



R&A
THE AMATEUR
CHAMPIONSHIP

PLAYER
HANDBOOK

The 129th Amateur Championship

17 - 22 June 2024

Ballyliffin

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HISTORY.

The competition that was to develop and become known as The Amateur Championship was first held at Hoylake in 1885. Proposed by Thomas Owen Potter, the championship was contested by a total of 44 players from 12 clubs. Allan Macfie defeated Horace Hutchinson 7&6 in the Final to become the first champion.

Following the success of the first event, it was agreed that a Championship open to all amateur golfers should be played at St Andrews, Hoylake and Prestwick in rotation. Representatives, known as Delegates of the Associated Clubs, were elected from these clubs to run the Championship until 1919, when The R&A adopted the Championship.

John Ball won a record eight Amateur Championships between 1888 and 1912, while Sir Michael Bonallack triumphed five times between 1961 and 1970. The 1984 champion José María Olazábal and the 1998 champion



Sergio Garcia have both gone on to win major titles.

With the Championship's popularity and reach at record levels, an 18 hole pre-qualifying event was introduced in 2022, enhancing the opportunity for players throughout the world to qualify. In 2024, pre-qualifying for non-exempt players will take place over the Old Links at Ballyliffin. Thereafter, the first stage of the Championship involves 288 players, each of whom plays two rounds of 18 hole stroke play qualifying over both courses (Old Links & Glashedy Links) The lowest 64 scores and ties will compete in the match play stage of the Championship over the Glashedy Links at Ballyliffin. Each match will consist of one round of 18 holes, except the Final which will be played over 36 holes.



R&A

Christo Lamprecht, 2023 Champion

PAST WINNERS.

NOTABLE WINNERS.

Six Amateur champions have also won major championships. Many have represented Great Britain and Ireland in the Walker Cup. Some have taken their place in the Ryder Cup.



Christo Lamprecht, 2023 Champion

JOHN BALL JNR'S name is synonymous with the early days of The Amateur. He lifted the trophy eight times (1888, 1890, 1892, 1894, 1899, 1907, 1910 and 1912). Ball also won The Open in 1890 at Prestwick, becoming not only the first Amateur to win The Open, but the first Englishman.

The 1930 Amateur Championship at St Andrews is one of the greatest in history. It was in that year that **BOBBY JONES** won his only Amateur title. It was an important milestone for it was the first leg of his journey to the Grand Slam of The Amateur, US Amateur, The Open and US Open, known then as the "Impregnable Quadrilateral." Jones won three Opens, four US Opens and five US amateurs. He retired from competitive golf after the 1930 Amateur and created Augusta National and the Masters Tournament.

INTERESTING FACT.

OLDEST CHAMPION: The Honourable Michael Scott was 54 and a grandfather when he won the 1933 Championship at Royal Liverpool.



Sir Michael Bonallack, Champion 1968 - 1970

SIR MICHAEL BONALLACK'S record of winning three years in succession (1968-1970) will probably never be matched considering many champions don't remain in the amateur game these days. Bonallack, who would go on to become secretary of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews until 1999, also won the English Amateur on five occasions. He played in nine consecutive Walker Cups between 1957 and 1973, captaining the Great Britain and Ireland team in 1969 and 1971, leading a team to victory at St Andrews as Captain in the 1971 contest.

PETER McEVOY OBE took over the reins from Bonallack in the 1970s as England's top amateur. He won back-to-back titles in 1977 and 1978, the last player to win consecutive titles. He played in five Walker Cups between 1977 and 1989, missing the 1983 and 1987 matches before being a member of the 1989 Great Britain and Ireland team that recorded a first away victory. He also captained the 1999 and 2001 teams to victory, the first GB&I teams to win consecutive matches.

Many watching the 1984 final at Formby might not have realised they were watching two future superstars. **JOSÉ MARÍA OLAZÁBAL** defeated Colin Montgomerie 5&4 as part of a unique R&A triple in which the Spaniard won the Boys' Amateur in 1983 and Youths Amateur in 1985. Olazabal is one of a select band of Amateur champions to go on to earn a major title, winning the Masters Tournament in 1994 and 1999. He has won 21 times on the now DP World Tour, achieved six PGA Tour wins, played in seven Ryder Cups and captained the victorious European team in 2012.

INTERESTING FACT.

YOUNGEST CHAMPION: Italy's Matteo Manassero was 16 when he defeated England's Sam Hutsby 4&3 at Formby in 2009.



