

FALDO

SERIES

For immediate release

FALDO SERIES IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP MOVES TO LOUGH ERNE

XX 2009: The Faldo Series today announced details of an exciting move to one of the six-time Major winner's most recent course designs when the tournament returns to Ireland this year on 24th – 25th August.

The third annual Faldo Series Ireland Championship will be played at Lough Erne Golf Resort in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. Organised in conjunction with LEGR and supported by the European Tour and The R&A, the event is expected to feature some of Ireland's best golfing talent, both boys and girls, aged 11 to 21. Competitors will be hoping to follow in the footsteps of previous Faldo Series winner Rory McIlroy, who was part of Faldo's mentoring programme, Team Faldo, and who is also the touring professional at Lough Erne. The leading players in each age category of the 36-hole tournament will receive an invite to the Faldo Series Grand Final, when the event returns to Brazil later this year and at which the competitors will have the opportunity to meet and draw inspiration from Faldo himself.

Faldo commented: "I'm delighted that our Ireland Championship will be moving to one of Faldo Design's most anticipated projects this year. I can certainly vouch for the fact that this course will be a real test for all of the competitors in Lough Erne's beautiful and dramatic surroundings. The project has been designed with professional golf in mind, which makes it a fitting venue for a Faldo Series tournament – our aim is to help prepare these young players for the realities of the professional tournament and our course at Lough Erne will do exactly that."

Jim Treacy, owner of Lough Erne Golf Resort, added: "This is a great opportunity for some of Ireland's best young golfing talent to follow in the footsteps of previous Faldo Series winners like Rory McIlroy and test their skills on a course that we hope will go on to be recognised as one of Ireland and the UK's best championship courses."

For information on the Faldo Series or Faldo Design visit www.nickfaldo.com

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Note to editors:

Nick Faldo created the Faldo Series (charity number 1102719) in 1996 to help identify and nurture the next generation of champions.

The Faldo Series Asia followed in 2006 and tournaments now take place in over 20 countries throughout the UK, Europe, South America and Asia.

Each year over 4,000 talented golfers worldwide, boys and girls aged 12 to 21, benefit from a unique combination of tournament experience and expert advice, including support and advice from Nick himself.

The leading players qualify for either the Faldo Series Grand Final in Brazil or the Faldo Series Asia Grand Final in China; both are R&A World Amateur Golf Ranking events hosted by Nick.

Team Faldo is a group of Faldo Series players who are hand-picked by the six-time Major winner and invited to spend additional time with him at one of his Faldo Golf Institutes by Marriott in the USA.

Underwritten by Nick and supported by golf's governing bodies, the Faldo Series also aims to create access to the sport for a younger audience through initiatives such as the Faldo Mini Series.

A number of Faldo Series winners have gone on to become successful professional golfers, including Nick Dougherty, Marc Warren, Oliver Fisher, Rory McIlroy, Tseng Ya-ni and Kiran Matharu.

Visit the official Faldo Series website at www.nickfaldo.com