

Golf – four special events on PGA Tartan Tour



M&H Logistics Scottish PGA Championship
winner Chris Kelly courtesy of Kenny Smith

Four 36-hole events augment the majors on the 2018 Tartan Tour which will provide more than 90 days of competition for Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) members in Scotland.

The two-day tournaments are at Deer Park, Newmachar, West Linton and Musselburgh and are spread throughout the season.

They include the M&H Logistics Scottish PGA Championship which will bring the curtain down on the season for the third year in a row.

Won by Chris Kelly in 2017 for the third time, it is intended that the 72-hole tournament will be staged once again on the King's Course at Gleneagles.

The circuit's flagship event takes place a fortnight after the popular Highland Golf Links event at Castle Stuart, Nairn and Royal Dornoch.

The battle to be Tartan Tour No 1 gets underway with the Deer Park 36-Hole Challenge on May 21-22 before continuing at Nairn Dunbar on June 5-8 as it hosts the Northern Open for the first time since 1999.

Paul O'Hara's victory in that event at Moray last year helped him top the Order of Merit and the Motherwell man is likely to be one of the leading title contenders once again.

Also counting in the Order of Merit title race again will be the Aberdeen Standard Investments Scottish Open qualifier on July 7-8 at Longniddry, where four spots will be up for grabs

in the event's second visit to Gullane.

Then Newmachar stages a 36-hole Order of Merit Challenge with similar tournaments taking place at West Linton (August 14-15) and Musselburgh (September 4-5).

August sees two other Order of Merit events, the Deer Park Masters Pro-Am in Livingston on July 31-August 1 and the Kerr Investments Pro-Am at Dumfries & Galloway on 25-26.

Other notable events on the fixture list include the third staging of the Gleneagles International Pro-Am on July 24-27 and the Carnegie Invitational at Skibo Castle on September 11-12.

The schedule also contains around 20 one-day pro-ams, including a new one at Torrance Park in Lanarkshire and a testimonial event at Arbroath to mark Lindsay Ewart retiring after 39 years as the club's PGA professional.

For the ninth season in a row, the Scottish Young Professionals' Championship will be played at West Lothian on June 26-28, while a new Young Pros' Sprint Series is set to visit Duddingston, Linlithgow, Balbirnie Park and Trump Turnberry.

The Sandy Pipey Masters, which takes place at Royal Dornoch on September 22-24, will be another highlight of the campaign for the circuit's up-and-coming players.

Image attached of 2017 M&H Logistics Scottish PGA Championship winner Chris Kelly courtesy of Kenny Smith.