Laird Shepherd, 2021 Champion

SERGIO GARCIA'S 7&6 victory over Welshman Craig Williams at Muirfield in 1998 made him the second Spanish winner after Olazabal. Like his compatriot, he owns a green jacket, winning the 2017 Masters Tournament. He has also collected 15 DP World Tour trophies, 11 PGA Tour titles and holds the record for most Ryder Cup points with 28½ points from ten appearances, six times as a member of the winning team.

England's **GRAEME STORM** continued a run, begun by Garcia in 1998, with his 1999 win at Royal County Down that would see four straight champions go on to become DP World Tour winners. Storm has two victories. Finland's Mikko Ilonen amassed five wins before announcing his retirement in 2019. Northern Ireland's Michael Hoey graduated from his 2001 win to match Ilonen's five tournament win tally.

INTERESTING FACT.

BIGGEST COMEBACK: In the 2021 Final at Nairn, Laird Shepherd was eight down after 17 holes and still four down with four to play against fellow Englishman, Monty Scowsill, but recovered to level the match at the 36th. Shepherd eventually triumphed when Scowsill three-putted at the 38th.

MATTEO MANASSERO became The Amateur's youngest winner when he carried off the title at Formby in 2009. He is a four-time DP World Tour winner, a tally that includes the 2013 BMW PGA Championship.



Matteo Manassero, 2009 Champion

HOST VENUE.



2024 HOST VENUE BALLYLIFFIN

Established in 1947, Ballyliffin is widely regarded as one of the finest links complex in Ireland boasting two championship links courses – The Old Links and Glashedy Links.

Renowned for its spectacular setting, outstanding facilities and hospitality, the Glashedy Links has played host to many prestigious championships including the 2018 Irish Open, 2016 Boys' Home Internationals and the 2022 R&A Women's and Men's Home Internationals. The club looks forward to welcoming the world's top amateur golfers when it hosts The 129th Amateur Championship.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

DAY	EVENT	VENUE	TIME
Thursday 13 June	Pre-Qualifying Practice	The Old Links	8.00am–12.30pm
Friday 14 June	Pre-Qualifying	The Old Links	8.00am–12.18pm
Saturday 15 June	Official Practice	Glashedy Links / Old Links	7.30am–4.00pm
	Player Registration	Championship Pavilion	7.30am – 4.00pm
Sunday 16 June	Official Practice	Glashedy Links / Old Links	7.30am – 2.30pm
	Player Registration	Championship Pavilion	7.30am–3.00pm
	Registration Closes		3.00pm
Monday 17 June	Stroke Play Qualifying Round 1	Glashedy Links / Old Links	6.45am – 3.37pm
Tuesday 18 June	Stroke Play Qualifying Round 2	Glashedy Links / Old Links	6.45am – 3.37pm
Wednesday 19 June	Play-Off (If Required)	Glashedy Links	7.00am
	Match Play (1 st Round)	Glashedy Links	8.30am–1.45pm approx.
Thursday 20 June	Match Play (2 nd Round)	Glashedy Links	7.30am–9.45am
	Match Play (3 rd Round)	Glashedy Links	1.10pm–2.20pm
Friday 21 June	Quarter-Finals	Glashedy Links	8.15am–8.45pm
	Semi-Finals	Glashedy Links	1.00pm and 1.15pm
Saturday 22 June	Final (36 Holes)	Glashedy Links	8.30am and 1.00pm
	Prize Presentation	Glashedy Links	4.30pm approx.

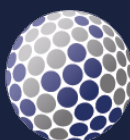
Timings subject to change.



ENTRY AND EXEMPTIONS.

With a 2023 WAGR® Power Ranking of 886.8413, The Amateur Championship continues to attract a field comprising of the world's best amateur golfers and offers the following exemptions from pre-qualifying to ensure its field quality each year.

