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EYM PRESS RELEASE, Thursday, 27th July, 2006.

Frohnleiten, Styria, Austria. The 11th edition of the European Young Masters (EYM) golf began today in Austria's south-east near Graz. 95 of Europe's finest players, both boys and girls, from 27 European countries, are competing for one of the most coveted junior international European titles. National teams comprising two girls and two boys, 16 years and under, and a team captain, compete over 54 holes for individual titles and a Nations' Cup.

The first round began cool and breezy for the girls before settling into still, humid and hot (mid 30°Cs) conditions for the boys in the afternoon. Carly Booth of Scotland set the pace in the morning with a two-under par 70, leader by two from a group of four on 72, including Carlota Ciganda of Spain who is looking for her third consecutive individual title in her final year of eligibility. A superb 66 was carded by Pedro Figueiredo of Portugal who also performed well in the recent European Boys' Team Championship in Sweden. Norway's Anders Kristensen is second on 68 ahead of three others on 69.

The Nation's Cup is being closely contested with Germany (212; -4) taking a narrow lead from France (215) and Portugal (217). Team scores are calculated from the best three from four each day, culminating in a nine-round aggregate. Spain has dominated the Nation's Cup over the event's ten year history with seven wins and no lower than a third placing. Since 1995, when Sergio Garcia won the individual title, Spain's prominence has been ensured with the likes of Pablo Martin, now one of the highest ranked players in the US Collegiate competition, Lluis Garcia del Moral, who won both the 2005 Spanish Boys' and Youths' Championships and now, Carlota. They currently lie equal sixth on 222.

The EYM also acts as precursor to the Junior Ryder Cup (Europe vs the USA) with the top four finishers in both the boys and girls automatically selected. Two more of each will be chosen by the European Captain, Mr Andy Ingram of Wales, who is present here this week. Following what will undoubtedly be an exciting clash with the American team at the Celtic Manor Golf Course in Wales during

August, the team will travel to the K Club in Ireland to witness the 36th Men's Ryder Cup and to meet the players.

R&A Ltd., in conjunction with the European Golf Association proudly support the European Young Masters, which is presented by Rolex. In the event's tradition of allowing one country to host for three consecutive years, Golf Club Murhof hosts its final year in 2006 before the event moves, next year, to France.

Scores:

Girls:

Carly Booth (SCO) 70 Saskia Hausladen (GER) 72 Marta Silva (ESP) 72 Carlota Ciganda (ESP) 72 Giulia Molinaro (ITA) 72 Nicola Rössler (GER) 73

Bovs:

Pedro Figueiredo (POR) 66 Anders Kristensen (NOR) 68 Dylan Boshart (NED) 69 Kevin Metcalfe (IRE) 69 Victor Dubuisson (FRA) 69 Sean Einhaus (GER) 70 Maximilian Kiefer (GER) 70 Tommy Fleetwood (ENG) 71

For the complete leader board see: http://www.golf.at/turniere/live score.asp?club nr=601&turniernr=317&a=netto

Richard Heath EGA Championship Manager

































