

The R&A Review 2016|17



Contents

Foreword	1
Review	2 – 3
The Open	4 – 5
Championships and International Matches	6 – 7
Rules	8 – 9
Research and Testing	10 – 11
Working for Golf	12 – 13
Working for Golf Ambassadors	14 – 15
Sustainability	16 – 17
Heritage	18 – 19
World Amateur Golf Ranking	20 – 21
Olympic Golf	22 – 23
Timeline	24 – 25
Affiliated Organisations	26 – 27
Executive Management	28



Foreword

Welcome to our review of the activities of The R&A for 2016/17. It was a very good year. Our merger with the Ladies' Golf Union became a reality and a historic arrangement that divided the administration of our sport at the Home of Golf was removed. Our staff and committee structures will now function as one.

We actively promote the view that golf will grow as a family-based sport and putting the administration of women's and men's golf in the same place makes absolute sense. In recent years, we have invested heavily in the presentation of the men's amateur and professional events in The R&A portfolio. Now we will invest again in the championships and international matches that have been nurtured, skilfully, with lesser resources in the women's branch of our sport.

At the pinnacle of the professional game The Open and the Ricoh British Women's Open gave us champions in 2016 who will inspire a new generation of golfers. Henrik Stenson triumphed at Royal Troon to become the first male Swede to win a Major and Ariya Jutanugarn became the first Thai Major winner at Woburn. Stenson followed up by taking Silver in the men's competition at the Olympic Games in Rio behind Justin Rose while Inbee Park performed brilliantly to win Gold in the women's event.

Golf enjoyed a hugely memorable return to the Olympic Games and the exposure the sport received will help us to reach new participants and audiences for golf around the world.

Growing the game is a key part of our long-term strategy and removing any potential brakes on the development of the sport also commands our full attention. Acting with our governance partner, the USGA, we are proposing a generational shift for the Rules of Golf. We are consulting golfers worldwide on a range of measures designed to modernise the Rules and help improve pace of play.

Good governance requires active management of the Rules and vigilance to protect the integrity of the sport. The opening of our new Research and Testing Centre, Allan Robertson House, at Kingsbarns near St Andrews, shows our commitment to this task. Allan Robertson was a legendary figure in the game in the middle of the 19th century, the first player to break 80 on the Old Course and a renowned maker of feathery golf balls in St Andrews. Now golf balls and equipment used by two thirds of the world's golfers in the 21st century will be tested for conformity to the Rules in a facility that bears his name.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Clive Edginton'.

Clive Edginton
Chairman, The R&A



Above:
The R&A and Ladies' Golf Union signed a historic agreement in 2016 to merge the two organisations



Review

Achieving excellence in the delivery of our responsibilities at The R&A is down to the expertise of our committees and our outstanding team of staff. Together they ensure that careful, thoughtful and informed consideration is given to the issues facing us. Our actions and deliberations are driven by balancing our responsibilities to the sport of golf and the desire for our sport to be modern and reflective of today's society by becoming more accessible and more affordable. 2016 saw important progress made toward both of these goals and our core objective of nurturing our sport for future generations.

Firstly, The R&A and the Ladies' Golf Union completed a historic merger which took effect on 1 January 2017 and The R&A now works across men's, women's, boys' and girls' golf. We will bring the Ricoh Women's British Open and 12 amateur championships and international matches together into a broader and more diverse portfolio of events. Our efforts to support these events in the coming year will reflect the high importance we place on developing this sport for all the family.

Secondly, after five years of hard work we released a new draft version of the Rules of Golf and launched what is probably the most wide-ranging consultation among all involved in our sport on the merits of the new proposals. Golfers around the world have until the end of August 2017 to comment on the proposed changes which are intended to modernise the Rules, adopt plain language and write the Rules from the perspective of the player.

Embedded within the proposals are some important measures directly targeted at improving pace of play. We published a manual in 2016 outlining key approaches to improving pace of play which was well received across the sport. We continue to believe that it is imperative for everyone involved in golf to take this matter seriously and to help improve the profile of our sport particularly for young players.

The Open enables us to showcase what is great about our sport and provide a platform for the world's greatest players to perform. It not only enables us to inspire participation but also to engage with a global audience of over 500 million households.



At Royal Troon we witnessed an epic duel at the Championship, despite adverse weather, with Henrik Stenson and Phil Mickelson producing some of the most outstanding golf ever seen in The Open on the final day. It was Stenson who lifted the Claret Jug trophy after carding a Major Championship record-equalling final round score of 63 with the 2013 Champion Golfer of the Year just two shots back.

The financial success of The Open enables us to deliver on our governance commitments and support the continuing development of golf around the world. Over the next ten years it will enable us to invest £200 million into our sport. The Open also delivers significant economic value to the region that hosts the event. In 2016, The Open at Royal Troon delivered a total economic benefit for Scotland of £110 million and we are working to deliver a cumulative economic benefit to the UK and Irish economy of £1 billion over the next ten years.

In the financial year to 31 December 2016, we reported an operating profit of £8.8m (2015, £1.6m) net of our Working for Golf and global governance spend in the year of £14.5m (2015, £11.8m) and the costs to stage amateur events of £1.4m (2015, £1.9m).

