



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Tournament photos and b-roll will be available on July 24 & 25 upon request; PGA pro Jake Northrup of the Pennhills Club is available for interviews

Blaisdell Pro Am Increases Purse to \$100K for July Tournament

Bradford, PA – The Blaisdell Pro Am Invitational at the Pennhills Club returns Monday, July 25 with the largest cash prize purse awarded to-date, totaling \$100,000 with a \$50,000 grand prize going to the first place PGA Club Professional– an increase of more than \$70k from 2015, furthering the Blaisdell Pro Am’s role as one of the most substantial tournament payouts in North America.

Sponsored by Zippo – the iconic American company based in Bradford – in memory of founder George G. Blaisdell, the tournament brings together PGA pros and amateurs from across the country. The Blaisdell Pro Am is part of the annual schedule for the Western New York Section of the Professional Golfers’ Association of America.

The Pennhills Club was founded in 1937 as a merger of the North Penn Club and the Bradford Country Club, just a few years after Blaisdell achieved success for his Windproof Lighter. Located in picturesque McKean County, the 18-hole course was designed by amateur golfer, golf writer and course architect, Walter Travis – known for his courses at Garden City Golf Club in Garden City, NY, and Ekwanok Country Club in Manchester, VT. The club's brick and slate Tudor-style clubhouse was designed by American architect Clifford C. Wendehack, who also designed the elite Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, NY.

Jake Northrup, Pennhill’s head in-house PGA golf professional, is coordinating the tournament and has invited some of the best professional golfers from across North America to compete.

“It’s been thrilling see how the Blaisdell Pro Am has grown over the past few years,” Northrup said. “This tournament has helped us bring an unprecedented level of attention and attendance to the Pennhills Club. With the increased prize purse this year, we expect to see even more excitement from both professional and amateur golfers who will be joining us from across the country.”

Before George Blaisdell achieved success for inventing the Zippo Windproof Lighter, he was known throughout the community as an avid and talented golfer. Zippo proudly continues to sponsor the Blaisdell Pro Am Tournament to honor Mr. Blaisdell through the sport he loved on a course he enjoyed. For additional information, images and video, visit blaisdellproam.com.

About Zippo

One of the most recognized brands in the world, Zippo was founded in the fall of 1932 by George G. Blaisdell in Bradford, Pennsylvania, where it has manufactured over 550 million windproof lighters. With the exception of improvements to the flint wheel and modifications in case finishes, the product remains unchanged and is backed by the company's famous lifetime guarantee – "It works, or we fix it free.™" Zippo's diverse product line includes lighters and accessories; butane candle lighters; fragrance, and a robust line of heat and flame products for outdoor enthusiasts. Zippo markets in nearly 200 countries and also owns the Ronson brand of lighters and fuel and W.R. Case and Sons Cutlery Company, both based in Bradford, Pennsylvania. For more information, visit Zippo.com.

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