



Liang tees off golf's week-long march across China, Poulter in lead

Shanghai, China; October 10, 2011: One hundred years to the day since Dr Sun Yat-sen founded modern China, Chinese number one Liang Wen-chong teed off the seven-day, seven-city Shui On Land China Golf Challenge, the sport's most innovative competition in the world's most populous nation.

Englishman Ian Poulter led the 18-hole tournament at one-under after the first day's two holes, putting him one ahead of Liang. World number two Lee Westwood was one-over, while world number three Rory McIlroy was four-over after finding water on both holes.

The day held particular significance for the 33-year-old Liang, who is the sole Chinese player during this week's Shui On Land China Golf Challenge and grew up and learnt his golf in Zhongshan, home of Dr Sun.

"This is a very important day for Chinese people, as history changed 100 years ago. I'm also proud because my hometown is the same as Dr Sun's. He's very famous in China and in Zhongshan, which many people visit as we have a university and a park in honour of him," said Liang, whose supporters at Tomson included Chinese pros Hu Mu and Han Ren.

"I learnt and still play my golf at Chung Shan Hot Spring, which was the country's first golf club when it opened in 1984. With the economic boom in China over the years, we've also seen the development of golf grow rapidly across the country, so I'm very lucky to be the ambassador for China in an event like the Shui On Land China Golf Challenge."

Liang believes the week-long tournament, which is being filmed by IMG Media and showcased on Golfing World, will show China and its young but growing golf industry in a fresh new light.

"I'm really excited because it's a completely new format, not a normal tournament. In China, many people only watch tournaments, but the Shui On Land China Golf Challenge and the TV programme will show people the lifestyle of golfers and

showcase China's many modern cities. It will help the audience get close to the players and increase their interest," he said.

"It's great to have these three famous international players, Lee, Ian and Rory, as they will help showcase Chinese culture and promote golf in China to the rest of the world. The seven cities this week are spread from north to south, east and west, and the programme will be broadcast worldwide, so I hope it will provide a good image of China."

The energetic Poulter, who won this year's World Match Play Championship, was the best performer at Tomson, opening with a birdie after hitting his approach at the 461-yard opening hole to within five feet of the flag. The 35-year-old then played an excellent up-and-down to save par at the 590-yard, par-five and finish the day top of the leaderboard.

"That was a perfect beginning. It was nice to get off to a good start with a birdie at the first hole and it's always nice to be in the lead. Whether there's four players or 150 players, I'd like to win," Poulter said.

"It's going to be a long week, especially looking at the number of flights and the mileage we're going to cover. The format of the event will make it difficult to get into a rhythm for each set of holes, but it's interesting and challenging."

Liang recorded two pars to stay ahead of Westwood, who bogeyed the first after hitting long with his approach, and an error-strewn McIlroy, who was four-over after a triple-bogey at the first where his second shot from within the trees hit a branch and rolled into the lake in front of the green.

"I'm only five behind," McIlroy said. "A lot can happen in 16 holes, especially in six days. If I can get a couple of birdies on Tuesday and get a bit of momentum, then hopefully I can catch up later in the week."

On Tuesday morning, the players fly on Bombardier jets to Zhengzhou, capital of Henan province, where they will play the third and fourth holes of the tournament at Jinsha Lake Golf Club.

The players will then compete at two golf clubs in Beijing on Wednesday before stops in Dalian, Chongqing, Dongguan and Macau.

Shui On Land China Golf Challenge 2011 schedule

October 10: Shanghai – Tomson Shanghai Pudong Golf Club

October 11: Zhengzhou – Jinsha Lake Golf Club

October 12: Beijing – Topwin Golf and Country Club & Jade Island International Golf Club

October 13: Dalian – Red Flag Valley
October 14: Chongqing – Sun Kingdom Golf Club
October 15: Dongguan – Long Island Golf and Country Club
October 16: Macau – Caesars Golf Macau

Website: www.shuionlandchinagolfchallenge.com

Twitter: ChinaGChallenge

– Ends –

Captions for rights-free photos:

20111010DPM183_day4: Lee Westwood, Rory McIlroy, Shui On Land chairman Vincent Lo, Ian Poulter and Liang Wen-chong at the opening ceremony of the Shui On Land China Golf Challenge.

20111010DPM259_day4: Liang Wen-chong, Rory McIlroy, Ian Poulter and Lee Westwood share a laugh on the first hole of the Shui On Land China Golf Challenge at Tomson Golf Club in Shanghai.

20111010DPM347_day4: Liang Wen-chong tees off on the first day of the Shui On Land China Golf Challenge at Tomson Golf Club in Shanghai.

20111010DPM401_day4: Liang Wen-chong gives Ian Poulter directions on the first day of the Shui On Land China Golf Challenge at Tomson Golf Club in Shanghai.

20111010DPM414_day4: Ian Poulter plays out of trouble on the second hole of the Shui On Land China Golf Challenge at Tomson Golf Club in Shanghai.

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About Shui On Land China Golf Challenge

The Shui On Land China Golf Challenge will be held from October 10-16, 2011 and feature Lee Westwood, Ian Poulter, Liang Wen-chong and Rory McIlroy. Host venues are Tomson Golf Club (Shanghai); Jinsha Lake Golf Club (Zhengzhou); Topwin Golf and Country Club and Jade Island International Golf Club (both Beijing); Red Flag Valley (Dalian); Sun Kingdom Golf Club (Chongqing), Long Island Golf and Country Club (Dongguan) and Caesars Golf Macau (Macau). Owned by The Great 18 Golf Championships Ltd and managed by Infinite Ideas International, the event will be broadcast on Golfing World and distributed internationally by IMG Media, with communications by Fast Track Hong Kong. Shui On Land is the title sponsor,

while other sponsors include Bombardier, Sino Private Aviation, Media Asia Group, Lai Fung Holdings, Titleist, Kent & Curwen, Van Klaren, The Venetian, Audemars Piguet, Scottsdale Golf Group, Churchill Corporate Services and The Wealth Management Group.

About Shui On Land



Headquartered in Shanghai, Shui On Land (Stock Code: 272) is the flagship property development company of the Shui On Group in the Chinese Mainland with a proven track record in developing large-scale, mixed-use city-core redevelopment projects. The Company has eight projects in various stages of development in prime locations of major cities, with a landbank of 13.1 million sqm. (11.4 million sq.m. of leasable and saleable GFA, and 1.7 million sq.m. of clubhouses, car parking spaces and other facilities). The Company was listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange on October 4, 2006, the largest Chinese real estate enterprise listed that year. Shui On Land was included in the 200-Stock Hang Seng Composite Index Series and Hang Seng Freefloat Index Series in March 2007. For further information, please visit: www.shuionland.com. For media enquiries, please contact: Ms Ingrid Wing-sai Tang, Assistant General Manager – Corporate Communications & Branding. Tel: +86 21 6386-1818. Email: ingrid.tang@shuion.com.cn





