or insufficient qualifiers due to the floor of 5th place in the nominated qualifying events), will be filled with the next highest ranked player(s) from the final 2011 European Tour Race to Dubai Rankings.

Prior to the seeds being announced at 0900 on Monday of the Championship any places in the field unfilled from categories (vii) and (viii) (through withdrawals or players not taking up their exemption) will be filled with the next highest ranked player(s) from the Official World Golf Ranking following the completion of the 2012 US Masters.

Prior to the seeds being announced at 0900 on Monday of the Championship any places in the field unfilled from category (x) (through withdrawals or players not taking up their exemption) will be filled with the next highest ranked player(s) from the 2012 European Tour Race to Dubai Rankings following the completion of the 2012 US Masters.

Prior to the seeds being announced at 0900 on Monday of the Championship any player that withdraws from Category (xii) will be replaced with another sponsor invite from the OWGR top 50 following the completion of the 2012 US Masters. If no such player is available within the top 50 OWGR then the next highest ranked player on the 2012 Race to Dubai Rankings following the completion of the 2012 US Masters will qualify.

After the seeds have been announced the designated 'Reserve' player will qualify in the event of a player withdrawing. The designated reserve player will be the highest available player (not otherwise exempt) from the Race to Dubai Rankings following the completion of the 2012 US Masters.

Format

Format for 2012

The field of 24 players will be drawn into eight groups of three, with the top two players in each placed into the group according to their Official World Golf Ranking on the Monday of the Championship. The third player will be drawn at random.

GROUP	BALLESTEROS	McCORMACK	PALMER	WOOSNAM	LARSON	NORMAN	GABRIELSSON	PLAYER
SEED	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
SEED	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9
SEEDS17-24	DRAW	DRAW	DRAW	DRAW	DRAW	DRAW	DRAW	DRAW

Group matches will be played on Thursday and Friday. The top two players in each group will progress to the knock-out stages consisting of the last 16 and quarter-finals, played on Saturday and semi-finals and final, played on Sunday. All matches will be contested over 18 holes of traditional match play.

In the round-robin group stages of the tournament the three players in each group will play each other once. Players will be awarded two points for a win and no points for a loss. If a match is tied after 18 holes each player shall receive one point. If, after all matches have been played, two or more players are tied on points the following criteria will be used to determine the order:

- Where two players are tied within a group (in any position within the group) then their specific head to head match result will be used to identify which player is placed higher
- If two or more players are still tied then those players will compete in a hole-by-hole play-off
- If all three players win one match in their respective group then all three players shall play-off.

Schedule

Schedule of the Week

Monday	Practice
Tuesday	Practice Official Draw
Wednesday	Pro-Am
Thursday	Group stage matches
Friday	Group stage matches
Saturday	Morning: Last 16 matches Afternoon: Quarter-finals
Sunday	Morning: Semi-finals Afternoon: Final

NB: there will be no third/fourth play-off match on Sunday.

Money

2012 Prize Money

	Per Player€	Total€
Winner	800,000	800,000
Runner-up	420,000	420,000
Losing semi-finalists	220,000	440,000
Losing quarter-finalists	115,000	460,000
Last 16 Losers	90,000	720,000
Last in group	70,000	560,000
		3,400,000

History of the World Match Play Championship

The inaugural winner of the World Match Play Championship at Wentworth in 1964 was the legendary **Arnold Palmer**. He and **Gary Player** were to dominate the first five years of the Championship with Palmer winning twice and Player three times. Player went on to win two more titles and was involved in many dramatic matches round the West Course; the most memorable of which was his comeback from seven down after 19 holes in 1965 against Tony Lema, only to win at the 37th hole.

Bob Charles, **Jack Nicklaus** and **Tom Wieskopf** – all Open Champions – put their names on the trophy in the 1969, 1970 and 1972 respectively, and US Open Champion **Hale Irwin** played in three successive finals between 1974 and 1976, winning twice.

The early 1980s were dominated by **Greg Norman** and **Seve Ballesteros** who won the title three and four times respectively between 1980 and 1986. Ballesteros was later to win again in 1991 to equal Player's record of five victories in the Championship. After 23 years without a home success, there were five British victories in a six year period between 1987 and 1992. **Ian Woosnam** from Wales won the title in 1987 and 1990, Scotland's **Sandy Lyle** in 1988 and **Nick Faldo**, from England, won the title in 1989 and again in 1992.

In 1993 **Corey Pavin** broke a spell of over a decade without an American winner by defeating Faldo at the final hole, and in 1994 **Ernie Els** became the first South African since Player to win the title. One day short of his 25th birthday he was also the youngest player to win since Ballesteros in 1981. In 1995 and 1996 Els maintained his unbeaten record in the Championship and became the first player to win three successive titles, but in 1997 his run came to an end when he lost in the final to **Vijay Singh**.

The final of the 1998 World Match Play Championship was arguably the best in the history of the event with the World No.2 **Mark O'Meara** coming back from four down – the best ever recovery in a final – against the World No.1 Tiger Woods to win on the final green. In 1999 O'Meara again reached the final, but this time came up against an in-form World No.3 **Colin Montgomerie** who went through the week at 29 under par with just four bogeys to take the title for the first time. Montgomerie also reached the final in 2000, but despite being 37 under par for the week and breaking the previous 18 hole record with an 11 under par 61 in the earlier rounds, lost to fellow British golfer **Lee Westwood** in a thrilling low-scoring final at the 38th hole.

In 2001 however, Woosnam and Pdraig Harrington created even more records in an extraordinary final in which the Welshman equalled his own record of seven successive birdies and broke the front nine scoring record in 28 strokes. Harrington also equalled the championship back nine record of 30 strokes. Together they had a record 32 birdies in the final in which Woosnam came back from three down to win 2&1 and become the first player to win the title in three different decades.

In 2002 Els – who scored a record 12 under par 60 in an earlier round – won his fourth title defeating the youngest ever finalist Sergio Garcia. The South African went on to win the 40th edition in 2003 to equal Player's and Ballesteros' joint record of five victories, claiming the record first prize of £1 million. In 2004 Els completed another hat-trick of victories to win the title for a record sixth time, but he was unable to defend his title in 2005 due to a knee injury when the US Open Champion **Michael Campbell** defeated Paul McGinley in the final. In 2006 **Paul Casey** won the title at his first attempt with a record 10&8 victory in the final against Shaun Micheel. Then in 2007 Els defeated US Open Champion Angel Cabrera in the final for a remarkable seventh title in just twelve appearances in the Championship.

In 2009 – with Volvo now at the helm – the World Match Play Championship left Wentworth for the first time in its 45 year history, moving to the glorious location of Finca Cortesin Hotel, Golf and Spa in Spain. With a new sponsor and venue came a new qualification criteria and a 'champions league' style group format which proved a big hit with the players, spectators and media. England's **Ross Fisher** beat Anthony Kim 4&3 in the final, coming through a stellar field which boasted 11 of the World's top 30 ranked players and 11 different nationalities.

Further enhancements were made to the format in 2011 for the second edition of the Volvo World Match Play, which saw the strongest ever field in the history of the Championship – now increased to 24 players – come together to challenge for the €800,000 first prize. With six of the current top ten players in the world in the field, including the world numbers 1, 2 and 3 in Lee Westwood, Luke Donald and Martin Kaymer all looking to stake their claim to the world number 1 spot, it was **Ian Poulter** who once again proved what a fantastic match play golfer he is, by taking the title in a memorable final against Luke Donald, eventually winning 2&1.