

AMARILLA GOLF RETURNS TO HOST THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL OPEN MAR Y SOL

On 30th November 2010 fifty competitors from across the globe fought to win the 2nd International Mar y Sol Open 2010. Initially the tournament was planned to be played two days, but the torrential rain on Monday, 29th forced the competition to be suspended. On Tuesday with the sun finally shining this integration tournament was played in superb conditions.



UK professional sports photographers, Hugh Routledge; camera captured the action and gives everybody an opportunity to see some high quality, inspirational golf showing very different abilities.

Each of the players has an official HDC, but many of the participants cope with an additional type of handicap. Some players are visually impaired; others may be single or even double amputees, paraplegic or hemiplegic. All over the world there have been separate tournaments for golfers with different abilities. So, able-bodied golfers would play in their own competitions, golfers with impaired sight would play in a tournament together or those with missing limbs would play in another one.

This tournament brings all of the golfers together and the vagaries of the golf handicap system allow them all to compete equally in a competitive integration tournament.



I spoke to Renate Kraus, manageress of Mar y Sol Hotel and organizer of the tournament.

“We were not sure if all of the able-bodied and disabled players would want to give up the separate tournaments and play together and whether it would affect the funding but it has come together.”

“It takes many hands to put this event on and it simply would not happen without them. We have players from Spain, England, Germany, France, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Switzerland, Austria, Holland and as well from the Czech Republic. The able-bodied resident members of Amarilla Golf & Country Club are committed to mixing socially with and competing against disabled golfers on an equivalent competitive level.”

“All of the organizers give up a lot of time and money to make this event happen because we want to facilitate the integration of disabled players from the whole of Europe into a major event. We thank our sponsors: Titleist, TAG Heuer, Banco Santander, Sinpromi, Hotel Mar y Sol, Teralava - Centro de Terapias, Tui Vital, Condor, The Players Golf Shop, Canary Golf Federation, PBT (powergolfer.de), Cicar and Halcon Viajes.”

The President of the Canary Golf Union, M^a Luisa Forniés Fdez. del Castillo, said: “The quality of play was excellent yesterday. I watched one competitor hit his tee shot with a driver using only one extremely strong arm. A paraplegic player used the “powergolfer” sports wheelchair which allows him to stand up and chipped in from off the green straight into the hole.”



The Captain of Amarilla Golf & Country Club, Michael Baker, said: “One can not fail to be humbled by the way these extraordinary individuals overcome their disabilities to produce some exceptional golf.”

The inventor of the “powergolfer” sports wheelchair, Christian Nachtwey, explained that each golfer has to individually adapt either through



special equipment or by developing their own golf swing to find a way to get the ball around the course.

Golf is a unique sports option and Mar y Sol Hotel offers in Tenerife “get into golf” courses for the disabled from January to March 2011. An experienced coach will show the wonderful world of pitching and putting to all newcomers.

The winners were awarded their prizes by Renate Kraus (Manager of Mar y Sol Hotel), Michael Baker (Captain of Amarilla Golf Club) and M^a Luisa Forniés Fdez. del Castillo (President of the Canary Golf Union).

The Award Ceremony at Amarilla Golf & Country Club was also attended by Víctor Chinae Niebla (Mayor of the town hall of San Miguel de Abona), María Aurora Rodríguez Medina (Councilwoman for tourism of the town hall of San Miguel de Abona), Ángela Tavío (President of Amarilla Golf & Country Club), Salvador Morales (President of the association for physically disabled persons of the Canaries), Raquel Ceca (Tenerife Golf – Tourism of Tenerife), Dulce Torres (Sinpromi) and Luis Angel Vela (Banco Santander).



The gross winner of 2010 International Mar y Sol Open was Luis Vicente Mateu Sisternas from Spain, with a score of 22 points. The net winner was David Hill from Great Britain, with a 37-point score.

The category one winner with a 25-point score was Joan Pere Morera Castell from Spain.

The category two winners with a 32-point score was Michael Baker from Great Britain.

The category three winners with a 34-point score was Miroslav Lidinsky from the Czech Republic.

The “nearest to the pin” prize was won by Linda Williams from Great Britain.



The “longest drive – ladies” prize was won by Marjo Boissovain from Switzerland.

The “longest drive – gentlemen” prize was won by Gerhard Fuchs from Germany.

All the players were pleased about the organization of the competition and fascinated by the golf course, announcing their participation in next year’s tournament according to the motto: “Tenerife – a different golf option”

