



R&A  
**THE WOMENS AMATEUR**  
CHAMPIONSHIP

# INFORMATION

The 122<sup>nd</sup> Women's Amateur Championship

10 - 15 June 2024

Nairn Golf Club

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All information correct as of 5 May 2025



# HISTORY.



*Melanie Green, 2024 Champion*

The first Women's Amateur Championship was held in 1893 at Royal Lytham & St Annes. Organised by the Ladies' Golf Union (LGU), a field of 38 players competed over the Lancashire links with Lady Margaret Scott crowned as the first champion after defeating LGU founder and secretary, Issette Pearson, 7&5 in the Final.

Lady Margaret successfully defended

her title in 1894 and 1895 with the championship continuing to flourish. In the 1920s, Cecil Leitch and Joyce Wethered dominated the women's game, winning a record four Women's Amateur titles each. In 1927, Simone Thion de la Chaume of France became the first Continental European golfer to win the championship. The first competitor from the USA to claim the title was Babe Zaharias in 1947.



*Lady Margaret Scott (seated right) and Issette Pearson (seated left) following the inaugural Women's Amateur*

The Women's Amateur has been played at many venues across Great Britain and Ireland. Hosts include venues which have staged The Open, most recently at Royal St George's in 2014. Today's championship attracts a large international field and is one of the most coveted prizes in women's amateur golf.

To date there have been 94 different winners of the 121 championships. Recent winners of the Women's Amateur who have gone on to make a mark on the professional game include Sweden's Anna Nordqvist and England's Georgia Hall. In 2024, Melanie Green triumphed by defeating Lorna McClymont by 2 holes at Portmarnock.

# PAST WINNERS.



*Georgia Hall, Champion 2013*

**CECIL LEITCH** and **JOYCE WETHERED** dominated the championship between 1914 and 1929, winning the title four times each to share the record for most victories. They appeared against each other in three finals (1921, 1922 and 1925) with Wethered holding a 2-1 advantage. Wethered came from a famous golfing family. Her brother Roger finished second in The Open in 1921 and won The Amateur Championship in 1923.

**BABE ZAHARIAS** won the 1947 championship at Gullane when she defeated England's Jaqueline Gordon to become the first American winner. Zaharias is one of 11 players to have won the Women's Amateur and US Women's Amateur, which she won in 1946. She went on to win ten major titles. An all-round athlete, she won gold medals at the 1932 Olympics in the 80 metre hurdles and javelin, and a silver medal in the high jump. She also competed in basketball and baseball. Zaharias won three US Women's Opens (1948, 1950 and 1954).

France's **CATHERINE LACOSTE** won at Royal Portrush in 1969, two years after she won the US Women's Open. She is one of three players to have won the US Women's Open and the Women's Amateur along with Babe Zaharias and Louise Suggs. Lacoste's father was French tennis great, René Lacoste, and her mother, Simone de la Chaume, was the first non-British or Irish winner of the Women's Amateur in 1927 at Royal County Down.

## INTERESTING FACT.

**BIGGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY:** In 2021, Louise Duncan of Scotland defeated Iceland's Johanna Lea Ludviksdottir 9&8 in the 36-hole Final at Kilmarnock (Barassie).



*Louise Duncan, 2021 Champion*

England's **MICKEY WALKER** won consecutive titles in 1971 and 1972. Walker went on to help establish the Ladies' European Tour, winning six times on that circuit. She captained the first four European Solheim Cup teams from 1990-1996, experiencing victory in 1992. She is now a TV commentator.

Catriona Lambert, now known as **CATRIONA MATTHEW OBE**, won the title in 1993 at Royal Lytham & St Annes defeating England's Kirsty Speak 3&2 in the Final. Matthew went on to win four LPGA titles, including the Women's Open in 2009 at the same venue where she won the Women's Amateur. A nine-time Solheim Cup player, Matthew was the non-playing Captain for the European victories in 2019 and 2021. In 2024, Matthew became the first professional golfer to captain a Curtis Cup team and led Great Britain and Ireland to a 10.5-9.5 victory.

**CARLOTA CIGANDA** of Spain defeated Sweden's Anna Nordqvist in the 2007 Final at Alwoodley. Ciganda has two LPGA victories, five Ladies' European Tour wins and made six Solheim Cup appearances.

## INTERESTING FACT.

**YOUNGEST CHAMPION: Sweden's Julia Engstrom won in 2016 at Dundonald Links as a 15 year old.**



*Anna Nordqvist, Champion 2008*

**ANNA NORDQVIST** won the title in 2008 after finishing runner-up in the previous two championships. She includes three major championships, the 2009 McDonald's LPGA Championship, 2017 Evian Championship and 2021 AIG Women's Open among her nine LPGA wins. Along with Georgia Hall, Nordqvist has achieved an impressive quadrilateral of R&A trophies winning the Girls' Amateur, Women's Amateur, Smyth Salver and AIG Women's Open. She's also played on nine Solheim Cup teams.

