

News



Defending champions Greg Bennett and Samantha McGlone
High resolution image available at <http://www.lagunaresorts.com/~ftpdm/Pictures/2005DefendingChampions.jpg>

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Phuket, Thailand

2006 Laguna Phuket Triathlon Set to Run

Race organizers of the 2006 Laguna Phuket Triathlon are all set to welcome some 1,400 athletes from 40 different countries. This year's race, to take place on 3 December 2006, will see the largest field ever to compete at Laguna Phuket.

Defending champions Greg Bennett (AUS) and Samantha McGlone (CAN) will be back competing for the USD 20,000 pro prize purse against several other pros, including Massimo Cigana (ITA), Terenzo Bozzone (NZL), Laura Bennett (USA), and newcomer Leanda Cave (GBR).

Both Bennett and McGlone, who were newcomers to the event last year and took home the prize purse, are anticipating returning to Phuket. "I have been looking forward to returning to Phuket all season," says McGlone. "It is one of my favorite races. Thailand is such a beautiful country and the people are fantastic. I just love racing here." McGlone has had an extraordinary season and comes to the 2006 Laguna Phuket Triathlon fresh from winning the inaugural Ironman 70.3 world championships in Clearwater, Florida.

Greg Bennett suffered some injuries earlier in the year, making it one of his toughest years, but he has recovered magnificently with wins at the 2006 Life Time Fitness Grand Slam series in New York and Los Angeles, and a 3rd place in Chicago, putting him in the lead for the Grand Slam series, which will culminate in Minneapolis next year.

"The entire experience at Laguna Phuket is fantastic," says Bennett. "Massages on the beach, the swim course, bike course, run course, the finish, the after party, the other athletes. It truly is the best triathlon experience in the world."

The 2006 Laguna Phuket Triathlon route will be similar to past years, starting the 1.8k swim at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket beachfront, swimming in the sea for 1.2k and crossing the beach to swim in a lagoon for the last 600 metres. The 55k bike course will introduce some new changes, including rerouting the course to pass the beachfront at Naiyang National Park, and for the first time ever, the 12k run course will pass through Laguna Phuket's award-winning golf course.

Now in its thirteenth year, the Laguna Phuket Triathlon, sponsored by Thai Airways International, Tourism Authority of Thailand, Herbalife International (Thailand) Limited, and CLSA Asia-Pacific Markets, is considered Southeast Asia's premier triathlon event and is also an Australian Ironman Qualifier, awarding twenty-five qualifying slots to the top age group athletes.

For further information and updates on the 2006 Laguna Phuket Triathlon, please visit www.lagunaphukettriathlon.com or contact tel. 66 76 324 060.

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Note to the Editor

Laguna Phuket is Asia's finest destination resort comprising five deluxe hotels: Banyan Tree Phuket, Dusit Laguna Resort, Laguna Beach Resort, Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket and Allamanda Laguna Phuket, which all share 600 acres of tropical parkland and three kilometres of beach frontage with the Laguna Phuket Golf Club, Canal Shopping Village, Banyan Tree Spa, four Angsana Spas, Laguna Wedding Chapel and Quest Laguna Phuket Adventure, a leading corporate training and outdoor recreation facility.