

## **Ricoh Women's British Open to return to Royal Lytham & St Annes in 2018**

12th September 2016

The Ricoh Women's British Open will take place at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club for a fifth time in 2018.

The Championship was last played there in 2009 when Catriona Matthew famously became the first Scottish woman to clinch a Major title, remarkably only 11 weeks after giving birth to her second daughter.

Matthew, who was a member of this summer's UK Olympic team and was recently announced as a Vice Captain for the 2017 Solheim Cup, commented, "I am absolutely delighted to hear the 2018 Ricoh Women's British Open will be played at Royal Lytham. Winning there so soon after Sophie's birth was undoubtedly the best achievement in my career and I think it is wonderful news that we will be returning there in a couple of years."

Sherri Steinhauer won the first Championship held at the venerable Lancashire venue back in 1998. Sweden's Annika Sorenstam followed the American into the winner's circle when the Championship was held there in 2003 and then Steinhauer emerged victorious for a third time – the American also won at Woburn Golf & Country Club in 1999 – when she closed with a level par 72 to defeat compatriot, Christie Kerr, in 2006.

Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club is one of the most challenging of the Open and Ricoh Women's British Open venues with 169 bunkers to challenge the players. The Club has hosted eleven Open Championships, the most recent in 2012, won by South Africa's Ernie Els.

Charles Grimley, Secretary, Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club, said, "Our membership is very excited to welcome back another Ricoh Women's British Open. It is a tournament with a very special feel to it which I suspect is largely thanks to the wonderfully engaging personalities on the women's tours. This will be very popular news in the area and we will all look forward to 2018 very much."

Trish Wilson, Chairman Ladies' Golf Union's, added, "Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club is a very popular venue amongst the players and we are very happy to be returning there for a fifth time in 2018. Our commitment is to ensure the Championship is held at Britain's best courses and there is no doubt that Royal Lytham lives up to this criteria."

The Ricoh Women's British Open was founded by the LGU in 1976 and has been staged in conjunction with IMG, the world's largest sports marketing company, since 1984. The event has been co-sanctioned by the LPGA and LET since 1994 and gained Major status in 2001.

For further information please visit [www.ricohwomensbritishopen.com](http://www.ricohwomensbritishopen.com) or contact:

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#### **Notes to editors:**

##### **About Ricoh**

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Headquartered in Tokyo, Ricoh Group operates in approximately 200 countries and regions. In the financial year ending March 2016, Ricoh Group had worldwide sales of 2,209 billion yen (approx. 19.6 billion USD)

For further information, please visit [www.ricoh.com](http://www.ricoh.com)

##### **About the Ladies' Golf Union ("LGU")**

Founded in 1893, the LGU is the encompassing body for ladies' amateur golf in Great Britain & Ireland. The LGU Executive Council includes representatives of ladies' golf's national governing bodies in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Operational activities are undertaken by a wholly owned subsidiary, LGU Championships Limited ("LGUCL"), which in particular owns and runs the Ricoh Women's British Open, founded by the LGU in 1976 and one of the five Major Tournaments for Professional Women golfers. LGUCL also has responsibility for running British Amateur Championships and Home International events, and preparing the Great Britain & Ireland teams for representative matches, such as the Curtis Cup and the Vagliano Trophy.

Further information about the LGU is available on [www.lgu.com](http://www.lgu.com)

##### **About IMG**

IMG is a global leader in sports, events, media and fashion, operating in more than 30 countries. The company represents and manages some of the world's greatest sports figures and fashion icons; stages hundreds of live events and branded entertainment experiences annually; and is one of the largest independent producers and distributors of sports media. IMG also specializes in sports training; league development; and marketing, media and licensing for brands, sports organizations and collegiate institutions. In 2014, IMG was acquired by WME, a leading global entertainment agency.