



## VAGLIANO TROPHY

GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND VS THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE

GOLF CLUB BOGOGNO, ITALY 30 JUNE - 1 JULY 2017



















## **CONTINENT OF EUROPE TEAM**

he 30th edition of the Vagliano Trophy, first introduced in 1959, will be played at Bogogno Golf Club near Milano, Italy, on Friday, 30 June and Saturday, 1 July. It will see a strong Continent of Europe team try to retain the Trophy they have held over their Great Britain and Ireland counterparts since 2007.

The team will be captained by Anna Roscio (ITA), current manager of the Italian Ladies and Girls National Teams and 2010 Espirito Santo Trophy player, who lead the team to a 12  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 11  $\frac{1}{2}$  victory over Great Britain and Ireland at Malone Golf Club in 2015.

Her eight-player team will comprise two returning players: Albane Valenzuela (SUI) and Linnea Strom (SWE).

Valenzuela, currently ranked N°4 amateur in the world, will be part of the Continental team again after having represented Europe in last year's inaugural Patsy Hankins Trophy against Asia-Pacific. A seasoned campaigner she debuted at the 2013 Junior Vagliano Trophy. In 2016, the 19-year old Swiss tied 21st in the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, made the cut in the U.S. Women's Open and was joint low amateur in the ANA Inspiration. Several further top performances in professional and amateur events made 2016 a remarkable season for her.

Ström's experience stretches back even further having already represented Europe and the continental team on several occasions: 2015 Vagliano Trophy, 2012 & 2014 Junior Ryder Cup and 2013 Junior Solheim Cup. She was runner-up in this year's Darius Rucker Intercollegiate and Clover Cup, winner of the 2016 Pac-12 Championship, runner-up in the 2016 Arizona Wildcat Invitational, 2015 Ladies' British Open Amateur Championship finalist, and two-time Spanish Ladies' Amateur Champion.

Valenzuela will be joined by compatriot Morgane Metraux who started successfully into 2017 with victories at the Seminole Match Up and The Dickson Tournament at The Woodlands Country Club. In 2016, Metraux won the silver medal at the World Amateur Team Championship with Switzerland, won The Schooner Fall Classic, was runner-up in the Briar's Creek Invitational and Cardinal Cup and impressed on the European stage with a 62-stroke course record leading to 4<sup>th</sup> place in the European Ladies' Amateur Championship.

Matilda Castren (FIN) will join her college teammate Metraux, representing the Continent of Europe. Castren has won the Clemson Invitational this spring and added two more victories and a runner-up finish in college events (Jim West Challenge, NCAA Shoal Creek Regional, Cardinal Cup) to her records last year.

With Julia Engström, the youngest player in the selection, Sweden sends another strong player to the team. Engström, reigning Ladies' British Open Amateur Champion, was already part of the 2015 winning Junior Vagliano Trophy Team. In 2016, the 16-year old also reached the semi-final in the Girls' British Open Amateur Championship and started 2017 with a tied third place at the Portuguese International

Puk Lyng Thomsen (DEN), runner-up in the individual ranking of the 2016 Espirito Santo Trophy and third in the 2016 Portuguese International Ladies Amateur Championship, finished second in this year's European Nations Cup and reached the semi-final in the 2017 French International U21 (Esmond Trophy). Lyng Thomsen represented Europe in the inaugural Patsy Hankins Trophy.

Hosting country, Italy, will be represented by Virginia Elena Carta, who finished runner-up in the LSU Tiger Golf Classic both this season and last. In 2016, Carta won the NCAA Women's Medal Championship and was a US Women's Amateur finalist.

Also joining the team will be Dewi Weber (NED), who placed second in the Ladies' British Open Amateur Championship and NCAA Women's Medal Championship in 2016. Weber has been successful at several US college events including two victories in 2016 and a tied third place at the beginning of 2017.

Frida Kinhult (SWE) provides the captain and team with a strong first reserve.

Captain Anna Roscio said that she is looking forward to a great match between the two teams, which both have great players in good form.

"I am really honoured and happy to be the Captain of the Vagliano European Continental Team for the second time in a row. I have great memories of the last edition and I am really looking forward to be on the course again with my amazing players in my own country! I am sure It will be great fun!"

More information and livescoring will be available on the EGA website: http://www.ega-golf.ch

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