This has been an exciting and historic year for The R&A. I would like to thank all who have contributed to this success as well as all the volunteers throughout our sport who give up their time to support this wonderful game. It is greatly appreciated.

Martin Slumbers
Chief Executive, The R&A



The Open

The 145th Open at Royal Troon will be remembered for one of the finest individual performances in a final round of a Major Championship. A record-equalling round of 63, including ten birdies, was posted by Henrik Stenson to win The Open by three strokes from Phil Mickelson, who closed with a round of 65. The gripping duel between the two golfers immediately produced comparisons with the dramatic 'Duel in the Sun' between Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus at Turnberry in 1977.

Stenson, who became Sweden's first ever male Major Championship winner, set a new 72-hole Championship record of 264, 20-under-par and the new Champion Golfer of the Year was warmly applauded by the Royal Troon galleries as he lifted the Claret Jug.

Over 170,000 spectators visited Royal Troon during the week of the Championship, while the most comprehensive television and digital coverage in the history of The Open made it possible for millions of fans to watch and listen to the action across digital, radio and television channels, including the Championship's broadcast partners Sky and NBC.

With 5,400 hours of coverage broadcast globally, The Open reached more than 500 million households on television. In the

week of the Championship, TheOpen.com registered 6.3 million unique users and on social media The Open content was seen 120 million times across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat.

The R&A introduced several successful initiatives for the Championship. A new Camping Village helped a younger audience to access The Open and proved very popular among those who enjoyed a stay at the free site.

Twilight Tickets, which enabled spectators to enjoy play from 4pm on Thursday and Friday of the Championship at a reduced price, were made available for the first time, while a new Autograph Zone gave youngsters the opportunity to meet the world's leading golfers for signing memorabilia and photo opportunities.

The R&A's 'Kids Go Free' initiative enabled individuals under 16-years-old to attend the Championship free of charge, while Youth Tickets were also available for those aged 16-24.

A new nine hole championship was staged shortly before The Open as part of The R&A's efforts to promote shorter formats of the game as a quick and enjoyable way to play golf either socially or competitively. A group of 30 amateur men and women golfers played in the final of the pilot event.

Above:
A new camping village at The Open proved a hit with spectators under 25

Opposite:
The Champion Golfer of the Year, Henrik Stenson

Henrik Stenson and Phil Mickelson reflect on their enthralling duel at Royal Troon



Championships and International Matches

The 121st Amateur Championship was played at Royal Porthcawl and Pyle & Kenfig on the South Wales coastline. 288 players from 30 countries provided the starting field continuing The Amateur's reputation for attracting one of the world's strongest and most international fields.

In the 36-hole Final, Scott Gregory was crowned the 2016 champion following a hard fought 2&1 win over Scotland's Robert MacIntyre. The 21-year-old from Hampshire became the 47th Englishman to lift the trophy in the Championship's history. Gregory also earned an exemption into The 145th Open at Royal Troon, where he briefly led the Championship after ten holes of the first round, and the Masters and the US Open in 2017.

The biennial Junior Open was held at Kilmarnock (Barassie) immediately before The Open at Royal Troon. Pedro Lencart Silva posted a final round six-under-par 67 to seal a convincing win. The 16-year-old from Portugal finished five strokes ahead of Mexico's Valeria Pacheco.

American Chip Lutz completed a hat-trick of Seniors Amateur Championship wins in dramatic fashion at Formby. The 2011 and 2012 champion defeated compatriot Brady Exber, who won in 2014, and Scotland's Graham Bell on the first hole of a sudden death play-off to continue the United States' recent dominance of this event.

The Boys Home Internationals were hosted at Ballyliffin, Donegal where England produced a strong final day performance to beat holders Scotland 9-6 and regain the trophy they had narrowly lost to the same opponents in 2015. England have now won the Boys Home Internationals 15 times in the last 20 years.

In the 90th Boys Amateur Championship, staged at Muirfield and the Renaissance, Falko Hanisch defeated Spanish youngster Alejandro Aguilera on the first extra hole of an enthralling 36-hole Final to become the second golfer from Germany to win the championship following Bernhard Neumann's 3&2 victory over Jordan Findlay in 2005.

The biennial International Match between Great Britain and Ireland and the Continent of Europe for the St Andrews Trophy finished tied 12½-12½ at Prince's, Kent and, at the same venue, the Continent of Europe defeated GB&I 13½-11½ in the annual boys' International Match to win the Jacques Leglise Trophy for the first time in four years.

The World Amateur Team Championships were staged at Mayakoba El Camaleon and Playa Paraiso courses on the Riviera Maya in Mexico. Australia triumphed by an impressive 19 strokes to win the Eisenhower Trophy (men) for the first time since 1996, while Korea won the Espirito Santo Trophy (women) for a fourth time by a record-equalling 21 strokes.

The eighth Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship took place at the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club in Incheon, Korea and Australian Curtis Luck overcame a seven-stroke deficit to secure a one-shot victory over his compatriot Brett Coletta.

