

## **TONY JACKLIN FOR WORLD CORPORATE GOLF CHALLENGE FINALS**

### **DRAFT MEDIA STATEMENT**

World Golf Hall of Fame inductee and European Ryder Cup Captain, Tony Jacklin, will visit South Africa as Ambassador for the World Corporate Golf Challenge Finals to be played at Simola Golf & Country Estate in Knysna from 3-8 May 2011.

Jacklin's brief but memorable brilliance revitalized British and ultimately European golf with his remarkable exploits. From 1969 to 1972, there was no brighter star in golf's firmament than Tony Jacklin. At the age of 26, he broke all performance records in the history of British golf. In doing so, he simply did for British golf what Arnold Palmer did for golf in America. In 1969-1970 Jacklin became the first golfer since Ben Hogan to hold both the US and British Open titles simultaneously.

Jacklin was involved in one of the Ryder Cup's most memorable moments in 1969, known simply as "The Concession". The 1969 event hinged on the last singles match between Jack Nicklaus and Tony Jacklin. Jacklin holed a 50 ft eagle putt on the 17<sup>th</sup> to remain alive in the match. "It was one of the putts of my life, one of those you dream about making" said Jacklin. "For it to happen at that time was idyllic". Nicklaus went on to concede a 2 ft putt to Jacklin on the 18<sup>th</sup>, to record the first tie in the history of the Ryder Cup.

For his accomplishments and his role in breathing life back into the Ryder Cup in 1985 as non-playing Captain (when Europe won for the first time since 1957), Jacklin was elected to the World Golf Hall of Fame. "He was the heart and soul of Ryder Cup Golf" said World Hall of Fame member Hale Irwin. He went on to captain Europe in a 1987 win on US soil, and retained the cup in 1989. This was the moment that turned the Ryder Cup into the hotly contested matches they are today as well as one of sport's premier events.

"The Ryder Cup is more than just golf. It is your country, your team, your tour, your captain, you're playing for it - it is the ultimate in golf" said Jacklin.

Speaking on behalf of the host, Eden District Municipal Manager Morne Hoogbaard said:

"It is an honour to announce that Tony Jacklin as the Ambassador to the World Corporate Golf Challenge, will be present at the Finals in South Africa. It is quite fitting that the Final is being played on a Jack Nicklaus designed golf course – Jacklin's greatest memory of the Ryder Cup being his tie with Jack Nicklaus in 1969 ! We are also looking to Corporate South Africa to support this event by participating in the two day event preceding the Final, when South Africa will take on "The Rest of the World" . It will be a good networking opportunity with executives from 23 countries."

The World Corporate Golf Challenge is the biggest corporate golf tournament in the world and since its inception 16 years ago, one million golfers have competed across the globe for the chance to represent their country. The World Final event currently has 22 countries participating. The participating teams represent 2 players from each company, and the participant profile is predominantly executive management and all decision makers who are international business and leisure travellers. It is for this reason that the Eden District Municipality have had the vision to see the opportunities that such an event can create for the region – both economically and to boost golf tourism, a major contributor to the economy of the Eden District.

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