



WOMEN'S IRISH OPEN 2022

- **When?** September 22-25
- **Where?** Dromoland Castle, Co. Clare
- **Prize Fund?** €400,000

LAST FIVE WINNERS:

- 2012** Catriona Matthew, *Killeen Castle*
- 2011** Suzann Pettersen, *Killeen Castle*
- 2010** Sophie Gustafson, *Killeen Castle*
- 2009** Diana Luna, *Portmarnock Links*
- 2008** Suzann Pettersen, *Portmarnock Links*



Catriona Matthew

COULTER, FOSTER & WALSH NAMED IN INITIAL CURTIS CUP SQUAD

Beth Coulter, Anna Foster and Lauren Walsh were all named in the R&A's initial squad of 12 players who are in contention for selection for the GB&I Curtis Cup team to play against the USA from June 10-12 at Merion. Castlewarden's Wake Forest convert Lauren Walsh will be aiming to make the team for a second time having been part of the 12-8 defeat at Conwy last year, while Elm Park's Auburn recruit Anna Foster and Kirkistown Castle's Beth Coulter will be hoping to make their debut in the event. Coulter was runner-up in the 2021 R&A Girls' Amateur Championship.

Elaine Ratcliffe, GB&I captain, said, "We have selected a group of very talented players for our Curtis Cup squad and we will be monitoring their form and results over the coming months as we look to select the strongest possible side to play at Merion."



Lauren Walsh

McGinley expects Dromoland Castle to shine on world stage

The Women's Irish Open returns to the island's sporting calendar in 2022 with Paul McGinley tipping the tournament for great success

Following news that Dromoland Castle will host the Women's Irish Open from September 22-25, former Ryder Cup winning captain Paul McGinley believes the venue will capture the imagination of a global TV audience tuning in for the anticipated return of the tournament.

It will have been a decade since successful Solheim Cup skipper Catriona Matthew captured the Ladies Irish Open title at Killeen Castle in 2012 by the time the stars of the Ladies European Tour make their return to the Emerald Isle this autumn.

No stranger to the prestigious 450-acre estate that sits mesmerisingly on the shores of Lough Dromoland in Co. Clare, McGinley believes Dromoland Castle will serve as an all-round showpiece for Irish golf as inbound tourism continues to soar in its bid to make up for lost time during the pandemic.

"I've been there, I've



stayed there. I've played the course – it's excellent," said McGinley, who hosted the men's Irish Open at Lahinch in 2019.

"I mean, what a beautiful place. Talk about promoting Ireland – the TV footage that we'll get from Dromoland is going to look terrific."

2022 has already been a landmark year for the LET with record-breaking prize funds and tournaments as the schedule recovers from Covid-19 disruption over the past couple of years. The Women's Irish Open was a casualty of the calendar long before the virus but with the momentum behind Irish golf at the moment, and an ideal venue in Dromoland lined up for September, McGinley believes the tournament is onto a winner, and hopes even better things lie in wait.

"As the LPGA and the Ladies European Tour come together more and more like we have done with the Strategic Alliance on

the men's tour, hopefully this will escalate in time into a full scale LPGA event," McGinley said.

"Obviously Leona [Maguire] is leading from the front, she's blazing her way through the LPGA and moving up through the world rankings, but Stephanie Meadow is right there behind her and there's plenty more coming through. "As I say, I'm looking forward to seeing Dromoland Castle on TV – what a beautiful place. One of our very best hotels in Ireland so it should be a really special week."

As for the team at Dromoland Castle, the work is already underway in preparation for the stars of the Ladies European Tour arriving to Co. Clare.

"We are absolutely thrilled that Dromoland Castle will play host to this year's Women's Irish Open," said Mark

Nolan, Managing Director at Dromoland.

"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."

Eamonn O'Donnell, Director of Golf added, "This has been a long term vision of our owners & team to bring an International Professional event to Dromoland Castle, and we are delighted to welcome the Women's Irish Open this coming September.

"To be in a position to support the growth of Women's Golf & Women's sport is very important to us & we look forward to welcoming the leading players from the Ladies European Tour to Co. Clare."



THE NUMBERS GAME

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World Number One Jin Young Ko recorded her sixth win from 11 starts at the HSBC Women's World Championship. In that time the South Korean enjoyed 10 top-10s with a 67.5 scoring average, plus a notable 66.9 final round scoring average. *Fire!*

INITIAL GB&I SQUAD:

- **Rosie Belsham** (20, *Whitley Bay, England*)
- **Beth Coulter** (17, *Kirkistown Castle, Ireland*)
- **Hannah Darling** (18, *Broomieknowe, Scotland*)
- **Louise Duncan** (22, *West Kilbride, Scotland*)
- **Anna Foster** (22, *Elm Park, Ireland*)
- **Annabell Fuller** (19, *Roehampton, England*)
- **Charlotte Heath** (20, *Huddersfield, England*)
- **Caley McGinty** (21, *Knowle, England*)
- **Emily Price** (22, *Ludlow, England*)
- **Lauren Walsh** (21, *Castlewarden, Ireland*)
- **Amelia Williamson** (21, *Hunstanton, England*)
- **Lottie Woad** (18, *Farnham, England*)