

WIESBERGER CLIMBS INTO BONUS POOL CONTENTION



Bernd Wiesberger (Getty Images)

Bernd Wiesberger has targeted a place in the top ten of The Race to Dubai – and a share of the US\$3.75million Bonus Pool – after securing his second title of the season in thrilling fashion at last week's Lyoneess Open powered by Greenfinity.

The 26 year old from Vienna became the second Austrian after 2006 champion Markus Brier to win his national Open after posting a closing round of 65 which culminated in a 25 feet birdie putt on the final green, sparking scenes of wild celebration at Diamond Country Club, in Atzenbrugg.

The €166,660 winner's cheque moved Wiesberger up to 19th place in The Race to Dubai, with season earnings of €654,984, and guaranteed the Ballantine's Champion a place in the 60-man field for the DP World Tour Championship, Dubai, which returns to the Earth course at Jumeirah Golf Estates, in the United Arab Emirates, from November 22-25.

It will be a debut appearance in the season-ending US\$8million event for Wiesberger, who

finished in 64th place in The 2011 Race to Dubai, having graduated from the Challenge Tour the previous year.

He said: "Winning your first tournament on The European Tour is always special but to win your national Open will take some beating, and the fact that it moves me into the top 100 of the World Ranking and the top 20 of The Race to Dubai is a huge bonus. I just missed out on playing in Dubai last year, so to know that I've already guaranteed my place in the field with almost half the season left is amazing.

"With Firestone this week and hopefully also the US PGA Championship coming up, I have a great chance of climbing even higher in The Race to Dubai – and maybe even into the top ten. It's already been a great season, but hopefully I'm not finished yet and it's going to get even better. I feel like I'm playing the best golf of my life – my confidence and expectations have never been higher."

England's Justin Rose, looking to end the season as Europe's Number One for a second time after topping the Money List in 2007, remains the man to catch with winnings of €1,836,334.

The Englishman leads The Race to Dubai by €161,609 from Open Champion Ernie Els of South Africa, with in-form Italian Francesco Molinari currently in third place on €1,633,853.

All three players will be in action at this week's WGC-Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio where, with €1,131,130 up for grabs to the winner, it could be all change at the top.