

## Asian Tour finale cancelled after Volvo pull-out

*The season climax of golf's Asian Tour has been scrapped this year after sponsors Volvo pulled out, Tour chief Kyi Hla Han said today.*

The Bangkok event had been scheduled for December and was won last year by Singapore's Lam Chih Bing. According to Reuters, the Swedish car manufacturer chose not to extend its contract to cover the 2009 tournament in Bangkok, forcing the tour to remove the event.

"The tournament is being removed from the calendar," Han told Reuters. "The sponsors wished to explore alternative events in Asia and wanted to be involved in tournaments with larger fields and outside of Thailand."

"There's a chance the event will return under a new format but we will need to find new sponsorship and may opt to stage a regular players' championship like we did in the past. What's encouraging is that Volvo are still heavily involved in global golf and sponsor a number of events around the globe."

Volvo cited the economic climate, instability of Asian golf and political unrest in Thailand for its decision. Its current golf portfolio includes the World Match Play Championship, the China Open and the Masters Amateur.

The British Masters - scheduled for 17-20 September - has also been dropped from this year's European Tour after the tournament's sponsorship deal expired and no replacement was found.

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