Chilean Toto Gana won a dramatic three-way sudden death play-off against fellow countryman Joaquin Niemann and Alvaro Ortiz of Mexico to win the third Latin America Amateur Championship in Panama.

Following the merger with the Ladies' Golf Union, The R&A will stage a series of prestigious women's championships and international matches for the first time in 2017.

Highlights in 2016 included Great Britain and Ireland's win in the Curtis Cup against the United States while Julia Engstrom became the youngest ever winner of the Ladies British Open Amateur Championship.

Above:
The Great Britain and Ireland team who won the Curtis Cup at Enniskerry, Ireland

Opposite:
The 121st Amateur Champion, Scott Gregory

Hyun Kyung Park of Korea tees off in the World Amateur Team Championships



Rules

The R&A and the USGA unveiled a preview of the proposed new Rules of Golf as part of a joint initiative to modernise the Rules and make them easier to understand and apply.

The online release of this preview began a six-month feedback and evaluation period during which all golfers worldwide can learn about the proposed changes and provide input before they are finalised in 2018 and take effect on 1 January 2019.

The announcement followed a comprehensive review process that began in 2012 with a working group of key R&A and USGA Rules administrators, professional tour officials and other Rules experts. While the Rules are revised every four years, this is the first fundamental review since 1984, and was established to ensure the Rules fit the needs of today's game and the way it is played around the world.

The R&A and the USGA also introduced a new Local Rule to the Rules of Golf that eliminates the penalty when a ball is accidentally moved on the putting green. The Local Rule will be adopted by The R&A in all of its championships, qualifying competitions and international matches and was welcomed by the PGA TOUR, European Tour, LPGA, PGA of America and the Masters Tournament.

Rules Education is an important focus of The R&A and a series of training events are held around the world each year.

Around 90 delegates from 45 countries gathered in St Andrews to take part in the annual Tournament Administrators and Referees School (TARS). The school at the Fairmont St Andrews resort gave delegates the opportunity to undertake the Level 3 Rules Exam, the last stage of The R&A's three-tier qualification process designed to help students achieve the standard of a tournament official or referee.

TARS events were held overseas in South America in conjunction with the Argentine Golf Association and Brazil Golf Confederation. 99 participants attended in total and took part in practical demonstrations, sessions on refereeing and tournament administration.

More than 100 delegates from across Africa also gathered to take part in TARS events in Cape Town and Johannesburg. The participants travelled from a range of countries including Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa.

A new manual giving guidance to golf clubs and golfers on ways to improve pace of play was published. The manual was compiled following an extensive global survey which attracted responses from over 56,000 golfers and the Time for Golf conference in St Andrews in 2015, which discussed a range of issues and ways to improve pace of play.

The Pace of Play manual provides practical guidance in the three key areas of course management, course set-up and player behaviour. It was distributed to The R&A's 152 affiliated organisations around the world and every golf club in Great Britain and Ireland.

The Rules of Golf mobile app is now available on iOS and Android platforms in four languages, including English, Chinese, German and Spanish. Future versions in Japanese, Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, Czech and Korean are also planned.

Over 20,000 registered users have signed up to The R&A's Rules Academy, a fun and interactive way for golfers of all ages and abilities to learn about the Rules of Golf and Etiquette.

Opposite:
Delegates attend the annual Tournament and Referees School in St Andrews

The R&A and USGA announced a set of proposals to modernise the Rules of Golf



Research and Testing

The R&A and USGA jointly published the second research document reporting important facts on driving distance in professional golf. Supporting data provided from seven tours was published, contributing accurate and factual information on an issue that is frequently debated in the golf industry.

The study found that between 2003 and 2016, average driving distance on four of the seven tours increased about 1.2%, while on the other three tours studied, driving distance decreased by 1.5% during the same period.

The driving distance report is published annually as part of The R&A and USGA's continual monitoring of equipment technology's effect on the game. The aim is to achieve greater transparency on decisions that will affect key issues in golf.

The new R&A Research and Testing Centre at Kingsbarns has been completed and has been named Allan Robertson House. Based in St Andrews, Allan Robertson was an important manufacturer and exporter of golf balls during the 19th century and was a pre-eminent golfer of his time, becoming the first individual to score under 80 on the Old Course in St Andrews.

Allan Robertson House is an important addition to The R&A's portfolio of facilities and will house a range of state-of-the-art testing equipment, two ball-striking robots and an indoor testing range for golf balls. Staff from The R&A's Equipment Standards department have relocated there.

The centre will enable The R&A to conduct its own testing of golf balls submitted throughout its jurisdiction, amounting to approximately two thirds of the world's golf balls.

*Opposite:
The R&A and USGA released the annual Driving Distance report*

Allan Robertson House, The R&A's new Research and Testing Centre



Photo: Matt Greaves

Working for Golf

The R&A is committed to enhancing golf's global appeal and supporting the development of the sport at all levels by working with its affiliates to provide services, expertise and resources. The R&A invests £10 million each year into supporting golf initiatives around the world, largely through its Working for Golf programme.

