



R&A
THE AMATEUR
CHAMPIONSHIP

INFORMATION

The 131st Amateur Championship

15 - 20 June 2026

Royal Liverpool and West Lancashire



CONTENTS.

History

Past Winners

2026 Host Venues

Programme of Events

Entry and Exemptions

Prizes

Open Amateur Series

Sunscreen and Competitor Insurance

Integrity

Player Benefits

Player Services

Accommodation and Travel

2027 Host Venue

Information correct as of 24 March 2026



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 2026, pre-qualifying for non-exempt players will take place over West Lancashire. Thereafter, the first stage of the Championship involves 288 players, each of whom play two rounds of 18-hole stroke play qualifying over both courses (Royal Liverpool and West Lancashire).

The lowest 64 scores will compete in the match play stage of the Championship over Royal Liverpool. In the event of a tie for last qualifying place, a hole-by-hole play-off will take place. Each match will consist of one round of 18 holes, except the Final which will be played over 36 holes.

Ethan Fang, 2025 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.



Ethan Fang, 2025 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.

FIRST DANISH CHAMPION: Jacob Skov Olesen became the first Danish winner with his 4&3 victory over Dominic Clemons in the 2024 Final at Ballyliffin.



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 onto 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.

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.

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.



Matteo Manassero, 2009 Champion

MATTEO MANASSERO became The Amateur's youngest winner when he carried off the title at Formby in 2009. He is a five-time DP World Tour winner.

2022 champion, **ALDRICH POTGIETER**, turned professional in June 2023 and won his first professional event in January 2024, The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic, in the process becoming the youngest ever winner on the Korn Ferry Tour at 19 years 133 days old. In 2025 he claimed his first victory on the PGA Tour at the Rocket Championship.



Aldrich Potgieter, 2022 Champion



Gavin Tiernan of Ireland & Ethan Fang of USA mark their balls during the Final of The Amateur Championship 2025 at Royal St. George's.

2026 HOST VENUES.



ROYAL LIVERPOOL

The Royal Liverpool links at Hoylake is beautiful, uplifting, challenging, but can be daunting when the wind blows and the summer rough is deep. The course was created to be a demanding test of golf and remains so. Being one of the oldest English seaside clubs, it lies at the very heart of the history and development of the game in Great Britain.

Despite its, at first glance, flat and benign appearance, Hoylake makes the trickiest demands of a player's shot selection, distance control and accuracy. When Open Championships are hosted here only the ultimate masters of these elements emerge victorious as Champion Golfer of the Year. Royal Liverpool's 13 Opens have delivered 13 different Champions, comprising an array of amateur stars, history makers and modern-day giants. Most recently Brian Harman, (USA) triumphed in 2023.



WEST LANCASHIRE

West Lancashire, founded in 1873 in Blundellsands Liverpool, is among the ten oldest clubs in England and boasts one of the most natural and testing links found anywhere in the British Isles.

The course was designed by C K Cotton and is laid out on some 200 acres of land and succeeds in carrying out the ideal layout of a golf course – two loops of nine holes with the 9th and 18th greens in front of the clubhouse.

The course starts with a demanding dogleg par-4 and keeps you challenged throughout. After the demanding par 3 12th, you climb up to a splendid view from the elevated 13th tee. From here on in it is one quality links hole after another – the challenge is non-stop and will keep you on your toes from start to finish. West Lancashire is also one of the four current Open Final Qualifying Host venues.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

