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R&A

THE WOMEN'S AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

INFORMATION

The 123rd Women's Amateur Championship

22 - 27 June 2026

Muirfield Golf Club

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All information correct as of 29th January 2026



HISTORY.



Paula Martin Sampedro , 2025 Champion and 2025 Smyth Salver Winner

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 95 different winners of the 122 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.

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 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.

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).

2025 Champion, **PAULA MARTIN SAMPEDRO** triumphed by defeating Farah O'Keefe 2&1 at Nairn. Only two months later she then went on to win the Smyth Salver at the AIG Womens Open at Porthcawl as top amateur. Finishing within the top 10 she has gained an exemption into the 2026 Championship.

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.



Farah O'Keefe of USA is interviewed after her victory during her Quarter Final match during of the R&A Women's Amateur Championship at Nairn Golf Club

HOST VENUE.

2026 HOST VENUE

Muirfield

The original course at Muirfield, created by Old Tom Morris, was initially limited by the modest area of land initially leased by the Club. However, by 1922, not only had the leased ground been purchased, an additional 50 acres of links land had also been acquired. A revised Muirfield layout, designed by Harry Colt in 1925, enhanced by Tom Simpson in the 1930's and refined by Martin Hawtree in 2011, has resulted in an internationally admired golfing challenge which consistently ranks amongst the leading courses in the world.

Muirfield has been the venue for many special events: 16 Open and 11 Amateur Championships; the Ryder, Walker and Curtis Cups; and numerous international and national tournaments. Most recently we hosted the AIG Women's Open Championship, early August 2022.

Ashleigh Buhai bravely overcame a nightmarish triple-bogey on the 15th to claim a hugely dramatic victory in the AIG Women's Open, defeating In Gee Chun on the fourth hole of an extraordinary sudden-death play-off at Muirfield.





PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

DAY	EVENT	TIME
Saturday 20 June	No access to the clubhouse May walk course only.	Course Closed
Sunday 21 June	Official Practice Day	8:00am - 3:00pm
Monday 22 June	Stroke Play Qualifying Round 1	6:45am–3.45pm
Tuesday 23 June	Stroke Play Qualifying Round 2 Play-Off (If Required)	6:45am - 3:45pm 8.15pm approx.
Wednesday 24 June	Match Play (1st Round)	8.30am–1.45pm approx.
Thursday 25 June	Match Play (2nd Round) Match Play (3rd Round)	7.30am–10.00am 1.10pm–2.20pm
Friday 26 June	Quarter-Finals Semi-Finals	8.00am–8.30am 1.30pm and 1.40pm
Saturday 27 June	Final (36 Holes) Prize Presentation	8.30am and 1.30pm 4.30pm approx.
Sunday 28 June	Provision for extension of play. Member play only.	

Timings subject to change.





Paula Martin Sampedro of Spain holds the trophy following her victory during the Final on Day of the R&A Women's Amateur Championship at Nairn Golf Club

ENTRY AND EXEMPTIONS.

With a WAGR© Power Ranking of 914.6393 in 2025 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

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WORLD AMATEUR GOLF RANKING® | R&A USGA

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 2016 - 2025
	Winners of the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship 2021 - 2025
	Winners of the European Ladies' Amateur Championship 2021 - 2025
	Winners of the Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific Championship 2022 – 2026
	Winner of the Women's Amateur Latin America Championship 2022 – 2025
	Winner of the Africa Amateur Women's Invitational 2024 - 2026
	Winners of The Mark H McCormack Medal 2016 – 2025
	Winner of the Augusta National Womens Amateur 2026
	Winner of the South America Amateur Women's Championship 2026
	Winner of The G4D Open 2026, subject to eligibility requirements outlined in the terms of competition.
II	Winner of the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship 2025
	Winner of the R&A Girls' Amateur Championship 2025
	Winner of the ANNIKA Invitational Europe 2025
	Winner of the R&A Student Tour Series Order of Merit 2025/2026
III	Members of: The 2024 Curtis Cup Teams. The 2025 Vagliano Trophy Team. The 2025 Arnold Palmer Cup Teams.
IV	Players who reached the last 16 of The Women's Amateur Championship in 2025
V	Two competitors from the 2026 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 2025/52
VII	The top 25 players and anyone tying for 25th place in the WAGR® listing on completion of WAGR® week 2026/10
VIII	*Second and third placed players in the Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific Championship 2026
	*Second and third placed players in the Women's Amateur Latin America Championship 2025
	*Second and third placed players in the Africa Amateur Womens Invitational 2026

*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 2026/21 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):

Champion	Championship Trophy & Pam Barton Memorial Salver Gold Medal The 2026 AIG Women's Open The 2026 Evian Championship The 2027 US Women's Open The 2027 Chevron Championship The 2027 Augusta National Women's Amateur Championship The Standard Portland Classic 2026 Ladies European Tour Event
Runner Up	Diana Fishwick Cup Silver Medal LET Access Event Final Qualifying for the AIG Women's Open



Semi Finalists	Bronze Medal LET Access Series Event
Leading Strokeplay Qualifier	Doris Chambers Trophy
Lowest 18 Hole Qualifying Score	Angus Trophy



PAST WINNERS

CLICK HERE

Could 2026 be your year?

