

# Tom Wilde

*Aspiring Touring Professional*

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## **Proposal to Establish a Support Group**



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## Background

I took up the game at the relatively late age of 14 years old but achieved rapid inroads, reaching the top echelons of the amateur game by the age of 18 with a handicap of **0**

In 2007 I had the good fortune to live in Australia for a 7 month period, playing and



competing on many of the most prestigious courses in the Sydney and Melbourne regions. Shortly after my return to the UK I went on to compete in International Events in the USA, South America and Europe

Now 24 years old, I am currently based in the UK in Bourne End, Buckinghamshire.

My current handicap is between **+3**, and I am a member at **Castle Royle Golf and Country Club** in Reading UK.

I am a regular member of **BB&O County 1st Team** having represented them in numerous matches over the last 4 years as well featuring as one of the top 6 players to play in EGU County Qualifying over the last 3 years.

Throughout the summer months, I play the WAGR (World Amateur Golf Ranking) schedule. These events include the prestigious British Amateur and English Amateur Championships.

When time allows in my busy schedule I love to play BB&O County Events, where I have had a lot of success over the last few years.

My aspirations are to become a world class touring professional, competing on the highest stage. With hard work and determination as well as being under the watchful eye of **Rob Watts** as my golf and fitness coach, I aim to make this dream a reality.

## Goals and Ambitions

My goal is to become a touring professional with the intention of obtaining a European Tour or Challenge Tour category within two years of turning professional.

I have given myself a time constraint of 2 years because I feel like this is enough time to develop as a professional, yet still continue to improve and compete at this particular level.

I hope to be attached to Castle Royle Country Club because it has been my home club for the last 5 years as well as being a fundamental reason for my continued and steady improvement over this time. Other local players like Tyrell Hatton and Eddie Pepperell have enjoyed similar support from their home clubs and are now playing at the highest level.

Ultimately, if/when a Challenge Tour/European Tour category is achieved; I will look to build upon the experiences gained playing on these tours in order to become one of the best European players within 5 years.

## Background Info on 1-2 Year Development Tour Plan

The nature of an aspiring touring professional is such that there is a period of time which needs to be spent learning how to play the game when money/prize winnings are involved. Many good amateurs fail to make this transition successfully even if they had a strong international career to that point

There is also an element of uncertainty as to which tour and where they will be playing because there are many different satellite tours and single day events that can be played in order to fill in gaps within a competitive schedule.

In light of the information above, it will be difficult to identify exactly which tournaments I will be playing. One can make an educative/provisional schedule, especially regarding tour schools, but my overall schedule will be updated accordingly as the month's progress.

I will likely be including a 1-2 month stint in the US, while basing myself in Florida for the winter months so as to provide a period of warm weather training in the early months of January – March 2014.

## Provisional Schedule

### 2013

#### **August 28th EuroPro Tour Event (subject to invitation)**

October 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> = European Tour Q School 1<sup>st</sup> Stage

November 2<sup>nd</sup> – November 5<sup>th</sup> = European Tour Q School 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage

November 10<sup>th</sup> – November 15<sup>th</sup> = European Tour Q School Final Stage

December 13<sup>th</sup> – December 19<sup>th</sup> = Alps Tour Q School 1<sup>st</sup> Stage - 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage

I am likely to travel to Florida, USA for the winter months of January and February to compete on the mini tours there and escape the probable poor weather. This will allow me to stay competitive ready for the European season starting in March.

### 2014

January – NGA Bridgestone Winter Series. Florida, USA.

February – NGA Pro Series and E-Golf Tour. Florida and South Carolina, USA.

March – Rest of the year = Playing on whichever tours I qualify for.