To establish golf as one of the country's leading national sports, the Oman Golf Committee introduced Soft Golf to its junior schools, providing pupils with opportunities to try golf for the first time. The R&A delivered golf equipment to help support the launch of the programme in 15 schools and it will be used by youngsters in PE sessions and after-school activities. It also funded the provision of a SwingZone for adults and youngsters at the European Challenge Tour's NBO Golf Classic Grand Final at Almouj Golf, which was delivered by the Oman Golf Committee.

Aspiring young golfers in Myanmar and Nepal benefited from coaching clinics as part of The R&A's grassroots work in the Asia-Pacific region. Australian coach Kim Baldwin spent time in both countries running sessions for up and coming players. These included the Thailand Amateur Open and Putra Cup to coach Myanmar's leading young players and the Faldo Series at Gokarna Forest in Nepal.

The biennial Junior Open was staged at Kilmarnock (Barassie) with 143 boy and girl golfers representing 80 countries; a record entry. The Junior Open fulfils two development objectives: to provide talented young players with a platform to compete against one another at a venue very close to The Open and for The R&A to provide opportunities to work with its affiliates.

The R&A continues to support student golf through its Foundation Scholars' scheme by providing financial assistance to over 100 individual scholars so they can continue to play competitive golf during their studies at university. The R&A Foundation Scholars' tournament takes place each year in St Andrews. The men's competition was won by Switzerland's Mathias Eggenberger with Chloe Ryan from Ireland triumphing in the women's event.



A new digital campaign to promote nine hole golf as a quick and enjoyable way to play golf, either socially or competitively, was launched at Royal Troon and was supported by the leading golf bodies in Great Britain and Ireland, including The R&A. The world's top golfers, including R&A Working for Golf Ambassador Pdraig Harrington, supported the campaign. A group of 30 amateur men and women golfers participated in the final of the new event on the eve of The Open.

Organisations supporting golfers with disabilities benefited from increased funding packages from The R&A. One such organisation is the European Disabled Golf Association (EDGA), which receives £10,000 annually. The Association supports a variety of projects promoting golf development for individuals with impairment, as well as organising competitions for disabled players. Other supported organisations include The Scottish Blind Golf Society, On Course Foundation, England and Wales Blind Golf and The Society of One-Armed Golfers.

The R&A provides £500,000 to the Golf Foundation each year as part of its continued investment in golf development and education. Street Golf was launched in partnership with a number of English Premier League football clubs to help young people get into golf. A nine hole event using Crystal Palace's Selhurst Park was used to launch this initiative which offers an immediate link to a range of local community sports projects across the UK and signposts further opportunities for youngsters at golf facilities in their area.

The Golf and Health Project, supported by the World Golf Foundation (WGF) and The R&A, released a new academic study by researchers at The University of Edinburgh which highlighted the health benefits of playing golf. A motion was tabled in the House of Commons welcoming the review which highlighted the considerable physical and mental health benefits derived from playing the sport.

Above:
The R&A supported Disability Golf initiatives around Great Britain and Ireland

Opposite:
Mathias Eggenberger and Chole Ryan, R&A Foundation Scholars Tournament winners
Youngsters enjoy taking part in the Golf Foundation's Street Golf programme



Working for Golf Ambassadors

With the proceeds from the success of The Open, The R&A invests £10 million each year to support golf development activities, Rules education and the staging of amateur events.

Under the Working for Golf banner, the organisation works with its 152 affiliates, representing 140 countries, to support a variety of initiatives that seek to grow the game and encourage participation in golf.

The R&A's Working for Golf Ambassadors Suzann Pettersen, Pdraig Harrington and Liang Wen-Chong all play an important role in helping to raise awareness and support the organisation's initiatives.

The R&A introduced a new nine hole championship, the final of which was staged at Royal Troon on the eve of The 145th Open, to demonstrate support for this shorter form of the game as an ideal way to play golf either socially or competitively in less time. The inaugural event was open to club golfers and gave them the opportunity to play nine holes at the historic Ayrshire links.

Harrington, who memorably won The Open at Carnoustie in 2007 and at Royal Birkdale in 2008, supported the launch of the initiative by appearing in a promotional video alongside a number of the leading men's and women's players speaking about the benefits of playing nine hole golf.

"People who want to play golf are increasingly struggling to find the time to play and so positioning nine hole golf as a legitimate alternative makes a lot of sense," he said. "I'm really pleased to see The R&A taking the lead in this area."

In 2017, the event will be expanded and opened up to golf clubs throughout Great Britain and Ireland with players being given the opportunity to qualify at nine hole events organised by The R&A's affiliates in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The R&A launched the Rules of Golf mobile application in Chinese, a free interactive tool that allows Chinese amateur and professional golfers to access the latest Rules from all mobile devices including iOS and Android platforms. This launch was supported by Liang Wen-Chong who has participated in a number of Rules education initiatives on behalf of The R&A.

The R&A continues to work with Suzann Pettersen to support her Pro Challenge event in Norway which promotes participation in the sport.

Above:
Suzann Pettersen

Opposite:
Liang Wen-Chong promoted the launch of The R&A's Rules App in China

Padraig Harrington



Sustainability

The R&A continues to promote and support sustainable management in golf through its international advocacy, raising awareness and technology.

