

First Women's Irish Open in 10 years to be hosted in Clare

Dromoland Castle lands prestigious golf event which takes place over four days this September

Dromoland Castle will host the Women's Irish Open from September 22 to 25 - the first women's professional tournament in the country in 10 years.

Mark Nolan, Managing Director at **Dromoland Castle** said, "We are absolutely thrilled that **Dromoland Castle** will play host to this year's Women's Irish Open.

"The return of women's professional golf to Ireland is hugely important to the further development of women's golf in Ireland.

"All of us at **Dromoland Castle** are delighted to be able to support women's golf and look forward to extending our legendary hospitality and showcasing the estate's world class facilities to Europe's top golfers.

"At Dromoland, we are also continuously striving to improve our environmental practices and are delighted to confirm that our aim is to deliver the most green and sustainable tournament in Ireland."

Held 15 times between 1994 and 2012, the Championship has

been won by some of Europe's top golfers including Norway's Suzann Pettersen, Sweden's Sophie Gustafson, England's Laura Davies and, most recently, by the 2021 Solheim Cup winning Captain, Scotland's Catriona Matthew. The 2022 Women's Irish Open promises to be an unmissable event in the Irish sporting calendar.

Dromoland Castle's 38-hole 6,824 yards par 72 championship course was designed by Ron Kirby and JB Carr.

An impressive world class parkland course, it combines gentle hills, ancient trees and unexpected water hazards. The course and accompanying practice facilities - currently undergoing a €2 million upgrade - will present a demanding and exhilarating test for the game's top golfers.

Alexandra Armas, Chief Executive of the Ladies European Tour, said: "We are delighted to see the Women's Irish Open return to the LET Schedule in 2022.

"We are grateful to **Dromoland Castle** and the Irish Government for their support in enabling the Women's Irish Open return to the LET in 2022 after a 10-year absence.

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"It is our objective that all the players who want to come and play on the LET can make a living from golf. This means more tournaments, bigger prize funds as well as increased TV coverage.

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what we expect to be a very popular stop for the Irish Open at the incredible **Dromoland Castle**."

Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin said, "My department is engaged in various sport schemes that advocate for the development of women's sport.

"I am delighted, as part of that commitment, to be able to support the return of the Women's Irish Open. Golf provides an important sporting opportunity for people right across Ireland whilst also making a significant contribution to tourism.

"Prior to Covid, more than 200,000 international visitors came to play each year. We are hoping to see an increased number of golfers returning to play in Ireland in 2022, as we hopefully emerge from the pandemic.

"The staging of world class events are important for the development of high performance sport and as a valuable promotional tool. I am delighted to support **Dromoland Castle's** commit-

ment to Irish golf in committing to stage the Women's Irish Open and know that their golf facilities and hospitality will showcase the very best of what Ireland has to offer."

Minister of State for Sport and the Gaeltacht, Jack Chambers said: "I am delighted with today's announcement that this year's Women's Irish Open will be held at the magnificent **Dromoland Castle**."

"Ireland's female golfers have enjoyed significant international success and it is fitting that women's professional golf returns to Ireland as we look to grow participation in the game, nurture future talent and promote Ireland as a premier destination for golf tourism around the world.

"We know one of the positives of hosting major sporting events is the growth in participation at grassroots level that comes as a result of the coverage and exposure to elite level sport. I am confident that this event can help inspire a new generation of talented players and grow women's

golf all across the country."

Golf Ireland CEO Mark Kennedy said: "The promotion of female participation is a key strategic goal for Golf Ireland. We are delighted that the Women's Irish Open is returning this year and believe that the event at **Dromoland Castle** will be a fantastic showcase for women's sport."

Chief Executive of Clare County Council, Pat Dowling commented: "We are delighted to be working with **Dromoland Castle** to enable the return of the Women's Irish Open to Ireland and in particular, to Co. Clare this September.

"We look forward to hosting Europe's top golfers, providing them and the spectators they will attract with Clare's famous hospitality whilst showcasing the county as one of the best places to visit in Ireland."

Further information regarding can be seen on the **Dromoland Castle** and Ladies European Tour websites - <https://dromolandcastle.ie/womens-irish-open/> and <https://ladieseuropeantour.com/>.