



R&A  
THE WOMENS AMATEUR  
CHAMPIONSHIP

SPECTATOR  
HANDBOOK

The 121<sup>st</sup> Women's Amateur Championship

24 - 29 June 2024

Portmarnock Golf Club



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# HISTORY.



*Chiara Horder, 2023 Champion*

The first Women's Amateur Championship was held in 1893 at Royal Lytham & St Annes. Organised by the Ladies' Golf Union (LGU), a field of 38 players competed over the Lancashire links with Lady Margaret Scott crowned as the first champion after defeating LGU founder and secretary, Issette Pearson, 7&5 in the Final.

Lady Margaret successfully defended

her title in 1894 and 1895 with the championship continuing to flourish. In the 1920s, Cecil Leitch and Joyce Wethered dominated the women's game, winning a record four Women's Amateur titles each. In 1927, Simone de la Chaume of France became the first Continental European golfer to win the championship. The first competitor from the USA to claim the title was Babe Zaharias in 1947.



*Lady Margaret Scott (seated right) and Issette Pearson (seated left) following the inaugural Women's Amateur*

The Women's Amateur has been played at many venues across Great Britain and Ireland. Hosts include venues which have staged The Open, most recently at Royal St George's in 2014. Today's championship attracts a large international field and is one of the most coveted prizes in women's amateur golf.

To date there have been 92 different winners of the 119 championships. Recent winners of the Women's Amateur who have gone on to make a mark on the professional game include Sweden's Anna Nordqvist and England's Georgia Hall. In 2023, Chiara Horder triumphed by defeating Annabelle Pancake 7&6 at Prince's.



# PAST WINNERS.



*Georgia Hall, Champion 2013*

**CECIL LEITCH** and **JOYCE WETHERED** dominated the championship between 1914 and 1929, winning the title four times each to share the record for most victories. They appeared against each other in three finals (1921, 1922 and 1925) with Wethered holding a 2-1 advantage. Wethered came from a famous golfing family. Her brother Roger finished second in The Open in 1921 and won The Amateur Championship in 1923.

**BABE ZAHARIAS** won the 1947 championship at Gullane when she defeated England's Jaqueline Gordon to become the first American winner. Zaharias is one of 11 players to have won the Women's Amateur and US Women's Amateur, which she won in 1946. She went on to win ten major titles. An all-round athlete, she won gold medals at the 1932 Olympics in the 80 metre hurdles and javelin, and a silver medal in the high jump. She also competed in basketball and baseball. Zaharias won three US Women's Opens (1948, 1950 and 1954).

France's **CATHERINE LACOSTE** won at Royal Portrush in 1969, two years after she won the US Women's Open. She is one of three players to have won the US Women's Open and the Women's Amateur along with Babe Zaharias and Louise Suggs. Lacoste's father was French tennis great, René Lacoste, and her mother, Simone de la Chaume, was the first non-British or Irish winner of the Women's Amateur in 1927 at Royal County Down.

INTERESTING FACT.  
**BIGGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY:** In 2021, Louise Duncan of Scotland defeated Iceland's Johanna Lea Ludviksdottir 9&8 in the 36-hole Final at Kilmarnock (Barassie).



*Louise Duncan, 2021 Champion*

England's **MICKEY WALKER** won consecutive titles in 1971 and 1972. Walker went on to help establish the Ladies' European Tour, winning six times on that circuit. She captained the first four European Solheim Cup teams from 1990-1996, experiencing victory in 1992. She is now a TV commentator.

Catriona Lambert, now known as **CATRIONA MATTHEW OBE**, won the title in 1993 at Royal Lytham & St Annes defeating England's Kirsty Speak 3&2 in the Final. Matthew went on to win four LPGA titles, including the Women's Open in 2009 at the same venue where she won the Women's Amateur. A nine-time Solheim Cup player, Matthew was the non-playing Captain for the European victories in 2019 and 2021.

**CARLOTA CIGANDA** of Spain defeated Sweden's Anna Nordqvist in the 2007 Final at Alwoodley. Ciganda has two LPGA victories, five Ladies' European Tour wins and made five Solheim Cup appearances.

