



## **World City Championship presented by Hong Kong Golf Club brings world-class golf back to Asia's World City**

**[Hong Kong, 28 February 2023]:** Hong Kong golf and entertainment lovers are in for a treat with the debut of the World City Championship presented by Hong Kong Golf Club (WCC) from 23-26 March 2023 in Fanling. European golf legends **Ian Poulter** and **Henrik Stenson** are the first confirmed headliners for the US\$1 million tournament, which will be broadcast live to over 105 countries and territories.

The city's newest professional sports event received a huge fillip by being selected as one of three Asian tournaments in The R&A's Open Qualifying Series (OQS). With the Fanling club already a firm favourite among the professionals, the tournament's coveted OQS status will only add to the allure.

One of the Hong Kong Golf Club's primary objectives in presenting the WCC is to support the government's "Hello Hong Kong" campaign and attract international visitors to the city. That mission is already coming to fruition with Swedish star Stenson set to make his first ever visit to Hong Kong.

Fans will need no introduction to Poulter, whose victory at the 2010 Hong Kong Open - when he set the championship record at 22-under-par, ranks high amongst the decades of unforgettable Sundays in Fanling.

The 17-time tournament champion welcomed the opportunity to return to the city, saying, "Hong Kong is one of my favourite places and I am looking forward to coming back to Asia's World City for the inaugural WCC," said the Englishman.

One of Europe's most accomplished golfers, Stenson has 22 worldwide wins, including the 2016 Open Championship. He has spent more than 300 weeks of his career ranked among the world's top 10 golfers, reaching a career-best No. 2.

"I'm excited to be coming to Hong Kong for the first time and look forward to seeing all the fans in Fanling," he said.

Joining Poulter and Stenson is a full field of the best of the best from the Asian Tour, as well as some of Hong Kong's top golfers, including newly turned pro Taichi Kho. The 22-year old is eagerly anticipating the chance to play at his home course in his rookie season.

"I am incredibly excited about playing the WCC. As a Hong Kong golfer, to be playing as a pro on my home course and in front of home galleries is something that I have dreamed about. I hope to see as many fans as possible over the tournament. A lot of



Hong Kong players will be playing, so it will be a great chance to fly the Hong Kong golf flag high,” added Kho, whose successful amateur career included a notable runner-up finish at the prestigious Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship in 2021.

Over the decades, Hong Kong Golf Club events have built a reputation for welcoming the local public and drawing tourists from around Asia and the world, with over 49,000 spectators attending the 60<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Open in 2018.

Hong Kong Golf Club Captain Andy Kwok welcomed the return of international golf to the city:

“After a three-year hiatus, we are delighted to be hosting the WCC and to be partnering with the Asian Tour in bringing such an important new event to Hong Kong. It is the first of three top international tournaments we will host at the Club this season, and we look forward to welcoming visitors from around the world and around Hong Kong to Fanling throughout 2023.

“Staging world-class tournaments and providing a great spectator experience is something the Club has a long and proud tradition of doing. I am pleased to say that this will continue at the WCC as we join hands with the community and celebrate the return of major sporting events to Hong Kong,” said Mr Kwok.

In keeping with the Club’s mission to share the excitement with all of Hong Kong, the WCC is free for entry across the tournament week (23-26 March). Tickets will be available by prior registration via [www.ticketflap.com](http://www.ticketflap.com).

The Hong Kong Golf Club will also host schools and community organizations at the event, offering an opportunity to learn more about the fundamentals of golf and to experience the excitement of tournament play.

As if the world-class golf and world-class views were not enough, the tournament’s spectator village will offer a daily calendar of entertainment from golf clinics to live music concerts, international cuisine, a STEAM kids and family area and much more. The village will also feature an exhibition booth where visitors can learn more about the long history and ecological importance of the Hong Kong Golf Club’s Fanling site and register for guided nature tours.

Revving up the excitement even further, on 25 March, the WCC will present a Classic Car Show in association with the Classic Car Club of Hong Kong. Like the rest of the tournament, admission is free. More details on tournament activities will be announced shortly.

“Tournaments like the WCC are vital to Hong Kong’s reputation as an international events hub. To have the stars of the sports and entertainment worlds jetting into the city this March is a sure sign that Hong Kong is back,” added Mr Kwok.



In addition to hosting the inaugural WCC, the Club will also stage the Aramco Team Series, a premier Ladies European Tour event, in October, whilst the 62<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Hong Kong Open, Hong Kong's oldest professional sporting event, will make a welcome return in November.

The World City Championship presented by Hong Kong Golf Club is proud of being an "M" Mark event that helps enhance the image of Hong Kong as Asia's sports event capital. The "M" Mark awarded by the Major Sports Events Committee, symbolising an intense, spectacular and signature event in the territory sports calendar.

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