CHAMPIONSHIPS HUB



WORLD
AMATEUR
GOLF
RANKING®

R&A USGA

EXEMPTIONS FROM PRE-QUALIFYING

I	Winners of The Amateur Championship 2004 - 2023
	Winners of the U.S. Amateur Championship 2014 - 2023
	Winners of the European Amateur Championship 2014 - 2023
	Winners of the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship 2014 - 2023
	Winners of the Latin America Amateur Championship 2015 - 2024
	Winners of The Mark H McCormack Medal 2014 - 2023
II	Winner of the US Mid-Amateur Championship 2023
	Winner of the R&A Boys Amateur Championship 2023
	Winner of the R&A Student Tour Series Order of Merit 2023/24
	Winner of the Africa Amateur Championship 2024
III	The 2023 Walker Cup Teams
	The 2022 St Andrews Trophy Teams
	The 2024 Arnold Palmer Cup Teams
IV	Players who reached the last 32 of The Amateur Championship in 2023
V	One competitor from the 2024 Royal Junior nominated by the organisers and who meets WAGR® entry criteria
VI	The top 30 players and anyone tying for 30th place in the WAGR® listing on completion of WAGR® week 2023/52
VII	The top 50 players and anyone tying for 50th place in the WAGR® listing on completion of WAGR® week 2024/10
VIII	The top 10 players and anyone tied for 10th place on the Africa Region WAGR® listing on 1 December.
	The top 10 players and anyone tied for 10th place on the Asia Region WAGR® listing on 1 December.
	The top 10 players and anyone tied for 10th place on the Central America and Caribbean WAGR® listing on 1 December.
	The top 10 players and anyone tied for 10th place in Europe Region WAGR® listing on 1 December.
	The top 10 players and anyone tied for 10th place in the North America Region WAGR® listing on 1 December.
	The top 10 players and anyone tied for 10th place in the Oceania Region WAGR® listing on 1 December.
	The top 10 players and anyone tied for 10th place in the South America Region WAGR® listing on 1 December.
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 2024/19 and, if still incomplete, by using the WHS Handicap Index/ equivalent exact handicap of entrants, at date of entry. The remaining places will be awarded to, as a minimum, the top 10 competitors from Pre-Qualifying (PQ). The Championship reserve list will be based on the competitors' finishing positions at PQ.	



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, championship winners will get the chance to play in three of golf’s most prestigious major championships by earning exemptions into The Open and US Open and, by tradition, an invitation to the Masters Tournament.

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

Champion	Championship Trophy Gold Medal The 152nd Open The 2025 US Open The 2025 Masters Tournament (by tradition) DP World Tour Event
Runner Up	Silver Medal Challenge Tour event Final Qualifying for The Open



Semi Finalists	Bronze Medal Challenge Tour event Final Qualifying for The Open
Quarter Finalists	Final Qualifying for The Open
Leading Stroke play Qualifier	Framed Championship Flag

PAST WINNERS

[CLICK HERE](#)

Could 2024 be your year?

PLAYER BENEFITS.

Access to The 129th Amateur Championship will be free of charge for spectators although some areas will be restricted to players and officials only.

Your player's badge will serve as your accreditation throughout the Championship and will allow you to access all areas of the venue.



INCLUDED IN ENTRY FEE:

- | |
|--|
| Exclusive Player Gift Pack |
| Meal on Championship days |
| Championship Pavilion and Player Lounge Access |
| Professional yardage book for each course |
| Car parking |
| Range access with Titleist range balls |
| Pull trolley (if required) |
| Access to physiotherapy and medical support |
| Access to Player Gym onsite |
| Access to Championship images |
| 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 clubhouses will be open and 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 (breakfast or lunch) on competition days. Should you have any allergies please contact the catering team onsite.



PLAYER LOUNGE, GYM & PHYSIO

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





CADDIES

A limited number of caddies will be available at each competitor's own expense at both venues and should be booked early to avoid disappointment. To book a caddie please contact:

Ballyliffin

Telephone: +353 74 937 6119

Email : info@ballyliffingolfclub.com



PLAYER INFORMATION

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



PLAYER PORTAL



LIVE SCORING / TV

There will be live scoring 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 with highlights available on Sky Sports.



2023 CHAMPIONSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

PRACTICE



Official practice times:

Thursday 13 June (pre-qualifying): 8.00am – 12.30pm

Saturday 15 June: 7.30am–4.00pm

Sunday 16 June: 7.30am–2.30pm

Competitors will be contacted with instructions on how to book times online.

Should you wish to practice outside of the official days please contact the club to ascertain availability and prices.

Practice Range

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

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

ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL.

We hope the following information and arrangements assist you when planning your trip.



Accommodation

All competitors can access a 10% discount (subject to availability) at both the Redcastle Oceanfront Golf Hotel & Spa and the Inishowen Gateway Hotel. Further Information about how to access these offers will be forwarded in due course.

In addition to these offers there are numerous accommodation options and details which can be found at: www.visitballyliffin.com/#accommodation



Taxi

Local Taxis are available at competitors' own cost.

Carn Cabs

Telephone: +353 (74) 93 74 580



Train

There is a train station at Derry approximately 27 miles from Ballyliffin Golf Club.



Airports

International and domestic flights operate to a number of airports within easy reach including:

City of Derry Airport (31 Miles)

www.cityofderryairport.com

Belfast International Airport (83 Miles)

www.belfastairport.com

Belfast City Airport (98 Miles)

www.belfastcityairport.com

Dublin Airport (175 Miles)

www.dublinairport.com

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www.randa.org

Championship Enquiries and Withdrawals: amateurentries@randa.org

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MORE INFORMATION

