

Golf legend Streit in national amateur tourney

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apply well in advance if you want to host this event. But it was great that we were awarded this opportunity."

Admission is free and spectators are welcome.

Mr. Gravett acknowledged club personnel had to scramble to organizing things.

It's the first tourney of this size at the facility that does not host corporate tournaments. The Stephen Ames Cup, for junior teams from Canada and Trinidad and Tobago, was first played at the club two years ago. It returns, with its PGA player/patron in attendance, Aug. 13 to 16.

One of the biggest hurdles in hosting the nationals was to get volunteers, Mr. Gravett said. To date, he said they have more than 200 from their club and others.

As well, they've tried to work out accommodations for visiting players.

"It's definitely been a big effort," he said.

With the Canadian Open on at Angus Glen Golf Club in Markham and ending Sunday, Mr. Gravett believes its momentum will carry over to the women's amateur.

The field will be a true cross-section of players ranging from some as young as 15-year-old Rebecca Lee-Bentham of Richmond Hill, who was the youngest competitor to win this year's

Golf Association of Ontario's Investors Group Women's Amateur Championship.

Holy smokes, they can really hit it a long way and it's straight."

At the other end of the spectrum are veterans like Marlene Streit, a former Stouffville resident who now resides in Unionville and is the only Canadian golfer to be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in St. Augustine, Fla. She was also a past winner of this competition.

"It's a very strong field that will be playing," said Mr. Gravett, who has watched some of the players take practice rounds this summer.

"The can sure the crunch the ball. Holy smokes, they can really hit it a long way, and it's straight."

The action will begin July 30 with practice rounds and a long drive competition at 4:30 p.m. The opening ceremonies will follow at 6 p.m.

To be played on a par 72 course measuring close to 6,100 yards, the first of four rounds is scheduled for Tuesday with proceeding action Aug. 1, 2 and 3.

For more on the championships, go to rcga.org

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