



R&A

THE AMATEUR

CHAMPIONSHIP

PLAYER HANDBOOK

The 128th Amateur Championship

19 – 24 June 2023

Hillside and Southport & Ainsdale

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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 2023, pre-qualifying for non-exempt players will take place at Southport & Ainsdale. 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. The lowest 64 scores and ties will compete in the match play stage of the Championship over Hillside. Each match will consist of one round of 18 holes, except the Final which will be played over 36 holes.



Aldrich Potgieter, 2022 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.



Aldrich Potgieter, 2022 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 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.



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 VENUES.

2023 HOST VENUE HILLSIDE



Hillside is situated in Southport on 'England's Golf Coast', considered by many to be the country's finest stretch of coastal links.

A true championship links, overhauled in the 1960s by renowned architect Fred Hawtree. The club has staged some of the highest profile professional and amateur championships including the 1982 PGA Championship (when Tony Jacklin defeated Bernhard Langer in a play-off) and twice The Amateur Championship and what is now known as the Women's Amateur Championship. A regular Final Qualifying venue for The Open, Hillside has recently played host to two DP World Tour events, The British Masters (2019) and The Cazoo Classic (2022).

2023 HOST VENUE SOUTHPORT & AINSDALE



A testing championship course with first class facilities, Southport & Ainsdale, or S&A as it is widely and affectionately known, was founded in 1906, part of the great golf boom around the turn of the 20th century.

Inevitably the passing of so many years has brought about changes to the course. The traditional feel of a championship links has been retained. The course is a magnificent test of golf, especially with the sea breeze and profusion of heather and gorse combining to provide a challenging but enjoyable test for all players who experience it.

The club has hosted two Ryder Cup matches (1933 and 1937) and a number of other prestigious championships including what is now known as the AIG Women's Open (1979) and The Amateur Championship (1984 and 2005).

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 in 2024.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

| DAY | EVENT | VENUE | TIME |
|-------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Thursday 15 June | Pre-Qualifying Practice | Southport & Ainsdale | 8.00am–12.30pm |
| Friday 16 June | Pre-Qualifying | Southport & Ainsdale | 8.00am–12.18pm |
| Saturday 17 June | Official Practice Online Player Registration | Hillside / Southport & Ainsdale | 7.30am–4.00pm |
| Sunday 18 June | Official Practice Registration Closes | Hillside / Southport & Ainsdale | 7.30am–2.30pm 3.00pm |
| Monday 19 June | Stroke Play Qualifying Round 1 | Hillside / Southport & Ainsdale | 7.00am–3.52pm |
| Tuesday 20 June | Stroke Play Qualifying Round 2 | Hillside / Southport & Ainsdale | 7.00am–3.52pm |
| Wednesday 21 June | Preliminary Round (1 st Round) Match Play (2 nd Round) | Hillside Hillside | 7.00am–8.00am approx. 8.30am–1.45pm approx. |
| Thursday 22 June | Match Play (3 rd Round) Match Play (4 th Round) | Hillside Hillside | 7.30am–9.45am 1.10pm–2.40pm |
| Friday 23 June | Quarter-Finals Semi-Finals | Hillside Hillside | 8.15am–9.00am 1.00pm and 1.30pm |
| Saturday 24 June | Final (36 Holes) Prize Presentation | Hillside Hillside | 8.30am and 1.00pm 4.30pm approx. |

Timings subject to change.



ENTRY AND EXEMPTIONS.

With a 2022 WAGR® Power Ranking of 870.5514, 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

[CLICK HERE](#)



EXEMPTIONS FROM PRE-QUALIFYING

| | |
|-----|--|
| I | Winners of The Amateur Championship 2003-2022 |
| | Winners of the US Amateur Championship 2013-2022 |
| | Winners of the European Amateur Championship 2013-2022 |
| | Winners of the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship 2013-2022 |
| | Winners of the Latin America Amateur Championship 2015-2023 |
| | Winners of The Mark H McCormack Medal 2013-2022 |
| II | Winner of the US Mid-Amateur Championship 2022 |
| | Winner of The R&A Boys Amateur Championship 2022 |
| | Winner of The R&A Student Tour Series 2022/23 |
| III | Members of the 2021 Walker Cup Teams |
| | Members of the 2022 St Andrews Trophy Teams |
| IV | Players who reached the last 32 of The Amateur Championship in 2022 |
| V | One competitor from the 2023 Royal Junior nominated by the organisers (Nippon Kabaya Ohayo Holdings Inc.) 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 2022/52 |
| VII | The top 50 players and anyone tying for 50th place in the WAGR® listing on completion of WAGR® week 2023/10 |

After allocating places to entrants as above, the remaining places in the starting field, to the 278th position, will be determined by WAGR® listing 1-2000 on completion of WAGR® week 2023/20 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 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 151st Open The 2024 US Open The 2024 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 2023 be your year?

TICKETING AND PLAYER BENEFITS.

Access to The 128th Amateur Championship will be restricted to ticket holders only.

Your player's badge will serve as your accreditation throughout the Championship and will allow you to access all areas of the venue. Each player will be able to apply for three complimentary tickets which will allow their guests access to the course, clubhouse and practice facilities.

Additional tickets will be available to purchase at www.randa.org



| INCLUDED IN ENTRY FEE: |
|--|
| Exclusive Player Gift Pack |
| Up to three player guest tickets |
| Meal vouchers on Championship days |
| Clubhouse access for player and guests |
| Professional yardage book for each venue |
| Car parking pass and priority player parking |
| Range access with Titleist range balls |
| Pull trolley (if required) |
| Exclusive 20% discount code for official hotel |
| Access to physiotherapy and medical support |
| 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.



CLUBHOUSE & CATERING

The clubhouses will be open and catering available from ninety minutes before the first tee time until the last game finishes each day. All players will receive complimentary meal vouchers on Championship days. Any competitors with allergies should contact the catering teams onsite.





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:

Hillside

Telephone: +44 (0) 1704 568 360
Email: secretary@hillside-golfclub.co.uk

Southport & Ainsdale

Telephone: +44 (0) 1704 578 000 Ext.1
Email: charlotte.pilkington@sandagolf.co.uk



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.



2022 CHAMPIONSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

PRACTICE



Official practice times:

Thursday 15 June (pre-qualifying): 8.00am–11.30am
Saturday 17 June: 7.30am–4.00pm
Sunday 18 June: 7.30am–2.30pm

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

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.

Both Hillside and Southport & Ainsdale are well located and easily accessible for both domestic and international guests and we hope the following information and arrangements assist you when planning your trip.



Official Hotel

The Official Championship Hotel is the award winning 4-star boutique hotel [Bliss Hotel](#) in Southport. All competitors can access a 20% discount off the best rates (subject to availability) by entering a bespoke code which will be forwarded on entry.

A FREE player shuttle service will also operate between the official hotel and both Championship venues.

In addition to the official hotel there are numerous accommodation options and details can be found at: www.visitsouthport.com/accommodation/hotels



Taxi

Airport "Meet and Greet" transfer service can be pre-booked at competitors' own cost at www.intx.co.uk

Andrew Globe
Telephone: +44 (0) 151 733 9490
Email: Andrew@intx.co.uk



Airports

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

Manchester Airport (51 miles)
www.manchesterairport.co.uk

Birmingham Airport (118 miles)
www.birminghamairport.co.uk

Airport transfers are the responsibility of competitors.



Train

There is a train station at Southport approximately three to four miles from both clubs.

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www.randa.org

Championship Enquiries: amateurentries@randa.org

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Hastings Road
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www.hillside-golfclub.co.uk

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