GreenLinks, The Open's programme for sustainable development, addresses the broader sustainability considerations around staging the Championship and provided legacy funding to three local projects in St Andrews following The 144th Open in 2015.

The West Sands Dune Restoration project was established after the world famous beach suffered significant storm damage and substantial loss of sand on the dunes. Support from The R&A enabled the most recent phase of the project to be completed, which included the rebuilding of sand dunes, installing new fencing on the dunes and protecting the dunes by managing access to the beach by members of the public.

The R&A also supported Keep Scotland Beautiful's Biodiversity Challenge, which offers local school pupils and community members practical ways to increase their knowledge of and improve local biodiversity. The activities included in-school workshops, encouraging pupils to consider how they could improve their school grounds for different species, a beach clean in St Andrews and a wildflower meadow-sowing event.

St Andrews University has been able to install a series of public noticeboards highlighting biodiversity across the University Estate

thanks to legacy funding from The R&A. These will make current biodiversity projects across St Andrews more visible to the public and produce further opportunities for both recreational and educational purposes.

Local sustainability projects in South Ayrshire have also been supported after The 145th Open visited Royal Troon, including the Irvine to Girvan Nectar Network, which reintroduced a small but significant population of Small Blue butterflies to the south west of Scotland.

As part of The R&A's Greenkeeping Scholarship programme, three scholars were given the experience of a lifetime, working with the greenkeeping team at the Rio 2016 Olympics during golf's historic return to the Games. Under the guidance of Golf Course Superintendent Neil Cleverly, the scholars were given the opportunity to prepare the Gil Hanse course at the Reserva de Marapendi for the men's and women's competitions won by Justin Rose and Inbee Park.

The R&A's advocacy of sustainability in golf also extends to supporting a range of major industry events. The R&A staged two successful Sustainability in Golf seminars in China and Thailand, where hundreds of golf club officials, course operators and developers heard from leading international and local experts on sustainable practice to encourage responsible and practical golf facility development, renovation and course management.

*Opposite:
Sustainability in Golf seminars were hosted in Japan and Korea*

Scholars of The R&A's Greenkeeping Scholarship Programme attended the Rio Olympics



Heritage

The British Golf Museum contributed to an exhibition on the history and development of golf at the Museum of Sports and Tourism in Warsaw, Poland. Entitled *'The Evolution of Golf'*, the exhibition featured a large number of valuable artefacts, images and supporting information about the development of the sport.

The Museum was also invited to contribute to an exhibition at the Chateau de Versailles in France, which celebrated *'Festivities and Entertainment at Court'* during the reign of King Louis XIV from 1638 to 1718. Among the highlights of the exhibition were a Jeu de Mail club, loaned by the museum, which was included in a display on the outdoor games and pursuits played during this period.

During VisitScotland's *'Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design'*, artworks and photography documenting the historic development and milestones of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews Clubhouse were presented from the Club's collection in a display entitled *'Monumental Changes: The Architectural Evolution of Golf's Most Iconic Building'*. Seven major building phases, carried out between 1854 and 1924, were featured to show how the Clubhouse evolved to become the familiar building that it is today,



recognised by golfers worldwide and regarded as a significant example of Scottish architecture.

Over 2,000 school pupils in Glasgow and South Ayrshire were given the opportunity to get up close to one of the world's most historic trophies ahead of The 145th Open at Royal Troon. In partnership with both Glasgow City Council and South Ayrshire Council, the Claret Jug toured schools in the region with British Golf Museum members of staff, who provided pupils with a presentation on the history of the Championship and why it is so highly prized.

More than 1,000 pupils learned about the history of The Open and The Amateur Championship as part of a schools tour in South Wales when The Amateur was staged at Royal Porthcawl and Pyle & Kenfig in June.

The R&A's Heritage Department acquires important artefacts significant to the history of golf. A painting of the original clubhouse of the St Andrews Ladies' Putting Club from the 1890's was secured. This will feature in an exhibition in the British Golf Museum in 2017 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Ladies' Putting Club.

Above:
Attendees gather at *'The Evolution of Golf'* exhibition in Warsaw

Opposite:
Exhibits from The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews Clubhouse featured in *'Monumental Changes: The Architectural Evolution of Golf's Most Iconic Building'*



**WORLD
AMATEUR
GOLF
RANKING™**

World Amateur Golf Ranking™

The WORLD AMATEUR GOLF RANKING™ (WAGR™) is jointly administered by The R&A and United States Golf Association (USGA). It is the established benchmark for elite, amateur, golfers to measure their performance against that of their peers.

The men's ranking encompasses more than 2,300 counting events, ranking more than 6,500 players from 101 countries worldwide. The women's ranking has a calendar of more than 1,320 counting events with over 3,190 ranked players from 72 countries worldwide. It is available to national federations and organisers of amateur and professional events and tours as a criterion for tournament field selection and for purposes of exemptions, national team selection and orders of merit.

Each year the leading golfer in each ranking is awarded the Mark H McCormack Medal. The award is named after Mark H McCormack, the late founder of sports marketing company IMG and an avid supporter of amateur golf. In 2016, the honour for the women's ranking went to Ireland's Leona Maguire for the second consecutive season and for the men's ranking to Maverick McNealy of the United States.