INTERESTING FACT.  
**YOUNGEST CHAMPION: Sweden's Julia Engstrom won in 2016 at Dundonald Links as a 15 year old.**



*Anna Nordqvist, Champion 2008*

**ANNA NORDQVIST** won the title in 2008 after finishing runner-up in the previous two championships. She includes three major championships, the 2009 McDonald's LPGA Championship, 2017 Evian Championship and 2021 AIG Women's Open among her nine LPGA wins. Along with Georgia Hall, Nordqvist has achieved an impressive quadrilateral of R&A trophies winning the Girls' Amateur, Women's Amateur, Smyth Salver and AIG Women's Open. She's also played on seven Solheim Cup teams.

**AZAHARA MUÑOZ** of Spain succeeded Nordqvist as Women's Amateur winner. She has one LPGA victory, five Ladies' European Tour wins and is a four-time Solheim Cup player.

England's **GEORGIA HALL** won the 2013 championship at Machynys Peninsula Golf Club in Wales by defeating Spain's Luna Sobrón

INTERESTING FACT.  
**MAJOR CHAMPIONS: Seven Women's Amateur champions have also won major championships; Louise Suggs (11), Babe Zaharias (10), Anna Nordqvist (3), Georgia Hall (1), Catherine Lacoste (1), Catriona Matthew (1) and Jody Rosenthal (1).**

by one hole. Hall then recorded a historic double winning the Women's Open in 2018 at Royal Lytham and St Anne's, one of two LPGA Tour victories she possesses.

2015 winner **CELINE BOUTIER** of France made her Solheim Cup debut in the victorious 2019 European side at Gleneagles. She has won two LPGA tournaments to go with three Ladies' European Tour wins and played in the successful 2021 Solheim Cup team.

Ireland's **LEONA MAGUIRE**, the 2017 champion, was recipient of the Mark H McCormack medal in three consecutive seasons from 2014 as the world's leading female amateur. Maguire has one LPGA win and in 2021, she shot the lowest ever final round in a major by any golfer male or female, a 61 at the Evian Championship.

# HOST VENUES.

## 2024 HOST VENUE PORTMARNOCK



Portmarnock Golf Club has hosted the Women's Amateur Championship previously in 1931. It also staged The Amateur Championship in 1949 and 2019, the Walker Cup in 1991 and the international matches for the St Andrews and Jacques Leglise trophies in 2012.

The Dublin venue was the stage for the first ever playing of the Irish Open in 1927 and has hosted the event on 18 occasions. In 1960, American duo Sam Snead and Arnold Palmer sealed a win in the Canada Cup held there, while it was also a venue for the Dunlop Masters on two occasions in 1959 and 1965.

In 2019, a record crowd lined the fairways of Portmarnock to see Irishman James Sugrue defeat Euan Walker by two holes to win the 36-hole Final of The Amateur Championship.

## 2025 HOST VENUE NAIRN



Founded in 1887 by Robert B Finlay, Nairn is consistently ranked amongst the leading courses in the UK.

Old Tom Morris, the 'Grand Old Man of Golf', revised the course in 1890 and extended it westward over the Earl of Cawdor's property. Twenty years on, and the most prominent impact on the layout of the Championship course was from the five times Open Champion James Braid (and the first to break 70 here with a 69 in 1901), who altered tees and bunkers before creating new greens of singular subtlety.

In 2018 the club undertook a large renovation project of the Championship Course from renowned architects, Mackenzie and Ebert.

The Club has held an array of amateur golf tournaments over the years and is one of only nine who have held the Walker Cup, Curtis Cup, the Amateur Championship and the Women's Amateur Championship.



# PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

DAY	EVENT	TIME
Sunday 23 June	Official Practice Day	8:00am – 3:00pm
Monday 24 June	Stroke Play Qualifying Round 1	6:45am–3:45pm
Tuesday 25 June	Stroke Play Qualifying Round 2 Play-Off (If Required)	6:45am – 3:45pm 8.00pm approx.
Wednesday 26 June	Match Play (1 <sup>st</sup> Round)	8.30am–1.45pm approx.
Thursday 27 June	Match Play (2 <sup>nd</sup> Round) Match Play (3 <sup>rd</sup> Round)	7.30am–10.00am 1.10pm–2.20pm
Friday 28 June	Quarter-Finals Semi-Finals	8.15am–8.45am 1.00pm and 1.15pm
Saturday 29 June	Final (36 Holes) Prize Presentation	8.30am and 1.00pm 4.30pm approx.