**AZAHARA MUÑOZ** of Spain succeeded Nordqvist as Women's Amateur winner. She has one LPGA victory, five Ladies' European Tour wins and is a four-time Solheim Cup player.

England's **GEORGIA HALL** won the 2013 championship at Machynys Peninsula Golf Club in Wales by defeating Spain's Luna Sobrón

## INTERESTING FACT.

**MAJOR CHAMPIONS: Seven Women's Amateur champions have also won major championships; Louise Suggs (11), Babe Zaharias (10), Anna Nordqvist (3), Georgia Hall (1), Catherine Lacoste (1), Catriona Matthew (1) and Jody Rosenthal (1).**

by one hole. Hall then recorded a historic double winning the Women's Open in 2018 at Royal Lytham and St Anne's, one of two LPGA Tour victories she possesses.

2015 winner **CELINE BOUTIER** of France made her Solheim Cup debut in the victorious 2019 European side at Gleneagles. She has won two LPGA tournaments to go with three Ladies' European Tour wins and played on four Solheim Cup teams.

Ireland's **LEONA MAGUIRE**, the 2017 champion, was recipient of the Mark H McCormack medal in three consecutive seasons from 2014 as the world's leading female amateur. Maguire has two LPGA wins and in 2021, she shot the lowest ever final round in a major by any golfer male or female, a 61 at the Evian Championship.

# HOST VENUE.

## 2025 HOST VENUE NAIRN

Founded in 1887 by Robert B Finlay, Nairn is consistently ranked amongst the leading courses in the UK.

Old Tom Morris, the 'Grand Old Man of Golf', revised the course in 1890 and extended it westward over the Earl of Cawdor's property. Twenty years on, and the most prominent impact on the layout of the Championship course was from the five times Open Champion James Braid (and the first to break 70 here with a 69 in 1901), who altered tees and bunkers before creating new greens of singular subtlety.

In 2018 the club undertook a large renovation project of the Championship Course from renowned architects, Mackenzie and Ebert.

The Club has held an array of amateur golf tournaments over the years and is one of only nine who have held the Walker Cup, Curtis Cup, the Amateur Championship and the Women's Amateur Championship.

2026 Venue – Muirfield, Scotland



# PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

DAY	EVENT	TIME
Monday 9 June	Official Practice Day	8:00am - 3:00pm
Tuesday 10 June	Stroke Play Qualifying Round 1	6:45am–3.45pm
Wednesday 11 June	Stroke Play Qualifying Round 2 Play-Off (If Required)	6:45am - 3:45pm 8.15pm approx.
Thursday 12 June	Match Play (1 <sup>st</sup> Round)	8.30am–1.45pm approx.
Friday 13 June	Match Play (2 <sup>nd</sup> Round) Match Play (3 <sup>rd</sup> Round)	7.30am–10.00am 1.10pm–2.20pm
Saturday 14 June	Quarter-Finals Semi-Finals	8.00am–8.30am 1.30pm and 1.40pm
Sunday 15 June	Final (36 Holes) Prize Presentation	8.30am and 1.30pm 4.30pm approx.

*Timings subject to change.*



# ENTRY AND EXEMPTIONS.

With a WAGR® Power Ranking of 919.6367 in 2023, the Women's Amateur Championship continues to attract a field comprising of the world's best amateur golfers and offers the following exemptions to ensure its field quality each year.

## CHAMPIONSHIPS HUB



The starting field will comprise 144 competitors. Any entrant named in one of the following categories will be allocated a place in the starting field of the Championship:

I	Winners of The Women's Amateur Championship 2015 - 2024
	Winners of the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship 2020 - 2024
	Winners of the European Ladies' Amateur Championship 2020 - 2024
	Winners of the Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific Championship 2021 – 2025
	Winner of the Women's Amateur Latin America Championship 2021 – 2024
	Winner of the Africa Amateur Women's Invitational 2025
	Winners of The Mark H McCormack Medal 2015 – 2024
II	Winner of the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship 2024
	Winner of the R&A Girls' Amateur Championship 2024
	Winner of the ANNIKA Invitational Europe 2025 ( A blank entry may be made on behalf of the competitor qualifying in this Category)
	Winner of the R&A Student Tour Series Order of Merit 2024/25
	Overall female winner of The G4D Open 2025
III	Members of: The 2024 Curtis Cup Teams. The 2025 Arnold Palmer Cup Teams.
IV	Players who reached the last 16 of The Women's Amateur Championship in 2024
V	One competitor from the 2024 Royal Junior nominated by the organisers and approved by the committee.
VI	The top 15 players and anyone tying for 15th place in the WAGR® listing on completion of WAGR® week 2024/52
VII	The top 25 players and anyone tying for 25th place in the WAGR® listing on completion of WAGR® week 2025/08
VIII	*Second and third placed players in the Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific Championship 2025
	*Second and third placed players in the Women's Amateur Latin America Championship 2024
	*Second and third placed players in the Africa Amateur Womens Invitational 2025

