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LOUGH ERNE'S NEW FALDO CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE
CELEBRATES FIRST TEE OFF!

Golf enthusiast Aaron Campbell was the first to book and tee off on the new Faldo Championship Course at the five star Lough Erne Golf Resort this morning (9.00am, Wednesday 1 July 2009).

To mark the opening of Ireland's newest golf masterpiece, Aaron was presented with a Certificate together with a Lough Erne Golf Resort Bag Tag and a dozen Lough Erne Golf Balls.

Speaking at the opening Andy Campbell, Director of Golf at Lough Erne Golf Resort, said:

"Today is a truly momentous day and we are absolutely thrilled to officially open The Faldo Championship Course after over 3 years of intense preparation and planning.

"The course, designed by Sir Nick Faldo, is set on a 600-acre peninsula between Castle Hume Lough and Lower Lough Erne. The routing of the course has been planned carefully to take full advantage of the natural topography. This will make for fourteen holes where the waters of the Lough come into play including a green surrounded on three sides by water - a course that will excite even the most experienced and well travelled golfer."

Celebrating being the first golfer to book and tee off on the course, Aaron Campbell from Newtownabbey added:

"I am delighted to be the first golfer to have booked and played such a prestigious course. I've been looking forward to playing the course for the last year and it has certainly lived up to its reputation. The scenery is simply breathtaking and the exhilarating course is undoubtedly destined to be one of the major golfing destinations in the world."

Created by six-time major champion Nick Faldo, the 7,167 yard Par 72 course is set on a breathtaking peninsula between Lower Lough Erne and Castle Hume Lough, and is already being talked about as an obvious venue for future prestigious European Tour events.

The opening of The Faldo Course at Lough Erne will be marked by a head to head between three times major champion, **Padraig Harrington** and 20 year old Hollywood man, **Rory McIlroy** on 22 July.

Rory McIlroy, who is also Lough Erne Golf Resort's Touring Professional, has described the Resort as "a great place to stay, a great place to play". He is currently ranked 16th in the World, after his debut in the US Open where he finished in tied 10th position.

The inaugural Lough Erne Challenge is a one day event (22 July). Tickets and corporate hospitality packages are available from www.loughernegolfresort.com

Complimenting the opening of The Faldo Championship Course, The Loughside Clubhouse, Bar & Grill will officially open its doors on 24 July. Situated on the 19th hole, and with stunning views of Castle Hume Lough, it offers casual all day dining and prime Irish meats from the Grill.

The Loughside Clubhouse, Bar & Grill will also boast two conference and event suites, providing the 'Inspiration for Any Event'. Contact the Resort's Events Team for more details.

For further information on Lough Erne Golf Resort log on to www.loughernegolfresort.com or call +44 (0)28 6632 3230

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Lough Erne

Lough Erne Golf Resort opened in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, in October 2007. It is set on a 600 acre private peninsula nestled in between Lower Lough Erne and Castle Hume Lough. The privately-owned hotel has 120 guestrooms including 25 two and three bedroom Loughside Lodges which offer private, fully serviced accommodation.

Lough Erne Golf Resort offers The Thai Spa, The Catalina Restaurant for elegant dining overlooking the Lough; The Blaney Bar, for The Grazing Menu and Exclusive Irish Whiskey Collection and The Garden Hall for afternoon teas. It offers world class facilities for private meetings and events.

From July 1st Lough Erne Golf Resort will have the use of two 18-hole championship golf courses with the opening The Faldo Championship Course. The Castle Hume Championship Course is already open.

Also opening July, The Loughside Clubhouse Bar and Grill, offers casual all day dining, with prime Irish Meats from the Grill.

Lough Erne Golf Resort is located just five minutes from Enniskillen (St Angelo) private airport. It is also easily accessible from Belfast International, Belfast City and City of Derry airports.

** (L-R Jim Treacy, Owner Lough Erne Golf Resort; Aaron Campbell, first to book & tee off on The Faldo Course; Andy Campbell, Director of Golf, Lough Erne Golf Resort)