

Major Champion Henrik Stenson has confirmed he will make his debut at the Hong Kong Open, with the Swede set to join defending champion Aaron Rai in a star-studded field in the opening event of the European Tour's 2020 Race to Dubai, from November 28 - December 1, 2019.

Hosted by Hong Kong Golf Club, the Hong Kong Open will also continue to play a decisive role in shaping the Asian Tour's Order of Merit as it is one of the last few remaining events on the Tour's schedule.

Stenson became the first male Scandinavian Major winner when he triumphed in The 145th Open at Royal Troon three years ago, and will be aiming to add to his 11 European Tour wins when he tees it up at Hong Kong Golf Club for the 61st edition of Hong Kong's longest standing professional sporting event.

"I'm excited to play the Hong Kong Open for the first time in my career," said Stenson, the current World Number 37. "It is hard to believe that I have not played this tournament before because I've always heard great things about the golf course, the city and the fans, so it's nice to kick off my 2020 Race to Dubai season with something a little bit different."

Rai, meanwhile, claimed his maiden European Tour title after holding off Matthew Fitzpatrick to secure a one-shot victory during a thrilling final-round battle at Hong Kong Golf Club last year and now the Englishman will be hoping for another special week when he defends a title on the European circuit for the first time.

"I'm looking forward to defending my title at the Hong Kong Open," said Rai. "Winning last year was incredible for me - the course is amazing, the city is great, and the crowds showed me some great support throughout the week. I will always have wonderful memories from this event and cannot wait to be back in a few weeks' time."

William Doo, Jr., Captain of Hong Kong Golf Club, said: "We are delighted to be welcoming Henrik Stenson to our club for the very first time. The championship, which is now in its 61st year, has a strong track record of attracting the greatest names in golf, and Henrik is certainly amongst the very best. His involvement, as well as that of our defending champion Aaron Rai, who played so brilliantly to capture his first European Tour title last year, makes for a really exciting event, and we look forward to hosting another spectacular week of world-class golf."