\*Ties will be decided in favour of the highest ranked player in WAGR® at the commencement of the respective championship. If tied players have the same WAGR®, or have no WAGR®, then ties will be decided by the last round of the championship concerned. If still a tie, a card countback will use the back 9 holes or 6 or 3 or 1 hole and, if a tie still arises, the last 6 or 3 or 1 hole of the front 9 holes. If a tie still arises the same card countback will be used for rounds 3, 2 and 1 of the championship.

After allocating places to entrants as above, the remaining places in the starting field will be determined by order of WAGR® listing 1-1000 on completion of WAGR® week 2025/19 and, if still incomplete, by using the WHS Handicap Index/equivalent exact handicap of entrants, at date of entry. Unsuccessful entrants will be given the opportunity to compete in the event of withdrawals. The reserve list will be in order of unsuccessful entrants within the WAGR® listing 1-1000 at close of entries, and thereafter by handicap.



# PRIZES.

As well as the opportunity to compete against the world's best amateur golfers over the some of the world's most iconic courses, the Champion will then receive exemptions into many of golf's most prestigious major championships.

**The AIG Women's Open, Evian Championship  
US Women's Open and Chevron Championship**

**Players will receive the following prizes and exemptions (if still amateur):**

<p>Champion</p>	<p>Championship Trophy &amp; Pam Barton Memorial Salver Gold Medal The 2025 AIG Women's Open The 2025 Evian Championship The 2026 US Women's Open The 2026 Chevron Championship The 2026 Augusta National Women's Amateur Championship Ladies European Tour Event</p>
<p>Runner Up</p>	<p>Diana Fishwick Cup Silver Medal LET Access Event Final Qualifying for the AIG Women's Open</p>



Semi Finalists

Bronze Medal  
LET Access Series Event

Leading Strokeplay Qualifier

Doris Chambers Trophy

Lowest 18 Hole Qualifying Score

Angus Trophy

### PAST WINNERS



# Could 2025 be your year?

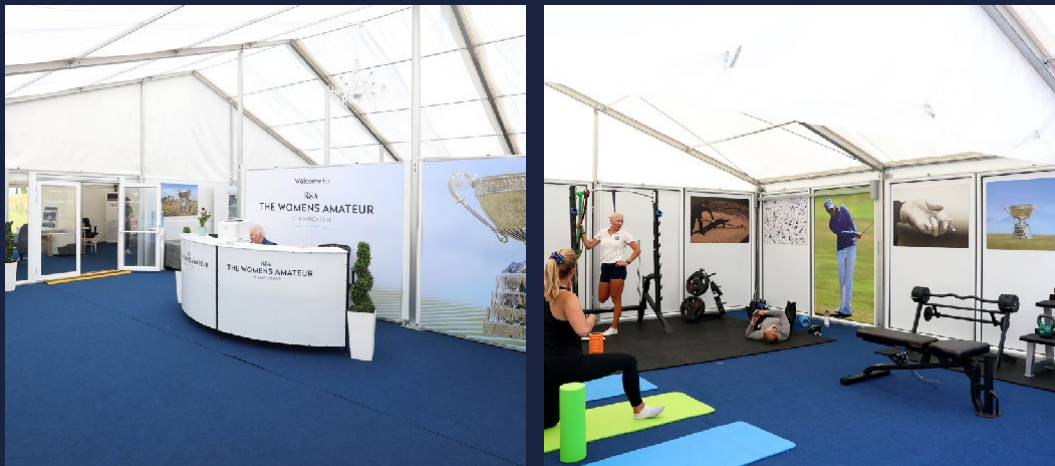
# TICKETING AND PLAYER BENEFITS.

Access to the 122<sup>nd</sup> Women's Amateur Championship will be free of charge and a ticket is not required.

Spectators are welcome to attend. Free car parking is available.

Please note that the clubhouse will be restricted to members, players, guests and officials only. Toilets and catering are available in other areas.

Your player's badge will serve as your accreditation throughout the Championship and will allow you to access the Player Lounge and other areas.



