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Full field signed up for Belmont tourney

By Josh Ball

If you haven't signed up for this year's Gosling's Invitational then don't bother filling out a form. It's already fully booked.



Organiser Alex Madeiros has 96 players registered for the event, six more than he originally planned for the Belmont Hills tournament.

And more than half of the entrants are from overseas, with 33 professionals travelling to the Island to compete with 12 local professionals for the \$60,000 available in prizemoney.

With the likes of former PGA Tour pro Mike Donald, Brian McCann and Delroy Cambridge in the field once again, there is certain to be plenty of competition for the \$15,000 first prize, especially as there will be no separate seniors' purse this year.

The rest of the field will be made up of amateurs with 18 coming from overseas, and 30 from Bermuda.

"I wanted to limit the field to 90, but there was so much interest I opened up a couple of other spots," said Madeiros. "We've got 94 so far, and I am just waiting for two more applications from overseas professionals to arrive, which will give us a full field.

"Much as we would like to have more players, there just isn't the room. Two years' ago we had a couple more, and ended up with Joe Horowitz and Mike Donald sharing the trophy because they were trying to play extra holes in the dark."

Madeiros' success with the Gosling's is in stark contrast to January's Bermuda Open, which the Bermuda Golf Association are understood to have cancelled due to a lack of interest and financial backing.

"It's about making the moves in the right areas, in the right ways marketing wise," said Madeiros. "It's about getting the message out there, and it shows the rewards you can get back if you put effort into something, despite the current economic climate."

The BGA, meanwhile, are expected to announce their plans for the Bermuda Open at next Wednesday's annual general meeting at Riddell's Bay.

At the same meeting, Nick Mansell will challenge Terry West for the role of BGA president, with West's term in office due to end on Wednesday.

Both are seeking election to the post, and the outcome is far from a foregone conclusion. Mansell is understood to have a growing swell of support within the membership.

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