Maguire secured exemptions into the Ricoh Women's British Open at Kingsbarns and the US Women's Open and McNealy into The 146th Open at Royal Birkdale and the US Open in 2017.

Maguire played a significant role in Great Britain and Ireland's Curtis Cup win against the USA, contributing four points to the 11½-8½ victory. It was her third appearance on the GB&I team.

The 22-year-old won the Smyth Salver after finishing as the leading amateur at the Ricoh Women's British Open at Woburn, in a tie for 25th place, and played in the US Women's Open at CordeValle.

As a Duke University college student, Maguire was selected for the Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) All-Region squads, the Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) All-America first team and the 2015-16 Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) All-American Scholars Team, which recognises academic as well as athletic excellence.

In August, Maguire represented Ireland at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

McNealy is the sixth American to win the McCormack Medal.

A first-team All-American, McNealy won four collegiate events in 2016 for Stanford University and made the cut at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, his only PGA TOUR start of the year. In four career PGA TOUR starts, McNealy has made the cut three times.

The 20-year-old was named Pac-12 Conference Player of the Year for the second consecutive year, one of only six golfers, including Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, to do so.

McNealy won four events in 2016: the Western Intercollegiate, where he shot a tournament record total of 194, the lowest ever by a Stanford golfer, the Gifford Collegiate, the US Collegiate and the Illinois Invitational. He is tied with Patrick Rodgers for the second-most career wins at Stanford with ten, one behind Woods' 11.

Opposite:
Leona Maguire

Maverick McNealy



Olympic Golf

After a 112-year absence, golf made a successful return to the Olympic Games for the first time since 1904 when the men's and women's competitions took place in Rio, Brazil.

Since 2009, The R&A has supported the International Golf Federation (IGF) and Rio 2016 Local Organising Committee in the delivery of the golf competitions, including the design and construction of the Olympic golf course at Reserva de Marapendi and the successful test event.

In the men's competition, Great Britain's Justin Rose became golf's first Gold Medallist in the Games since George Lyon of Canada.

On a sun-drenched final day in front of a sell-out crowd of 12,000 spectators, Rose added the Olympic crown to his 2013 US Open title after an exciting duel down the stretch with Sweden's Henrik Stenson, who had won The Open at Royal Troon only a month earlier.

The packed galleries looked on as Rose got up-and-down from the side of the 18th green for the birdie which sealed a memorable victory.

Stenson, who knew he needed to hole a 25-footer of his own to force a play-off, three-putted and the first Olympic golf competition since 1904 had a new champion.

Stenson, who emerged on top after a similarly enthralling duel with Phil Mickelson in The Open, had to settle for second place this time and the silver medal was a deserving reward for his part in a wonderful spectacle which saw Matt Kuchar of the United States also claim the bronze medal after a course record-equalling last round of 63.

Inbee Park of the Republic of Korea captured Asia's first Olympic golf gold medal when she completed a remarkable recovery from injury to underline her status as one of the modern greats of the women's game.

The 28-year-old from Seoul recorded her third sublime 66 to win the first women's competition since 1900 by five shots from New Zealand's Lydia Ko and by six from Shanshan Feng of China.

Park turned the final day in front of a sell-out crowd into a stunning exhibition of brilliantly controlled golf, extending her lead from two strokes overnight into a commanding five-shot victory over world No.1 Ko, who rolled in a seven-foot birdie putt on the 72nd hole for a 69 to claim the silver medal. Feng matched Ko's closing score to take the bronze.

All six medals awarded in the two golf competitions were distributed among different nations – Korea, New Zealand and China in the women's competition and Great Britain, Sweden and the United States in the men's event.

Above:
Olympic Golf was considered a success with sell-out crowds in Rio

Opposite:
Inbee Park won the Gold Medal in the women's competition

Justin Rose won the men's competition

Timeline 2016|17

April 2016



Ladies European Tour rookie Rosie Davies achieved 100 per cent in her Rules Academy exam

May 2016



Photo: Lincolnshire School Games

The R&A funded disability golf initiatives throughout Great Britain and Ireland

May 2016



The R&A publishes Pace of Play Manual

June 2016



Adults and youngsters give golf a go at Street Golf, a Golf Foundation initiative

July 2016



30 men and women amateur golfers took part in The R&A's 9-Hole Championship at Royal Troon

August 2016



Thailand's Ariya Jutanugarn won the Ricoh Women's British Open at Woburn

September 2016



Australia won the Eisenhower Trophy at the World Amateur Team Championships in Mexico

September 2016



The world of golf remembered the great Arnold Palmer following his passing aged 87

October 2016



Asia-Pacific Amateur Champion Curtis Luck (pictured right) and runner-up Brett Coletta

