

The inaugural Senior (Over 55) World Strokeplay championship will be held at the Verin Pitch and Putt course in Galicia, Spain from April 28th to 29th 2018. Over 100 players will participate at Verin, including **Amador Rodriguez** (Catalonia) and **Pacelli Darcy** (Ireland).

Amador Rodriguez is the reigning Catalan Senior Open champion, having scored 150 at Vallromanes to be third in the overall 2018 tournament. Amador's 201 for 72 holes took senior category laurels in the 2017 World Strokeplay championship at Imjelt in Norway, retaining the title he annexed at Tambre, Galicia four years previously. In another Galicia victory, Rodriguez teamed-up with Xavi Lopez to score 151 and clinch the 2011 Galician Invitational Pairs at Boiro. Amador represented Catalonia in the 2011 Challenge versus Ireland in Tralee. He was second in the 2016 Catalan Senior Open

Irish Matchplay runner-up to Mark Millar at Seapoint in 2000, **Pacelli Darcy** scored 165 to win the 2015 European Senior (over 55) Strokeplay championship at Orvelte, The Netherlands. Darcy was crowned 2017 World Pairs champion (with Liam O'Donovan) in Galicia, at Tambre. A perennial contender in international tournaments, Pacelli was Irish Open senior (Over 55s) winner at Rocklodge in 2016 and at Glenville in 2014. He was Catalan Senior Open winner at Roc 3 in 2016, retaining the title he also held at Lleida in 2015. He again teamed-up with Liam O'Donovan to win the International Open Pairs tournament at Lloret in 2014.

Rodriguez and Darcy will probably be favourites but there are many other top-class players heading to Verin.

Weeshie Murphy won the 2012 All Ireland Men's Senior (Over 55) Strokeplay Championships, at Collins, beating Sean O'Brien (Templebreedy) 24 to 26 in a nine-holes play off, after a tie on 101. Weeshie played for Ireland against Catalonia in 2014 at Lloret Papalus. The Corkman scored 1.5 points out of a possible three. A regular participant in international events, Weeshie teamed-up with Chris Scannell to finish second on 147, two strokes behind Catalans Oriol Mas and Marcal More at Lloret Papalus, in the 2015 International Open Pairs tournament.

Gustavo Cortez (Chile) won the Federation Cup in Chile last year and was automatically selected on the South American team that faced Europe in the Fernando Morgado Trophy at Puerto Velero in March, winning two points out of a possible four.

Sean Minogue represented Ireland on the historic 1996 trip to Australia, winning three points out of a possible four. Runner-up in the successive Irish Over 55s Strokeplay championships of 2016 and 2017, Sean Minogue was third in the Catalan Senior Open of 2016 and also took bronze in the British and Irish Senior Opens the same year.

Playing with Sergi Arisa, **Fidel Soler** (Catalonia) finished third in the III International Open Pairs at Lloret Papalus. Soler was runner-up to fellow Catalan Amador Rodriguez at Vallromanes in the recent Catalan Senior Open.

Shandon's **Dennis Monaghan** is a two-time Irish Mixed Foursomes champion with his wife Dolores. He represented Ireland against Catalonia at I.G.B. in 2000, garnering maximum points from a possible three. Monaghan finished fourth in 2004 Catalan Open at Teia.

Frank Kristiansen (Norway) was Norway Senior Open winner at Imjelt in 2010. He represented Norway at the 2016 World Cup in Andorra. Sixth overall in the inaugural European Strokeplay championship (2011), Kristiansen was senior runner-up at the 2015 European Strokeplay in Orvelte.

2005 Leinster Matchplay semi-finalist **Anto Kavanagh** (Ireland) played on the Meath team that won the 2010 Leinster Inter-County championship at Lucan, Ireland. He placed third in the 2005 San Marino Open.

Thierry Gendreau (France) played in the 2016 World Cup at Xixerella in Andorra. He was a key member of the French team that famously won the 2017 Quadrangular International at El Pilar Sarria.

