



8 April 2013

Dear Tour Player

When we embarked on this journey my aims were clear. Firstly I needed to get you playing on a regular basis, with the opportunity of earning money week in week out. Secondly we wanted to increase prize money, and for that we set an ambitious target of £10M as compared to our inherited prize money of £3.5M.

We are on our way to achieving these two goals, and if all goes well with some final negotiations we will have a full calendar for next season. This is hugely important! As the spots available on our calendar become increasingly rare our position grows stronger, and the value of our sport increases which allows us to demand higher prize money levels from prospective promoters.

To make the most out of our increased demand we need to deliver the best product and to do that we need all players to continue to support our tournaments. We are only scratching the surface of where we could be. If you don't support ALL of our tournaments you only have yourself to blame.

Prize Money

Next season the prize money for sanctioned events will be increased from £6.4M to at least £8M. This means that over the last three years we have more than doubled the prize money available for the Tour and are well on our way to reaching our target of £10M total prize money.

Seeding System

As the prize money increases, the seeding system currently in place becomes increasingly inequitable. It is simply wrong to allow for one player seeded above another to receive guaranteed income at the levels now on offer just for showing up.

I firmly believe that to be the best you have to perform like the best and I am more than happy to reward winners handsomely.

It is therefore my intention to have all 128 players start at in the first round for ALL Main Tour ranking events over time. Certain commercial constraints do not allow this to happen at all events for this season however, going forward, all new Main Tour ranking events will adopt this structure.

This is not to say that there should be no benefit for past success. The top sixteen players from our rankings will still be invited to take part in the Masters and we have increased the prize money to £600,000 for the 2013/14 season.

Also, for the time being at least, the top sixteen will continue to be seeded through to the Crucible at the World Snooker Championship.

Format changes

The changes on the formats for next season are as follows:

- Nine out of twelve ranking events will have ALL players taking part in first round.
- Where all players enter at the first round any player who wins their first match will travel to the final venue.
- Three of the events, UK Championship, Welsh Open and PTC Grand Final, will have 128

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(32 for PTC Grand Final) players playing at the final venue.

- Six other ranking events will have 64 players playing at the final venue.
- There will be no held over matches!
- For those events which remain on the old system (The World Championship, Australian Open and Shanghai Masters), any player seeded through to an advanced stage, who loses their first match, will be paid in full but will only receive 50% of this money in their Official Rankings (i.e. similar to the current 50% rule on ranking points) and this system will be applied to all tournaments following the 2012 World Snooker Championship.

Qualifiers

As a step to improving the qualifying system we have made a number of changes going forward:

- No Qualifiers will be held in booths and we will adopt an open plan layout for all of these qualifying stages.
- All Qualifiers will be open to the public and will be held at various venues in the UK (we will no longer be using the World Snooker Academy for Qualifying stages).

Wildcards

Wildcards continue to be important for International promoters. For some it is to spur local interest in our events. Others use it to evaluate their own amateur players' development.

We do understand however, that wildcards remain a contentious issue and for this reason for the 2013/14 season we have made the following changes:

- Wildcards for Chinese events reduced from 8 to 4 wildcards.
- No ex-tour players will be allowed to play as wildcards in China events.
- Wildcards for all events will play players drawn at random from lowest 32 seeds.
- Any tour player selected for a Wildcard match will be excluded from being selected as a Wildcard match again at any other events for that season.

Players Tour Championship - Europe

The Players Tour Championship has witnessed considerable success. These events continue to take our sport to new countries and territories, which is key to our development plans. Interest from sponsors and fans continues to grow throughout Europe. For the new season:

- EPTCs to be renamed European Tour Events.
- Eight events in total
- 6 televised events with prize money of €125,000 (€25,000 to the winner)
- 2 streamed events with prize money of £100,000 (£20,000 to the winner)
- All events to be open to the public (none played at the World Snooker Academy).
- Tour players will always be seeded through to the last 128 stages and any short fall in professional entrants will be made up by amateur entrants.
- Top 24 from the European Order of Merit qualify for PTC Grand Final.

Players Tour Championship - Asia

The APTCs are also continuing to spread snooker throughout China. I remain confident that we can take this Tour all over Asia much as the golf and tennis have done. We will continue to place these events before (or after where necessary) Ranking Events to increase your earning potential on your trips to the East. For next season:

- APTCs to be renamed Asian Tour Events.
- The Tour will be expanded to a minimum of four events in total for 2013/14 season.
- Each event will have prize money of at least £50,000.

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- Lowest 64 seeded tour players may play pre-qualifying round dependent upon number of professional and amateur entries.
- The top 8 from Asian Order of Merit qualify for PTC Grand Final.

Our team will be issuing Entry Packs for each of the Events over the course of the Season.

Major Events Summary

Below is a summary of the major events for next season:

Event	Round Structure	Number at Final Venue	Wildcards	Prize Money
Wuxi Classic	A	64	4	£467,000
Australia Goldfields Open	B	32	2	\$445,000
Shanghai Masters	B	32	4	£425,000
International Championship	A	64	4	£625,000
UK Championship	A	128	0	£700,000
German Masters	A	64	0	€335,000
Welsh Open	A	128	0	£300,000
Haikou World Open	A	64	4	£478,000
China Open	A	64	4	£478,000
World Snooker Championship	B	32	0	£1,214,000
European Tour (Streamed x2)	C	128	0	£100,400
European Tour (Televised x 6)	C	128	0	€125,000
Asian Tour	C	128	0	£50,000
PTC Grand Final	E	32	0	£300,000
Masters	D	16	0	£600,000
Shoot Out	F	64	0	£130,000

Round Structures	
A	Straight 128 man knock-out. All players in from first round. Players seeded in bands so Seed no 1 doesn't meet no 2 until the final, top 2 don't meet 3 & 4 until semi final, and so on.
B	Round 1 32 Matches 65-96 vs 97-128 selected at random Round 2 32 Matches 33-64 seeded vs PR winners Round 3 16 Matches PR winners vs PR winners Round 4 16 Matches 17-32 seeded vs PR winners Round 5 16 Matches 1-16 seeded vs PR winners
C	Straight 128 Knock Out (65-128 play-off against 64 highest seeds)
D	Straight 16 man knock-out
E	Straight 32 man knock-out
F	Straight 64 man knock-out



This is the final year of our agreement for the Australia Goldfields Open. We are negotiating a further extension of the agreement with bigger prize money. I realise now that the prize money negotiated four years ago has not kept pace with the increases at other Events. But this event is important for our sport! If you don't support the tournament we may lose it which would be a massive backward step. I expect EVERY player to support the event.

Please also remember our Awards dinner at the Dorchester on 9th May. I expect to see all invited players attend.

Happy days!

Barry Hearn
Chairman

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