November 2016



The R&A opened a new office at Sentosa Golf Club in Singapore

December 2016



The R&A and Ladies' Golf Union completed the merger of the two organisations

January 2017



Winner of the Latin America Amateur Championship, Toto Gana of Chile

February 2017

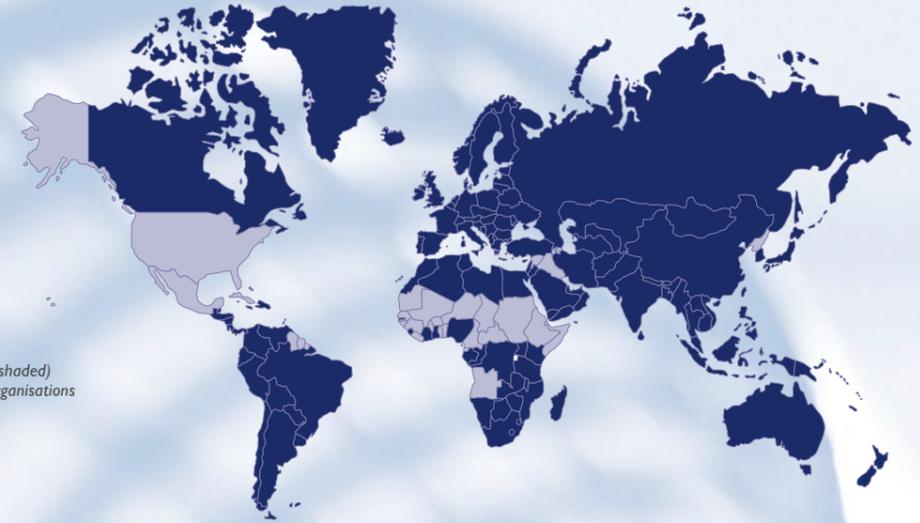


The Ladies' European Tour (LET) and LET Access Tour will receive an increase in R&A funding in 2017

March 2017



The R&A and USGA announced proposals for modernising the Rules of Golf



Right:
Map – 140 countries (shaded)
host national golfing organisations
affiliated to The R&A

Affiliated Organisations

The R&A has national affiliated organisations in 140 countries and territories in Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa and Oceania and a further 12 transnational affiliated organisations.

Europe

- Albanian Golf Association Albania
- National Golf Association of Armenia Armenia
- Austrian Golf Association Austria
- Azerbaijan Golf Federation Republic of Azerbaijan
- Royal Belgian Golf Federation Belgium
- Bulgarian Golf Association Bulgaria
- Cyprus Golf Federation Cyprus
- Czech Golf Federation Czech Republic
- Danish Golf Union Denmark
- England Golf England
- Estonian Golf Association Estonia
- Finnish Golf Union Finland
- French Golf Federation France
- Georgian Golf Federation, Georgia Georgia
- German Golf Association Germany
- Hellenic Golf Federation Greece
- Hungarian Golf Federation Hungary
- Golf Union of Iceland Iceland
- Golfing Union of Ireland Ireland
- Irish Ladies Golf Union Ireland
- Israel Golf Federation Israel

- Italian Golf Federation Italy
- Latvian Golf Federation Latvia
- Lithuanian Golf Federation Lithuania
- Luxembourg Golf Federation Luxembourg
- Macedonian Golf Federation Macedonia
- Malta Golf Association Malta
- Netherlands Golf Federation Netherlands
- Norwegian Golf Federation Norway
- Polish Golf Union Poland
- Portuguese Golf Federation Portugal
- Romanian Golf Federation Romania
- Russian Golf Association Russian Federation
- Scottish Golf Limited Scotland
- Golf Association of Serbia Serbia
- Slovak Golf Association Slovakia
- Golf Association of Slovenia Slovenia
- Royal Spanish Golf Federation Spain
- Swedish Golf Federation Sweden
- Swiss Golf Association Switzerland
- Turkish Golf Federation Turkey
- Ukrainian Golf Federation Ukraine
- Golf Union of Wales Wales

The Americas

- Argentine Golf Association Argentina
- Bahamas Golf Federation Bahamas
- Barbados Golf Association Barbados
- Belize Amateur Golf Association Belize
- Bermuda Golf Association Bermuda
- Bolivian Golf Federation Bolivia
- Brazilian Golf Confederation Brazil
- Golf Canada Canada
- Cayman Islands Golf Association Cayman Islands
- Chilean Golf Federation Chile
- Colombian Golf Federation Colombia
- Costa Rica Golf Association Costa Rica
- Curacao Golf Association Curacao
- Dominican Republic Golf Association Dominican Republic
- Ecuador Golf Federation Ecuador
- El Salvador Golf Federation El Salvador
- Falkland Islands Golf Association Falkland Islands
- Guatemala National Golf Association Guatemala
- Guyana Golf Union Guyana
- Honduras Golf Federation Honduras
- Jamaica Golf Association Jamaica

- Nicaraguan Golf Federation Nicaragua
- Panama Golf Association Panama
- Paraguay Golf Association Paraguay
- Peruvian Golf Federation Peru
- Puerto Rico Golf Federation Puerto Rico
- St Maarten Golf Association Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Trinidad & Tobago Golf Association Trinidad & Tobago
- Uruguay Golf Association Uruguay
- Venezuela Golf Federation Venezuela
- Virgin Islands Golf Federation US Virgin Islands
- Asia**
- Afghanistan Golf Federation Afghanistan
- Bahrain Golf Association Bahrain
- Bangladesh Golf Federation Bangladesh
- Royal Bhutan Golf Federation Bhutan
- Cambodian Golf Federation Cambodia
- China Golf Association People's Republic of China
- Chinese Taipei Golf Association Chinese Taipei
- Emirates Golf Federation United Arab Emirates
- Hong Kong Golf Association Hong Kong
- Indian Golf Union India
- Indonesian Golf Association Indonesia