DAY	EVENT	TIME
Thursday 11 June	Pre-Qualifying Practice, West Lancashire <i>Please see PQ Player Information on the information portal.</i>	8.00am – 12.30pm
Friday 12 June	Pre-Qualifying, West Lancashire	7.30am – 11.48am
Saturday 13 June	Official Practice Day, Both Courses Player Registration	7.30am – 4.00pm 7.00am – 4.00pm
Sunday 14 June	Official Practice Day, Both Courses Player Registration	7.30am – 2.30pm 7.00am – 3.00pm
Monday 15 June	Qualifying Round 1, Both Courses	6.45am – 3.37pm
Tuesday 16 June	Qualifying Round 2, Both Courses	6.45am – 3.37pm
Wednesday 17 June	Play-Off (If required) Royal Liverpool Match Play 1st Round, Royal Liverpool	7.00am 9.30 – 2.45pm approx.
Thursday 18 June	Match Play 2nd Round, Royal Liverpool Match Play 3rd Round, Royal Liverpool	7.30am – 9.45am 1.10pm – 2.20pm
Friday 19 June	Quarter Finals, Royal Liverpool Semi Finals, Royal Liverpool	8.02am–8.32am 1.32pm & 1.42pm
Saturday 20 June	Final (36 holes), Royal Liverpool Prize Presentation	8.32am & 1.32pm 4.30pm approx.

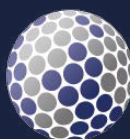
Timings subject to change.



ENTRY AND EXEMPTIONS.

With a 2025 WAGR® Power Ranking of 898.7192, 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.

CHAMPIONSHIP HUB



WORLD
AMATEUR
GOLF
RANKING®

R&A® USGA®

The starting field will comprise of 288 competitors. Any entrant named in one of the following categories will be allocated a place in the starting field of the Championship and will not be required to participate in pre-qualifying. Note that exempt players must submit an online entry on or before close of entries.

R&A®

I	Winners of The Amateur Championship 2006 – 2025
	Winners of the U.S. Amateur Championship 2016 – 2025
	Winners of the European Amateur Championship 2016 – 2025
	Winners of the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship 2016 – 2025
	Winners of the Latin America Amateur Championship 2017 – 2026
	Winners of the Africa Amateur Championship 2024 – 2026
	Winners of The Mark H McCormack Medal 2016 – 2025
	Winner of the South American Amateur Championship 2026
	Winner of The G4D Open 2026, subject to eligibility requirements outlined in the terms of competition.
II	Winner of the US Mid-Amateur Championship 2025
	Winner of the R&A Boys Amateur Championship 2025
	Winner of the R&A Student Tour Series Order of Merit 2025/26
III	Members of:
	The 2025 Walker Cup Teams
	The 2025 St Andrews Trophy Teams
	The 2025 Arnold Palmer Cup Teams
IV	Players who reached the last 32 of The Amateur Championship in 2025
V	Two competitors from the 2026 Royal Junior nominated by the organisers and approved by the Committee.
VI	The top 30 players and anyone tying for 30 th place in the WAGR® listing on completion of WAGR® week 2025/52
VII	The top 50 players and anyone tying for 50 th place in the WAGR® listing on completion of WAGR® week 2026/10
VIII	Second and third placed players in the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship 2025*
	Second and third placed players in the Latin America Amateur Championship 2026*
	Second and third placed players in the Africa Amateur Championship 2026*
*Ties will be decided in favour of the highest ranked player in WAGR® at the commencement of the championship. If tied players have the same WAGR® ranking, or have no WAGR® ranking, then ties will be decided by the lowest score in the last round of the championship. 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 prior rounds 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 1-2000 on completion of WAGR® week 2026/20 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 5 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 some of the world's most iconic courses, the champion 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.

Indicative prizes and exemptions (if still amateur) are as follows:

Champion	Championship Trophy Gold Medal The 154th Open The 2027 US Open The 2027 Masters Tournament (by tradition)
Runner Up	Silver Medal Last Chance Qualifier for The Open



Semi Finalists	Bronze Medal
	Final Qualifying for The Open
Quarter Finalists	Final Qualifying for The Open
	Commemorative Championship Pin Flag
Leading Stroke play Qualifier	



PLAYER

WELL PLAYED

???????

SEE YOU AT

ROYAL

BIRKDALE

2026

THE OPEN.COM

PAST WINNERS [CLICK HERE](#)

Could 2026 be your year?



Simon Holmes of R&A TV interviews Veikka Viskari of Finland after his victory during the Quarter Finals of The Amateur Championship 2025 at Royal St. George's.

OPEN AMATEUR SERIES.