TICKETING AND PLAYER BENEFITS.

Access to the 123rd 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
Meal on Championship days
Player Hub 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 complementary access to exclusive player lounge, gym and physiotherapy services in the Championship Pavilion.



CADDIES

Caddies will be available from Muirfield Golf Club at competitors' own expense and should be booked early to avoid disappointment. To book a caddie please contact:

Email: hceg@muirfield.org.uk

PLAYER INFORMATION

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

INFORMATION PORTAL

LIVE SCORING / TV

There will be live scoring throughout on 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 21 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 practice 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.



Marie Eline Madsen of Denmark reacts to her victory with her caddie during the R&A Women's Amateur Championship at Nairn Golf Club

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 or www.MASScot.org.uk



COMPETITOR INSURANCE.

Competitors are advised to have a personal public liability insurance policy in place to protect them from claims for damage to third party property or injury to third parties whilst participating in this event.



HOTEL OFFER.

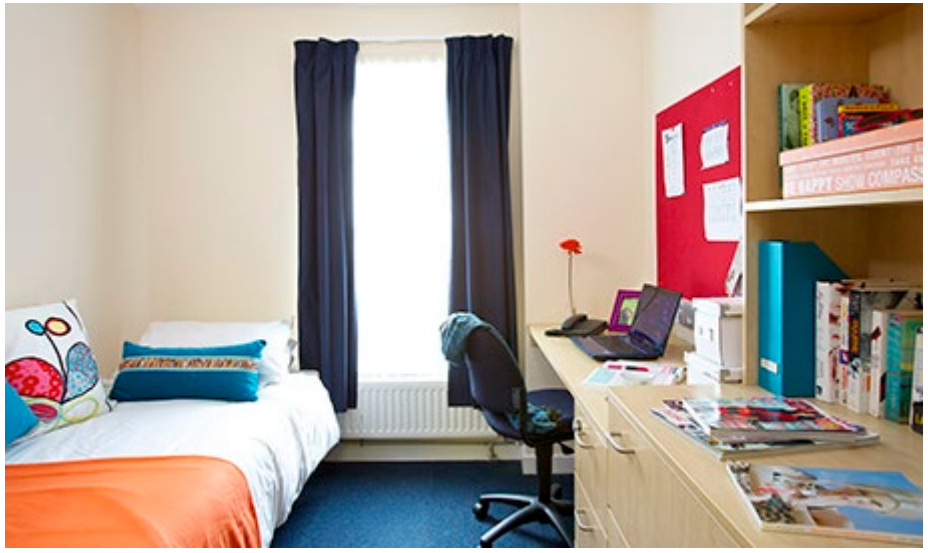
Queen Margaret University are pleased to offer campus accommodation for the Womens Amateur Championship.

There are two options available, individual room booking within a shared apartment, or group bookings for individual flats with multiple occupancy. Please follow the link below for more information.

More Information

Queen Margaret University Campus Accommodation is situated approximately 30 minutes from Muirfield Golf Club.





This offer is provided for your convenience only. All bookings and payment are made directly with the hotel, and any agreements, responsibilities, or issues arising from your reservation are solely between you and the hotel.

ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL.

Muirfield 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:
https://visiteastlothian.org/places-to-stay/

Edinburgh City Centre is approximately 50 minutes from Muirfield Golf Club.



Taxi

Edinburgh Airport Taxi Service is available from Edinburgh Airport Transfers can be booked at competitors' own cost.

Telephone: +44 (0) 7511 252200



Airports

International and domestic flights operate to Edinburgh International airport which is within easy reach of Muirfield;

Edinburgh International Airport (30 miles)
www.edinburghairport.com

Glasgow International Airport (75 miles)
www.glasgowairport.com



Train

The closest train station to Muirfield is at Longniddry which is 7 miles away.

R&A

THE WOMENS AMATEUR

CHAMPIONSHIP

www.randa.org

Championship Enquiries and Withdrawals: amateurentries@randa.org

Muirfield Golf Club
Duncur Road
Gullane
Scotland
EH31 2EG

www.Muirfield.org.uk
+44 (0) 1620 842123

MORE INFO