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## No clash between Malaysian Open and Omega Tour

THE US\$300,000 (about RM750,000) Benson & Hedges Malaysian Open has been spared the prospect of having to face a clash of dates with the highly successful Omega APGA Tour event this year.

APGA executive director Ramlan Dato Harun said in Kuala Lumpur yesterday that none of the 27-APGA tournaments will clash with the APGC Tour.

"We are here to exist in a friendly atmosphere. Nobody gains from a clash in dates," said Ramlan.

The Malaysian Open, scheduled for March 5-9 at the Saujana Golf and Country Club, is one of the 17 events in the APGC Tour.

Ramlan said it was never the intention of the APGA to organise events on the same dates as the APGC tournaments.

In fact Malaysia, which has been the venue for the APGA pre-qualifying and qualifying school, will host two tournaments, one with increased prize money.

The Kuala Lumpur Open, held at the Staffield Golf Resort in Pajam last year, will be held at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club on Sept 25-28. An increase of US\$100,000 brings the figure to US\$300,000.

It will also be known as the Mild Seven KL Open.

The purse for the Sabah Masters to be held on Aug 7-10 will remain at US\$200,000.

On the future of APGA, Ramlan said they may have a second-tier Tour to accommodate the increasing number of players who are keen to join the APGA Tour.

He said APGA have close to 280 members and the total is expected to reach 400. Not all players feature in the 27 events. Most of them play in a minimum 15.

Ramlan said APGA are beginning to receive recognition as for the first time 80 events in the British Open final qualifying round will be reserved for the APGA Order of Merit.

At the Desert Classic, one of the legs of the European Tour, eight seats will be allotted to APGA.

In the on-going Johnnie Walker Classic in Australia, the APGA Order of Merit was used and Ali Kadir got an invite.

\* GLENMARIE Golf and Country Club: Herman Chin (14) won the inaugural Winner's Trophy at the Garden Course recently.

In September, he won the Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad Trophy.

Herman pipped Chung Kuang Nge (25) and Yong Siew Khim (21) by a stroke when he fired two birdies and and four pars on the back nine. Chung finished second on countback from Yong.

\* TOOI See Hau fired a 154-metre hole-in-one at the Port Klang Golf Resort hole No 13 using iron No 5 Titleist Acusnet and an Ultra Balata No 3 ball.

The feat was witnessed by Lee Ching Sheng (21), Rick Weng (24) and Tay Ching Tuan (34).

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