- Islamic Republic of Iran Golf Federation Islamic Republic of Iran
- Japan Golf Association Japan
- Jordan Golf Committee Jordan
- Kazakhstan Golf Federation Kazakhstan
- Korea Golf Association Korea
- Golf Federation of Kyrgyzstan Kyrgyzstan
- Lao National Golf Federation Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Lebanese Golf Federation Lebanon
- Malaysian Golf Association Malaysia
- Mongolian Golf Association Mongolia
- Myanmar Golf Federation Myanmar
- Nepal Golf Association Nepal
- Oman Golf Committee Oman
- Pakistan Golf Federation Pakistan
- National Golf Association of the Philippines Philippines
- Qatar Golf Association Qatar
- Saudi Arabian Golf Federation Saudi Arabia
- Singapore Golf Association Singapore
- Sri Lanka Golf Union Sri Lanka
- Thailand Golf Association Thailand
- Vietnam Golf Association Vietnam

Africa

- Algerian Golf Federation Algeria
- Botswana Golf Union Botswana
- Cameroon Golf Federation Cameroon
- Democratic Republic of Congo Golf Federation Democratic Republic of Congo
- Egyptian Golf Federation Egypt
- Gabonese Golf Federation Gabon
- Gambia Golf Association The Gambia
- Ghana Golf Association Ghana
- Ivory Coast Golf Federation Cote d'Ivoire
- Kenya Golf Union Kenya
- Liberia Golf Association Liberia
- Libyan Golf Federation Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- Madagascar Golf Association Madagascar
- Golf Union of Malawi Malawi
- Mauritius Golf Federation Mauritius
- Royal Moroccan Golf Federation Morocco
- Namibia Golf Federation Namibia
- Nigeria Golf Federation Nigeria
- Senegalese Golf Federation Senegal
- Sierra Leone Golf Federation Sierra Leone
- South African Golf Association South Africa
- Swaziland Golf Union Swaziland

- Tanzania Golf Union United Republic of Tanzania
- Tunisian Golf Federation Tunisia
- Uganda Golf Union Uganda
- Zambia Golf Union Zambia
- Zimbabwe Golf Association Zimbabwe
- Oceania**
- Golf Australia Australia
- Cook Islands Golf Federation Cook Islands
- Golf Fiji Fiji
- New Zealand Golf Incorporated New Zealand
- Papua New Guinea Golf Association Papua New Guinea
- Samoa Golf Incorporated Samoa
- Vanuatu Golf Association Vanuatu
- Transnational Affiliated Organisations**
- Africa Golf Confederation
- Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation
- Caribbean Golf Association
- Council of National Golf Unions
- European Golf Association
- Ladies European Tour
- Oceania Golf Union
- PGA European Tour
- Professional Golfers' Association
- PGAs of Europe
- South American Golf Federation



Executive Management



Martin Slumbers, Chief Executive
Neil Armit, Executive Director - Chief Commercial Officer
Johnnie Cole-Hamilton, Executive Director - Championships
John Murray, Executive Director - Finance
David Rickman, Executive Director - Governance & Chief of Staff
Michael Tate, Executive Director - Business Affairs
Duncan Weir, Executive Director - Golf Development



Kevin Barker, Director - Golf Development
Claire Bates, Director - Handicapping
Malcolm Booth, Director - Sales & Marketing
Angus Farquhar, Director - Broadcasting & Licensing
Angela Howe, Director - Museum and Heritage
Steve Isaac, Director - Sustainability
Mark Lawrie, Director - Latin America and The Caribbean



Jim McKane, Chief Accountant
Grant Moir, Director - Rules
Euan Mordaunt, Director - Amateur Events
Dr Steve Otto, Director - Equipment Standards & Chief Technology Officer
Rhodri Price, Director - Championship Operations
Dominic Wall, Director - Asia-Pacific
Michael Wells, Director - Championship Staging



Based in St Andrews, The R&A runs The Open, elite amateur events, international matches and rankings. Together The R&A and the USGA govern the sport of golf worldwide, operating in separate jurisdictions but sharing a commitment to a single code for the Rules of Golf, Rules of Amateur Status and Equipment Standards. The R&A, through R&A Rules Ltd, governs the sport worldwide, outside of the United States and Mexico, on behalf of over 36 million golfers in 140 countries and with the consent of 152 organisations from amateur and professional golf.

The R&A is committed to working for golf, supporting the growth of the sport internationally and the development and management of sustainable golf facilities.



RandA.org

The R&A, St Andrews, Fife, Scotland KY16 9JD
telephone: +44 (0)1334 460 000 fax: +44 (0)1334 460 001
info@randa.org www.RandA.org www.TheOpen.com