The Open Amateur Series is a sequence of three elite amateur championships which offers players an opportunity to gain an exemption into The 154th Open at Royal Birkdale.

Previous winners include Cameron Adam (2025) and Calum Scott (2024) who went on to claim the silver medal at The 152nd Open at Royal Troon.

The player who accumulates the most WAGR points across these three events will receive a spot in The 154th Open at Royal Birkdale in July.

The Open Amateur Series exemption is in addition to several other Open exemptions available for amateur players, including by virtue of winning The Amateur Championship and European equivalent.



THE OPEN AMATEUR SERIES - 2026 COUTING EVENTS:

The St Andrews Links Trophy 5-7 June

New & Old Course, St Andrews

The 131st Amateur Championship 15-20 June

Royal Liverpool and West Lancashire

European Amateur Championship 24-27 June

Linna Golf, Finland

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.



INTEGRITY.

All competitors and/or caddies are subject to the provisions of the following R&A policies which are in force during the Championship. Please read these carefully.



Logo and Marks Policy

[CLICK HERE](#)

Anti Corruption and Betting Policy

[CLICK HERE](#)

Anti Doping Policy

[CLICK HERE](#)

PLAYER BENEFITS.

Access to The 131st 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.



Player Lounge



Player Gym

INCLUDED IN ENTRY FEE:
Exclusive Player Gift
Meal on Championship days
Player Pavilion and Lounge Access
Bag Storage
Access to Player Gym & Physiotherapy (Royal Liverpool only)
Access to medical support
Bespoke course guide for each course
Car parking
Range access with Titleist range balls
Pull trolley (if required)
Player Hotel Offers
Access to Championship images
Water, fruit, energy bars, teas, 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 and bag storage in the Player Pavilion.



CADDIES



A limited number of caddies will be available at each course at the competitor's own expense and should be booked early to avoid disappointment.

To book a caddie please contact:

Royal Liverpool

Tel: +44 (0)151 632 5868

Email: pro@royal-liverpool-golf.com

West Lancashire

Tel: +44 (0) 151 924 1076

Email: professional@westlancashiregolf.co.uk



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 R&A TV and broadcast on Sky Sports.



[R&A TV](#)



Official Practice Times:

Thursday 11 June (Pre-Qualifying): 8.00am - 12.30pm

Saturday 13 June: 7.30am–4.00pm

Sunday 14 June: 7.30am–2.30pm

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

Should you wish to practise 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.



PAST CHAMPIONS		
YEAR	WINNER	HOST VENUE
1885	A F Maclellan	Royal Liverpool
1886	Horace Hutchinson	St Andrews
1887	Horace Hutchinson	Royal Liverpool
1888	John Ball Jr	Peaback
1889	John E Ladbay	St Andrews
1890	John Ball Jr	Royal Liverpool
1891	John E Ladbay	St Andrews
1892	John Ball Jr	St George's
1893	Peter Anderson	Peaback
1894	John Ball Jr	Royal Liverpool
1895	Louis McLellan Maclellan	St Andrews
1896	Freddy Tait	St George's
1897	A J T Allen	Worfield
1898	Freddy Tait	Royal Liverpool
1899	John Ball Jr	Peaback
1900	Harold Hilton	St George's
1901	Harold Hilton	St Andrews
1902	Charles Hutchings	Royal Liverpool
1903	Robert Maxwell	Worfield
1904	Walter Travis	Royal St George's
1905	A Gordon Barry	Peaback
1906	James Robb	Royal Liverpool
1907	John Ball Jr	St Andrews
1908	E A Lussan	Royal St George's
1909	Robert Maxwell	Worfield
1910	John Ball Jr	Royal Liverpool
1911	Harold Hilton	Peaback
1912	John Ball Jr	Royal North Devon
1913	Harold Hilton	St Andrews
1914	Lawrence Jenkins	Royal St George's
1915-1919	Suspended during World War I	
1920	Cyrl Talley	Worfield
1921	W H Hunter	Royal Liverpool

Matthis Lefevre of France looks at the Claret Jug & the Amateur Championship trophy on the 1st tee during the Quarter Finals of The Amateur Championship 2025 at Royal St. George's.

