

Due to Covid's intervention, the World Pitch and Putt Strokeplay championships have not been staged for seven years.

The fourth edition of the championships will be played at the Club de Campo Vigo in Galicia from 28th/30th June 2024. There will be one round on Friday, two on Saturday and one on Sunday in this 72-hole event.

The 2013 and 2017 champions feature in the 2024 field.

John Walsh (Ireland) triumphed at Tambre in Galicia in very high temperatures nine years ago.

Ireland's **Liam O'Donovan** was the victor at Imjelt, Norway in 2017. O'Donovan and Walsh actually contested a play-off for the 2017 trophy.

Walsh also contested a play-off for the 2019 European Strokeplay championship at Dagenham, won by compatriot John Cahill. He was also third in the inaugural World Strokeplay championship at La Grande Motte, France in 2009 and a bronze medallist in the 2011 European Strokeplay championship.

Twice Catalan Open winner, O'Donovan was European Strokeplay champion at Orvelte, Netherlands in 2015.

Jorge Rodriguez Sarmiento (Galicia) is the reigning Basque Open champion while **Hugo Espirito Santo** (Portugal) was runner-up in the 2024 Basque Open just as he was in the 2023 Galicia Open.

Eamon Gibney (Ireland) has helped his country to European Team championship and World Cup glory and was 2014 Irish Open champion. Gibney placed fifth in the 2017 World Strokeplay having finished in the top ten four years earlier.

Toni Armengol (Andorra) has been a central figure at international tournaments for the past two decades. Toni won the 2019 Andorra Open.

Ireland's **Evan Carry**, the 2022 Irish Open winner at Tullamore, was the most successful juvenile player of all-time in Ireland.

Josep Iglesias Miralpeix (Catalonia) is a three-time International Open winner and has teamed-up with **Angel Navarro** (Catalonia) in international Pairs successes.

2010 and 2016 Irish Open champion **Frank Dineen** (Ireland) finished eleventh at La Grande Motte in 2009 and tied 5th at Tambre. The Cork Inter-County player was fourth in the 2015 European Strokeplay championship having been fifth in 2011.

Yann Le Tallec (France) has won five international Opens.

Multiple Irish champion **John Ross Crangle** (Ireland) finished tied 5th in the 2013 World Strokeplay and third at Imjelt. A World Cup and European championship winner with Ireland, he was runner-up in the 2011 European Strokeplay championship and third four years later.

Manuel Amor (Catalonia), co-captain of Team Europe for the Fernando Morgado Trophy match in Chile against South America back in 2018, has seen considerable success in international Pairs events.

Regular international Open winner, Ireland's **Ian Farrelly** was the first-ever European Strokeplay champion in 2011.

Two-time Dutch Open winner **Marcel Ahuis** (Netherlands) is sure to contend as is **Denis O'Sullivan** (Ireland), 2023 Catalan International Pairs winner alongside John Walsh.

2018 Catalan Open champion **Thomas Hanley** (Ireland) is a probable challenger for the title as is his regular Pairs partner **Kieran Earls** (Ireland), the 2023 WPPT Catalonia winner at Lleida.

Galicians **Victor Rodriguez** and **Peter Mervin Henry** triumphed in the 2022 Ourense International Pairs.

Chile's **Gustavo Cortez**, the 2019 Brazil Open winner, will represent South America.

Dutch native **Rene Jan Bloem** (Ireland) is the reigning Gelders International Open champion. He has previously represented the Netherlands in the European Team championship helping the Dutch to second place at Overbetuwe in 2005.

David Sexton (Ireland), runner-up in Catalan Open 2023, will be worth watching as will Galicians **David Sanchez** and **Pablo Rodriguez** who were Ourense International Pairs winners three years ago.

Headline player in the ladies championship will be **Esther de Schiffart** (Netherlands). Serial international Open winner Esther finished second to Ireland's Chrissie Byrne in the 2013 Tambre championship.

Maria Escudero Docampo (Galicia) won the recent Basque Open at Urduna while **Begona Conde** (Catalonia) was Andorra Open runner-up a few weeks ago. **Carmen Morales** (Andorra) took third place in that Andorra Open.

Mary Murray (Ireland) was the 2016 British ladies Open champion at Dagenham. Mary's Irish colleague **Ailish Sexton** was All Ireland Junior Strokeplay champion in 2012 and is a regular contender on the Irish circuit.

Pilar Montero (Catalonia) has won international opens on two continents and is a proven performer over many years. Pilar was runner-up in the 2022 European Seniors Strokeplay championship at Hcap1.

Ypie Semplonius (Netherlands) took second place behind Esther de Schiffart at April's International Gelders Open at Strandhorst where **Kim Kuijsters** (Netherlands) was third.

Standout senior contender will be Catalan **Amador Rodriguez** who claimed Over-55 laurels in 2013 and 2017 and won the inaugural official World Senior Strokeplay championship in 2018 at Verin.

Former Irish Over-55 champion **Weeshie Murphy** (Ireland) took third place behind Rodriguez in that Galicia hosted event six years ago.

Barry Morrissey (Ireland) claimed Over-55 honours at the 2020 Irish Open in Lough Owel.

Felix Eberle (Switzerland) was third in the 2018 Slovenia Open while his fellow countryman **Dieter Heutschi** occupied a similar position a year later.

Juan Carlos Iglesias Surribas (Galicia) was second to Liam O'Donovan in the 2014 Galicia Open while **Daniel Fuentes** (Galicia) took third in the 2023 renewal.