



THE PGA OF GERMANY

The seventh in a monthly series that takes a random look at member PGAs

'Harnessing its enormous potential, year by year...'

As the second largest PGA in Europe, next to GB&I, Germany is enhancing its status as a leading provider of high educational standards and attractive career opportunities for qualified professionals.

Led by an experienced management structure including president Stefan Quirnbach (pictured below) and chief executive Rainer Goldrian (pictured below) and with a full-time staff of nine employees, the PGA of Germany is harnessing its enormous potential as a golfing nation.



It is an acknowledgement of Germany's high place in the affairs of European golf administration that two of their officials, Heinz Fehring and Guido Tillmanns, are members of the PGAs of Europe's board of directors.

Long-serving PGA member Heinz can well recall, back in 1972, when Bernhard Langer was taken to him as a lad with an urge to make golf his chosen career how, before taking him on as a trainee, he had first to convince the troubled parents that there was such a thing as a 'profession' in golf.

How different it is now. With the comprehensive, all-round educational programme that exists for young men and women playing off a handicap of six or less, many parents are perfectly happy to allow their off-spring to snap up the chance of such a profession.

PGA membership numbers have grown by almost a third to 1,585 since the year 2000 and while there are many 'foreign' PGA professionals working in Germany the amount of indigenous, home-trained pros serving this expanding local golf community has increased steadily.

Germany's three-year training programme currently contains 238 trainees, most of whom can be expected to complete the course successfully and thereby join the job market as new facilities in terms of courses and driving ranges emerge.

The German PGA's dedication to education was demonstrated in spectacular fashion in 2003 and 2005 when the 6th and 7th Teaching and Coaching Conferences were staged in

The PGA of Germany The Figures of Growth:

President: **Stefan Quirnbach**

Chief Executive: **Rainer Goldrian**

Head of Education: **Ines Halmburger & Martin Hasenbein**

	2000	2007
Players	345,206	527,427

MEMBERS PROFESSIONALS:

(male)	874	1,180
(female)	40	120
(trainees)	-	238
Facilities	583	677

tandem with Golf Europe and the magnificent New Trade Fair Centre.

In what will always be a difficult act to follow, the second of these attracted in excess of a thousand PGA professionals from around the world, all drawn by the opportunity to experience presentations by leading specialist speakers before taking in the world's most prestigious trade show outside of Orlando.

During the course of those two occasions Munich achieved something of an iconic status in terms of it being 'the place to be' for PGA pros wishing to widen their career horizons.

EPD Tour 'an ideal tool for playing development...'

In terms of the development of their professionals' tournament experience, the EPD satellite tour is proving to be an ideal tool, especially with its significant sponsorship taken out by Renault, as announced before the start of the 2007 schedule.

As the EPD managing director, Rainer Goldrian observed: "Together we would like to develop an attractive, promising Tour for young, committed professionals and an advertisement for golfing in Europe."

Martin Kaymer Bids to Emulate his Hero...

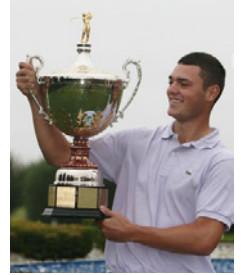
Although Germany has not yet been able to produce a 'new Bernhard Langer', they currently have an outstanding young candidate for a glittering future whose earliest inspiration in the sport was... Bernhard Langer!

MARTIN KAYMER's progress to a high place in the European Order of Merit since turning professional as recently as 2005, has been bordering on the remarkable.

A joint-runners-up place in the 2007 Scandinavian Masters, when a disappointing final-round 73 denied him a possible victory chance, took him into the top 50, but his likely impact on European golf had already been well recorded.

In the earliest days of his pro career he shot a 59 on the satellite EPD Tour and then his progress to the Challenge Tour confirmed him as a potential high-flier. Playing only eight events on the 2006 schedule he finished fourth in the final rankings by recording two victories.

Martin is coached by Günther Kessler in his native Düsseldorf and readily cites Langer as his 'golfing hero'. An intelligent 23-year-old, he presents himself well in TV interviews and could, himself, become a national role model one day.



'PGA Master Professional' Count Rises

At some time in the future, no doubt, Germany will produce a steady flow of top players on the world stage just as they do in football and other sports to befit their numerical strength.

This, however, is not necessarily the ultimate yardstick of a country's golfing progress. Where Germany, in co-operation between its well-established Federation and its 'younger' PGA, constantly moves forward is in the way the sport grows and grows as a popular activity in the public domain.

In the sphere of club and teaching professionals new standards are being achieved all of the time, as evidenced by the graduation last May of **Shaun Case, Hans Werner Kahre, Ulrich Schäring and Uwe Venohr** as PGA Master Professionals.

When placed alongside **Christoph Kilian, Peter Koenig, Martin Höcker, Manfred Knauss, Bradley Thompson, Andrew Clark, David Owen Marcks, Alan Hogg and Tomas Lucian Kubernat**, it brings their total in this exalted category to thirteen.