## INCLUDED IN ENTRY FEE:

Exclusive Player Gift Pack

Meal on Championship days

Championship Pavilion and Player Lounge Access

Professional yardage book

Car parking pass and priority player parking

Range access with Titleist range balls

Pull trolley (if required)

Physiotherapy and Medical Services

Player Gym Facility

Water, fruit, energy bars, tees, pencils, pitchforks

# PLAYER SERVICES.



## WATER AT THE CHAMPIONSHIP

The R&A supports sustainable practices which go hand in hand with protecting the future of our planet. On course water stations will be available for all players and caddies to use throughout the Championship. Please bring a refillable water bottle.



## CLUBHOUSE & CATERING

The clubhouse will be open with catering available from 90 minutes before the first tee time until the last game finishes each day. While competing in the Championship, you will be provided with one complimentary meal on competition days. Should you have any allergies please contact the catering team at the club as soon as practicable.



## PLAYER LOUNGE, GYM & PHYSIO

Players will have complimentary access to exclusive player lounge, gym and physiotherapy services in the Championship Pavilion.





## CADDIES

A limited number of caddies will be available from Nairn Golf Club at competitors' own expense and should be booked early to avoid disappointment. To book a caddie please contact:

Email: [starter@nairngolfclub.co.uk](mailto:starter@nairngolfclub.co.uk)



## PLAYER INFORMATION

Local Rules, Pin Positions and Pace of Play Information can be viewed on the



[PLAYER PORTAL](#)



## LIVE SCORING / TV

There will be live scoring throughout on [www.randa.org](http://www.randa.org) with updates throughout the event on the social media platforms.

The latter stages of the match play will be live streamed on The R&A YouTube channel and broadcast on Sky Sports.



[2023 CHAMPIONSHIP HIGHLIGHTS](#)

## PRACTICE



### Official practice times:

**Monday 9 June:** 8.00am–3.00pm

Competitors will be contacted with instructions on how to book times online. Please do not contact the club to book an official practice time.

Should you wish to practise outside of the official day, please contact the club to ascertain availability. A reduced green fee may be available.

### Practice Range

Full practice range and short game facilities will be available at the venue with balls provided by Titleist.

Practice facilities will be available from 90 minutes before the first tee time until 6.00pm each day.

# SUNSCREEN.

## Protect your skin against skin cancer:

- Apply Sunscreen regularly (every 2-3 hours)
- Apply sunscreen to exposed areas, particularly your nose, ears, lips, head, back of legs and feet.
- Use sunscreen F30 or greater.

## Early Detection

- Examine your skin regularly and get any new or changing skin blemished checked out.
- Be aware of darkening colour, irregularity, bleeding or blemishes not healing.
- If in doubt – get it checked out.

For more information, please visit [www.melanoma-fund.co.uk](http://www.melanoma-fund.co.uk) or [www.MASScot.org.uk](http://www.MASScot.org.uk)



# PLAYER HOTEL.

The Muthu Newton Hotel in Nairn is pleased to offer the following rates for players in the Championship.

The booking reference is **G1087**

Please email Karren Long at [nwt.operations@muthuhotelsmgm.com](mailto:nwt.operations@muthuhotelsmgm.com) or Murray McPhee at [nwt.gm@muthuhotelsmgm.com](mailto:nwt.gm@muthuhotelsmgm.com)

They will be able to help with booking any rooms that you require.

The rate for Bed and Breakfast is as below:-

Standard or Courtyard Double or Twin Room for sole Occupancy Bed and Breakfast	@ £240.00
Standard or Courtyard Double or Twin for Double Occupancy Bed and Breakfast	@ £260.00
Executive Double or Twin rooms for sole occupancy Bed and Breakfast	@ £260.00
Executive Double or Twin Room for Double Occupancy Bed and Breakfast	@ £280.00

**Muthu Newton Hotel Inverness Road,  
Inverness Rd,  
Nairn IV12 4RX**



# ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL.

Nairn is well located and easily accessible for both domestic and international guests and we hope the following information assists you when planning your trip.



## Local Hotels

Hotels can be found at:

[www.nairnscotland.co.uk/places-to-stay/hotels/](http://www.nairnscotland.co.uk/places-to-stay/hotels/)

Inverness City Centre is approximately 30 minutes from Nairn Golf Club.



## Taxi

Airport Taxi Service is available from Inverness Taxis can be booked at competitors' own cost.

Telephone: 01463 222222



## Airports

International and domestic flights operate to Inverness airport which is within easy reach of Nairn;

**Inverness Airport** (9 miles)

[www.hial.co.uk](http://www.hial.co.uk)



## Train

There is train station in Nairn less than 2 miles from the golf club.

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[www.randa.org](http://www.randa.org)

Championship Enquiries and Withdrawals: [amateurentries@randa.org](mailto:amateurentries@randa.org)

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