Toni Armengol (Andorra) is the reigning Andorra Open champion and has represented Andorra in the World Cup and European Team championship. He won the senior event at the 2015 Andorra Open.

Damien Ducept (France) captained the French team that won the 2017 Quadrangular International at El Pilar Sarria.

Runner-up in the senior category at the 2010 Andorra Open, **Pepe Garcia** (Andorra) fired rounds of 56 52 and 56 for a 164 aggregate and a three-shot victory in the 2012 Andorra Senior Open at El Torrent. Fourth in the 2009 Catalan Open at Lleida, Garcia also won the 2014 Andorra Senior Open. Runner-up in the 2008 Swiss Senior Open and in the 2012 Dutch Senior Open, Garcia has regularly represented Andorra in team events, including the 2012 World Cup. He won the Catalan Senior Opens of 2013 and 2014 while he was runner-up to Pacelli Darcy three years ago.

Third with Sergi Chavez in the 2017 Catalan International Pairs at Lleida, **John F. Evans** (Catalonia) was second in last year's Catalan Senior Open at Sant Cebria. Leading overseas player at the 2016 Irish Open in Rocklodge, Evans was third behind Toni Armengol in the 2015 Andorra Senior Open at Xixerella.

Josep Escabros (Andorra) was runner-up in the 2012 Andorra Senior Open at Xixerella. Escabros has frequently represented Andorra in international team events, including the 2008 and 2016 World Cups, the 2014 European championship and the 2011 Quadrangular tournament.

Second in the 2005 EPPA Senior Open at Sant Cebria, **Josep Fontdegloria** (Catalonia) was victorious in the 2008 Swiss Senior Open at Verbier. He linked up with Victor Moscatel and Montserrat Moreno to win the team event at the 2017 Slovenia Open in Brdo.

Juan Medina (Basque) represented the Basque Country in the 2017 Quadrangular International at El Pilar Sarria.

Josep Cortada (Catalonia) represented Europe in the recent Fernando Morgado Trophy against South America in Puerto Velero, Chile.

Tomas Escarda (Galicia) finished second in the recent Galicia Strokeplay championship at Verin. Tomas played for Galicia in the 2017 Quadrangular International at El Pilar Sarria.

EPPA/FIPPA President **Victor Moscatel** (Catalonia) is the reigning Slovenia Open champion and was a member of the Olympus team that won the 2017 Iberian Teams Open Cup.

Manuel Silva (Galicia) finished fifth in the recent Galicia Strokeplay championship at Verin.

Josep Martinez (Catalonia) is the reigning Andorra Senior Open champion and played on the Catalonia team in the 2017 Quadrangular International. He also helped Catalonia to the 2014 European Team Championship at Xixerella, Andorra.

José Perez (Catalonia) was third in the 2017 World Pairs championship at Tambre alongside Carles Perez.

There is a small but select field for the ladies' championship.

Breda White was crowned 2016 Irish Seniors Strokeplay champion having won the 2014 Irish Matchplay championship and the 2016 Irish Strokeplay championship. Runner-up in the World ladies Strokeplay championship at Imjelt, Norway last year, Breda was a five-stroke winner in the 2016 Irish ladies Open at Rocklodge.

The fourth most successful player in ladies' international open history, **Pilar Montero** (Catalonia) is twice a Chile Open winner. Pilar won the 2013 Andorra Open and the 2016 Catalan Open. She represented Europe in the Fernando Morgado Trophy against South America in Puerto Velero, Chile, winning three points out of a possible four. She has also played for Catalonia on a number of occasions. Pilar was a member of the Europe ladies' teams that contested the 2000, 2003 and 2005 international matches.

Marilyn Holmes (Catalonia) won the 2010 Catalan Open at Sant Cebria. Marilyn is a three-time Catalan Open runner-up and was also second at Tambre in the 2014 Galicia Open. Marilyn played on the 2007 Europe team that contested the ladies international at Chia, Sardinia.

Matilde Lopez (Galicia) was runner-up in the 2012 Galicia Open at Pazo da Touza.