

McGladrey Team Championship Begins Third Season

The amateur championship conducted by The PGA of America, and involving all 41 PGA Sections, returns to Pinehurst on Oct. 26-28

By Bob Denney

The McGladrey Team Championship, the first nationwide grassroots best-ball amateur championship conducted by The PGA of America, will mark its third year with a new title, the launch of registration on its Web site, an enhancement to its format and a third consecutive return for the National Championship at Pinehurst (N.C.) Resort.

The National Championship, featuring 41 four-member PGA Section champion teams, will compete Oct. 26-28 at renowned Pinehurst (N.C.) Resort. The 2009 season will formally open with Special Olympics as the Official Charity of The McGladrey Team Championship.

The 2009 McGladrey Team Championship, formerly The PGA McGladrey Team Championship, will feature an increase in the allowed course handicap with each player using 75 percent.

The McGladrey Team Championship is the result of a partnership between The PGA of America and RSM McGladrey, the Official Accounting, Tax and Business Consulting firm of The PGA of America and one of the largest accounting, tax and business consulting firms in the country.

"This Championship is about teamwork and reflects RSM McGladrey's belief that — whether in business or golf — with the right team, anything's possible," says Mark Audino, RSM McGladrey's chief marketing officer. "Each year the Championship expands, attracting thousands of new players nationwide and adding partnerships like the Special Olympics. We look forward to seeing it grow again in 2009."

Local Qualifying Events will be conducted from January through September. The Section Championships will be from April to September.

Once again, Local Qualifying Events with 18 teams or more will advance two teams to their Section Championship. Registrations to host Local Qualifying Events are being accepted at PGA.com/teamchampionship.

Section Championships, hosted by The PGA of America's network of 41 PGA Sections, will once again team a PGA Professional with three amateur partners in the bid to earn a National Championship berth.

"The McGladrey Team Championship is one of



our Association's most unique events, considering the rare opportunity for amateurs to compete at the national level with a PGA Professional," says PGA President Jim Remy. "We anticipate that more and more golfers nationwide will pick up the momentum from this past year and form a team and make their bid to earn a berth at Pinehurst. This Championship continues to receive top reviews by the contestants, and the camaraderie between PGA Professionals and amateurs is something that forms friendships that will last a lifetime."

The 41-team, 164-player field in the National Championship will compete for a \$200,000 purse, with amateurs receiving gift certificates. The field will compete on three of Pinehurst's premier layouts, opening at No. 8, and concluding the final two days on Courses No. 2 and No. 4.

Amateur players will now receive 75 percent of their course handicap allowance, based on the course and tees being played, and Local Qualifying Events will again use the one best net ball of the three amateur players and each player's score must be used on a minimum of three holes. The Local Qualifying Events that feature 18 or more teams will advance two teams to the Section Championship. If less than 18 teams compete at the Local Qualifying Event, one team will advance to the Section Championship.

The Section Championships and National Championship will feature the host PGA Professional who will complete each winning team's foursome, and use two best net balls of each hole.

RSM McGladrey operates in an alternative practice structure with McGladrey & Pullen LLP, a partner-owned CPA firm that delivers audit and attest services. Through separate and independent legal entities, they work together to serve clients' business needs. Together, the companies rank as the fifth largest U.S. provider of accounting, tax and business consulting services (source: *Accounting Today*), with 8,000 professionals and associates in nearly 100 offices nationwide. RSM McGladrey Inc., and McGladrey & Pullen LLP are member firms of RSM International, an affiliation of independent accounting and consulting firms. ■



What: The McGladrey Team Championship

Where: Pinehurst (N.C.) Resort

When: Oct. 26-28

Who: 41 four-member PGA Section Champion teams composed of three amateurs and a PGA Professional

Web site: PGA.com/teamchampionship

The McGladrey Team Championship gives amateur golfers the opportunity to build camaraderie with their local PGA Professional and offers them the chance to compete at the prestigious Pinehurst Resort.