## Equipment Support

Some manufacturers offer promising young tour professionals equipment and other support even before they take them onto a formal 'staff' contract. These staff contracts are normally offered once a tour player achieves a Challenge Tour Ranking. I have been lucky enough to receive the following support:

Ball, Gloves, Wedges and Headwear – Srixon/Cleveland Golf

Apparel and Shoes – Puma Golf

This helps cut costs massively as balls and gloves alone are a large expense (in the region of £3,000 a year)



## Plan to raise funds

As with most amateurs, the last 10 years of my golf have been funded by myself and my family. However, the costs of maintaining a competitive environment in today's professional golf world are substantial and I have decided to look for sponsorship on a wider basis

Therefore, in order to raise the money needed to cover estimated annual cost of competing on the tours during my two year developmental period I will be creating a support group that will own units in my development and hopeful success.

In requesting support from private individuals, I recognise that I have a responsibility to them to deliver my best efforts. It is entirely possible that in the first two years the prize money I win will not cover the sponsorship amount but I intend to try to provide the best value for money I can with the time I have available.

The support group principals will be as follows:

1. Funds will be administered by a trusted 3<sup>rd</sup> party. Castle Royle Committee Member Gordon Jones has kindly agreed to take on this role
2. Sponsorship raised will only be used for golf related expenditure. I will be living at home or with friends (when overseas) wherever possible to reduce costs.
3. Units of £500 each will be offered. Multiple units can be purchased, there is no limit to how many can be purchased. I have a target to raise £35,000 each year for two years and private sponsorship will be capped at this level.
4. 25% of all prize money earned will be repatriated to the support group fund and shared at the end of each year, proportionally to the level of input.
5. Each support group member will be issued with an agreement/contract.
6. All support group members will be acknowledged and personally updated with regular newsletters on progress and results
7. Additional benefits will be offered to multiple share owners such as golf days with support group members and/ or their clients (if sponsored through a business), program participation, embroidered and printed apparel and tournament invitations where possible.

## Financial Management

- Funds will only be released by Gordon Jones against bone fide claims or requirements that have been approved by him on behalf of the syndicate.
- A cap of £35,000 per annum will be placed on the annual private sponsorship. Fundraising will continue until this cap is reached
- 25% of all prize winnings from all tournaments will be repatriated annually to the support group.

## Sample Cost Breakdown

Items	Details	Total Cost
Tour School Entries	European Tour - £1350 Alps Tour - £305 EuroPro Tour - £250	<b>£1,905</b>
Travel, Accommodation, Food and Tolls	Flights - £2000 Accommodation - £5000 Food - £3000 Fuel -£3000	<b>£13,000</b>
Caddy	Flights - £500 Accommodation - £3000 Food - £1500	<b>£5,000</b>
Equipment	Tour Bag - £200 Clubs - £800 Accessories - £250	<b>£1,250</b>
Coaching and Support	Swing, Fitness and Performance/Mental	<b>£2,000</b>
Entrance Fees	Alps Tour - 12 x £74 EuroPro - 12 x £275 NGA Tour – 3 x £560 E-Golf Tour – 2 x £730	<b>£7,328</b>
Miscellaneous	Back Up Funds - £3000	<b>£3,000</b>
<b>Total Overall Cost</b>		<b>£33,483</b>



## Next Steps

- Agreements will be offered starting from August 15<sup>th</sup> 2013
- Professional Career will begin on August 28<sup>th</sup>

## Tours Available

<b>Tour</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Typical 1<sup>st</sup> prize</b>
<b>European Tour</b>	Main Tour in Europe	£200,000 -£500,000
<b>Challenge Tour</b>	Second Level Tour	£20,000- £60,000
<b>Alps Tour</b>	Third Level Developmental	£6500
<b>EuroPro Tour</b>	Third Level Developmental	£10,000
<b>NGA Tour</b>	Mini Tour in Florida (USA)	£14,500
<b>E-Golf Tour</b>	Mini Tour in Florida (USA)	£12,000
<b>TP Tour</b>	One Day Shootouts	£2,000
<b>Pro Ams</b>	One Day Shootouts	£1,500