



MCILROY'S IMPRESSIVE FIRST SEASON ON TOUR

December 2009: In just three years Northern Ireland prodigy Rory McIlroy has established himself as one of the top ten golfers in the world and confirmed wider predictions of a long and glittering championship career.

At only 20 years old, Lough Erne Golf Resort's touring professional became a formidable contender in the 2009 major championships with a third place finish in the US PGA as well as impressive challenges in the US Masters (20th) and the US Open (10th).

Rory's unique talent was underlined with a breathtaking year that included his first professional title, the Dubai Classic, eight top ten finishes and a closing tussle at the end of the season Race to Dubai title with Lee Westwood who was full of praise for his young rival's ability and skills.

Rory's dramatic emergence on the world stage emphasises the strength of golfing talent from Northern Ireland and he has acknowledged the support and friendship he received throughout his amateur and now professional career from Jim Treacy, owner of Lough Erne Golf Resort.

Their close ties were highlighted by Rory's enthusiastic decision to become Lough Erne's Touring Professional, representing The Resort in worldwide tournaments. Lough Erne, is located in North West Ireland on the banks of the majestic Lough Erne minutes from Enniskillen. Moreover, he and three-times major champion Padraig Harrington played The Lough Erne Challenge match in July that attracted more than 6,000 spectators to mark the opening of the Sir Nick Faldo-designed championship course, already earmarked as a possible venue for future European Tour events.

Lough Erne Golf Resort

Lough Erne opened in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, in October 2007. It is set on a 600 acre 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. The Resort features The Thai Spa, a variety of innovative dining options including The Catalina Restaurant for elegant dining overlooking the Lough, The Blaney Bar for The Grazing Menu and exclusive Irish Whiskey Collection; The Loughside Clubhouse, Bar & Grill for Casual All Day Dining & Prime Irish Meats from The Grill, The Halfway House & Seafood Experience, For Fresh Local Seafood on Lower Lough Erne (open April 2010) and The Garden Hall for Traditional, Chocolate & Pink Afternoon Tea. The Resort has 2 Championship Golf Courses, including The Faldo Course, The Ultimate Golf Destination (opened July 1st 2009). 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, City of Derry airports and Dublin Airport.

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