



**For immediate release: 19 April 2017**

## **2019 SOLHEIM CUP DATE ANNOUNCED**

### ***World's greatest women's golf team event set for 13 – 15 September 2019***

The 2019 Solheim Cup will take place from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019 as the prestigious biennial contest between Europe and USA heads to the world-famous PGA Centenary Course at Gleneagles in Perthshire.

Scotland won the right to host The Solheim Cup in 2019 after an extensive and very competitive bidding process, coming out on top of a list of ten countries who submitted expressions of interest in hosting the event.

Significant planning and preparation for one of the world's foremost sporting events has been under way for some time and now the dates of the event have been confirmed after careful deliberation between key partners including VisitScotland, Gleneagles, the Ladies European Tour (LET), the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) and IMG.

Paul Bush, Director of Events, VisitScotland, said: "Together with the LET, LPGA and other partners we have put a lot of thought and research into making sure this is the optimum week for all involved to ensure The 2019 Solheim Cup is an unreserved success. From all the advance sports calendars we have seen and the information gathered, this date will allow The 2019 Solheim Cup to be the highest profile golf event taking place in Europe and the US. It will also be the highest profile event taking place from a global sports perspective."

Mark Lichtenhein, Chairman of the Ladies European Tour (LET), added: "The Solheim Cup has a long, rich, heritage like no other event in women's golf and we are thrilled to announce the dates for our next home match at Gleneagles in Scotland. Since we launched the competition in 1990 with the Solheim family and the LPGA, the event has grown significantly in prominence and profile and today is a strong, world recognised brand. As a tour, we recognise that golf is the only Olympic sport that Europe plays together as a team, and take a huge amount of pride in bringing Europe's leading female golfers to compete in The Solheim Cup. We are therefore fully committed to working with our partners to deliver an outstanding event for all concerned."

Ticketing plans are now being developed with plans in place to have tickets on sale during The 2017 Solheim Cup in West Des Moines as part of official travel packages. General registration for event information is available via [www.SolheimCup2019.com](http://www.SolheimCup2019.com).

The week will begin with the PING Junior Solheim Cup taking place 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> September at Gleneagles with the participants made to feel an important part of the main event. This unique U18 event will be showcased as never before as Scotland seeks to ensure that this is the most family orientated Solheim Cup ever staged. VisitScotland, on behalf of the Scottish Government, has stated the ambition to ensure the 2019 edition of the Solheim Cup in Perthshire will serve to both grow golf and leave a lasting legacy of increased participation in women's sport.

Themes of equality, innovation and experience will be thread through all the events communications as The 2019 Solheim Cup aims to engage both the traditional golf audience and the wider sport fan, raising the profile of women's golf both in Scotland and internationally. The Scottish Government and VisitScotland have been long-time supporters of the women's game having partnered with the Ricoh Women's British Open for many years and more recently, significantly enhancing the Aberdeen Asset Ladies Scottish Open as it becomes a co-sanctioned LET and LPGA event for the first time this year.

The 2019 Solheim Cup will not only showcase the stunning assets of Scotland, the Home of Golf, but also build on the legacy of the successful 2014 Ryder Cup at Gleneagles. It will underline that Scotland is the perfect stage for major golf events as it seeks to help inspire a new generation of children to take up the game invented in their home country.

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

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#### **About the Solheim Cup**

The Solheim Cup combines the tradition and prestige of the game of golf with passion for one's country and continent. This biennial, trans-Atlantic team match-play competition features the best U.S.-born players from the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour and the best European members from the Ladies European Tour (LET). The Solheim Cup is named in honour of Karsten Solheim, the founder of Karsten Manufacturing Corporation, which makes PING golf equipment. In 1990, the Solheim family, in conjunction with the LPGA and the LET, developed the concept and became the title sponsor for the Solheim Cup, professional golf's international match-play competition for women. Held every two years, the event has grown into the most prestigious international women's professional golf team event. The Solheim Cup is the most highly coveted trophy in women's professional golf team competition; some of the most memorable moments in the sport have happened during past Solheim Cups, and berths on the European and U.S. teams are highly sought-after by players from both organisations. The 2017 Solheim Cup will take place on August 14-20 at Des Moines Country Club in Iowa, United States. The U.S. Team enters the competition holding the Cup and will need 14 points to retain it, with the European Team needing 14½ points to regain the coveted Waterford Crystal prize. For more information log on to [www.solheimcup.com](http://www.solheimcup.com).

#### **EventScotland**

EventScotland is working to make Scotland the perfect stage for events. By developing an exciting portfolio of sporting and cultural events EventScotland is helping to raise Scotland's international profile and boost the economy by attracting more visitors. For further information about EventScotland, its funding programmes and latest event news visit [www.EventScotland.org](http://www.EventScotland.org). Follow EventScotland on Twitter @EventScotNews.

EventScotland is a team within VisitScotland's Events Directorate, the national tourism organisation which markets Scotland as a tourism destination across the world, gives support to the tourism industry and brings sustainable tourism growth to Scotland. For more information about VisitScotland see [www.visitscotland.org](http://www.visitscotland.org) or for consumer information on Scotland as a visitor destination see [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com).

#### **About IMG**

IMG is a global leader in sports, events, media and fashion, operating in more than 30 countries. The company represents and manages some of the world's greatest sports figures and fashion icons; stages hundreds of live events and branded entertainment experiences annually; and is a leading

independent producer and distributor of sports and entertainment media. IMG also specializes in sports training; league development; and marketing, media and licensing for brands, sports organizations and collegiate institutions.

### **About Gleneagles**

Located one hour from Glasgow and Edinburgh, The Gleneagles Hotel is set in an 850-acre estate, with its own railway station just minutes away. Gleneagles is synonymous with golf, and home to three championship golf courses - The PGA Centenary Course - venue for the Ryder Cup 2014 - and the stunning King's and Queen's Courses. But there's even more to keep guests entertained off the course: a choice of more than twenty activities can be found in the grounds, from clay target shooting, archery and trout fishing on three lochs within the resort's estate, to horse-riding, Segway tours and gun dog training. Throughout the hotel you will find the finest comfort – from its 232 luxury bedrooms and suites, to the calming environment of the spacious destination spa by ESPA, home to one of only two ESPA Life wellness centres in the world. Gourmands will have plenty to discover, with four on-site restaurants, including Scotland's only two Michelin-starred restaurant Andrew Fairlie, as well as unique private dining options in the wine cellars and outdoor whisky bar.