PLAYER HOTEL OFFER.

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

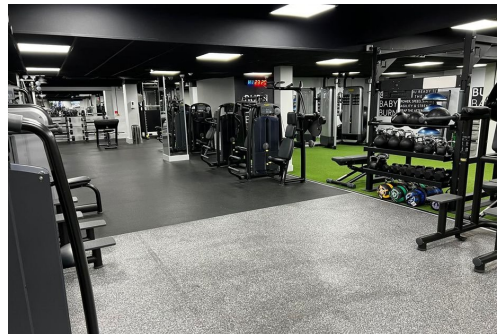
The Village Hotel - Wirral

Has everything you need for a great stay and more - a pool and gym - a Pub and Grill with big screen live sport - Starbucks Coffee Shop and VWorks Co-working space.

As a player in The Amateur Championship, you have access to a preferred rate at the Village Hotel Wirral, this offer is for 10% off the best available rate.

Promo code: RAAAC

To book [click here.](#)



The Waterfront Hotel – Southport

Overlooks the serene Marine Lake and is just steps from Southport's top attractions. Soak up the sun in the Roof Garden & Bar before enjoying a meal at the Waterfront Marina Restaurant.

As a player in The Amateur Championship, you have access to a preferred rate at the Waterfront Hotel, this offer is for 20% off the best available rate.

Promo code: EVENTBB

To book [click here.](#)



ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL.

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



Accommodation

Local accommodation options can be found at:
www.visitwirral.com/accommodation/



Ferry Terminal

Liverpool Ferry Port is just a short drive from both venues.



Taxi

Local Taxis are available at competitors' own cost.

Sevens Call Back Cars
Tel: +44 (0) 151 677 7777
Royal Liverpool Area

Central Cabs
Tel: +44 (0) 1704 544414
West Lancashire Area

Uber is also available in the area



Airports

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

Liverpool John Lennon Airport
(22 miles West Lancashire, 40 miles Royal Liverpool)
www.liverpoolairport.com

Manchester Airport
(44 miles West Lancashire, 50 miles Royal Liverpool)
www.manchesterairport.co.uk



Train

Royal Liverpool – Hoylake Station (1 mile)
West Lancashire – Hall Road Station (200yards)



Car

If traveling by car, please follow the AA Signs to both venues.

2027 HOST VENUE.



ROYAL PORTRUSH – THE DUNLUCE

Originally designed by the legendary Harry Colt, the breathtaking course offers sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean. In preparation for The Open in 2019, architect Martin Ebert led a major redesign beginning in 2015. Over the next 18 months, the shifting sands gave way to the construction of five new greens, eight new tee boxes, 10 new bunkers, and the creation of two new holes, the 7th and 8th, on land that was once part of the Valley Links.

The result is a magnificent layout that provides a fair and scenically stunning challenge for golfers to enjoy. Royal Portrush has hosted The Open Championship on three occasions, 1951 (Max Faulkner), 2029 (Shane Lowry) and 2025 (Scottie Scheffler).



ROYAL PORTRUSH – THE VALLEY

Set on stunning natural seaside turf, the Valley is a full-length championship course that proudly hosts one of the two qualifying rounds for the North of Ireland Open Championship each year.

The natural hazards of the course present a stern test for low-handicap golfers, and accuracy is needed in approach shots to the small, cleverly sited greens.

It was here that Graeme McDowell, Portrush's Ryder Cup hero, U.S. Open Champion, and European Tour winner, honed the skills that would carry him to the world stage. Today, the Valley continues to earn acclaim, consistently ranked among the top 40 golf courses in Ireland.

R&A THE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

www.randa.org

Championship Enquiries and Withdrawals: amateurentries@randa.org

Royal Liverpool Golf Club
Meols Drive
Hoyle
CH47 4AL

West Lancashire Golf Club
Hall Round W
Blundellsands
Liverpool
L23 8SZ

www.royal-liverpool-golf.com

Tel: +44 (0) 151 632 3101

www.westlancashiregolf.co.uk

Tel: +44 (0) 151 924 1076

