



Press Release

Giant Swede is Aegean Airlines High Flyer

The third annual, staging of the prestigious 36-hole Aegean Airlines Pro-am tournament, contested by 44 teams from twelve countries, produced a truly Big Winner, in the giant shape of six feet six inches tall, Fredrick Mansson.

Swedish professionals proved again that, like their counterparts from around Europe, they are taking a distinct liking to the €62,000 prize fund now on offer annually at Crete GC, Hersonissos, Heraklion, on the idyllic Greek island.

Mansson's emphatic victory by six clear strokes over the rest of the professional field echoed the achievement of his countryman Henrik Engdahl a year earlier in the only event in Greece that is officially endorsed by the PGAs of Europe.

The 34-year-old giant from the Orebro Golf Club, harnessed his massive dimensions to leave the rest of the field trailing by six strokes with a brilliant five-under-par total of 137.

This gave him a two-stroke lead over eventual runners-up **Morgan Olofsson** (€4,000) and local favourite, **Thanasis Karatzias** (€4,000), in round one and saw him forge ahead in the second round with a score of 68 that was three shots better than any other player on the day.

First place in the Pro-Am Teams category (one professional and three amateur players) was awarded to the team led by Morne Botha from South Africa who represented Woodhill Country Club.

During the Closing Ceremony the competitors, invited guests and spectators were greeted by the Minister of Tourism, Mr. Aris Spiliotopoulos, (Chairman of the Organising Committee) Mr. Theodore Vassilakis (Chairman of Aegean Airlines) and the President of the PGAs of Europe, Mr. Ken Schofield.

The tournament, staged on 5th-7th June, constituted, for a third consecutive year, a dynamic initiative by Aegean Airlines, in attracting such a large number of golf professionals to Greece and also in its high standards and public appeal.

By its staging, Aegean Airlines has further strengthened the company's strategic role by adding golf to the country's other widespread and legendary holiday attractions as a sunshine destination and, in so doing, captured the attention of a new strata of high-quality tourists.



The Bob Hunt-designed, desert-style Crete course is the biggest and most modern in Greece in combining the ecologically sustainable natural environment with the high international specifications of the sport. It not only offers astonishing landscapes but also creates particularly competitive challenges and experiences for the competitors as the attendance of 176 golfers from 12 countries confirms.

The 44 teams, consisting of one professional (Pro) and three amateur (Am) players, who, at the end of the competition, shared a €62,000 worth of prize money, as well as attractive prizes from the sponsors. Mansson was happy, indeed, to receive the winners' cheque for €7,000.

In addition a sum of €12,000 from the tournament income has been donated to the "Zoodohos Pigi" (The Fountain of Life) Centre for Special Children, which is located in Heraklion, Crete. "Zoodohos Pigi" is a non-profit, non governmental organisation, which provides services to children with mental disorders or autism, with the hope of being able, as an institution, to offer its precious ethics, materialistic and psychological help and support to children facing such problems and to their families.

The event was supported by the following sponsors: Aegean Airlines, Costa Navarino, Alpha Bank, Willis Limited, Puma, Autohellas Hertz, Maris Hotels, Greek Ministry of Tourism - Greek National Tourism Organisation, Athens International Airport "Eleftherios Venizelos", Coca Cola (Avra Active Cup), Vacar S.A - Saab, Region of Crete, Municipality of Heraklion, Antonis Vourakis, Semeli Winery, Clinique, Eurest, Automotive Solutions LTD.

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