*Timings subject to change.*



# ENTRY AND EXEMPTIONS.

With a WAGR<sup>®</sup> Power Ranking of 919.6367 in 2023, the Women's Amateur Championship continues to attract a field comprising of the world's best amateur golfers and offers the following exemptions to ensure its field quality each year.

## CHAMPIONSHIPS HUB



The starting field will comprise 144 competitors. Any entrant named in one of the following categories will be allocated a place in the starting field of the Championship:

I	Winners of The Women's Amateur Championship 2014 - 2023
	Winners of the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship 2019 - 2023
	Winners of the European Ladies' Amateur Championship 2019 - 2023
	Winners of the Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific Championship 2020 - 2024
	Winner of the Women's Amateur Latin America Championship 2021 - 2023
	Winner of the Africa Amateur Women's Invitational 2024
	Winners of The Mark H McCormack Medal 2014 - 2023
II	Winner of the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship 2023
	Winner of the R&A Girls' Amateur Championship 2023
	Winner of the ANNIKA Invitational Europe 2024 ( A blank entry may be made on behalf of the competitor qualifying in this Category)
	Winner of the R&A Student Tour Series Order of Merit 2023/24
III	Members of: The 2022 Curtis Cup Teams. The 2024 Arnold Palmer Cup Teams.
IV	Players who reached the last 16 of The Women's Amateur Championship in 2023
V	One competitor from the 2024 Royal Junior nominated by the organisers and who meets WAGR <sup>®</sup> entry criteria
VI	The top 15 players and anyone tying for 15th place in the WAGR <sup>®</sup> listing on completion of WAGR <sup>®</sup> week 2023/52
VII	The top 25 players and anyone tying for 25th place in the WAGR <sup>®</sup> listing on completion of WAGR <sup>®</sup> week 2024/10
VIII	The top 5 players and anyone tied for 5th place on the Africa Region WAGR <sup>®</sup> listing on 1 December (2023/47)
	The top 10 players and anyone tied for 10th place on the Asia Region WAGR <sup>®</sup> listing on 1 December (2023/47)
	The top 3 players and anyone tied for 3rd place on the Central America and Caribbean WAGR <sup>®</sup> listing on 1 December (2023/47)
	The top 10 players and anyone tied for 10th place in Europe Region WAGR <sup>®</sup> listing on 1 December (2023/47).
	The top 10 players and anyone tied for 10th place in the North America Region WAGR <sup>®</sup> listing on 1 December (2023/47)
	The top 10 players and anyone tied for 10th place in the Oceania Region WAGR <sup>®</sup> listing on 1 December (2023/47)

After allocating places to entrants as above, the remaining places in the starting field will be determined by order of WAGR<sup>®</sup> listing 1-1000 on completion of WAGR<sup>®</sup> week 2024/21 and, if still incomplete, by using the WHS Handicap Index/equivalent exact handicap of entrants, at date of entry. Unsuccessful entrants will be given the opportunity to compete in the event of withdrawals. The reserve list will be in order of unsuccessful entrants within the WAGR<sup>®</sup> listing 1-1000 at close of entries, and thereafter by handicap.





# PRIZES.

As well as the opportunity to compete against the world's best amateur golfers over the some of the world's most iconic courses, the Champion will then receive exemptions into many of golf's most prestigious major championships.

**The AIG Women's Open, Evian Championship  
US Women's Open and Chevron Championship**

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

Champion	<p>Championship Trophy &amp; Pam Barton Memorial Salver Gold Medal The 2024 AIG Women's Open The 2024 Evian Championship The 2025 US Women's Open The 2025 Chevron Championship The 2025 Augusta National Women's Amateur Championship Ladies European Tour Event</p>
Runner Up	<p>Diana Fishwick Cup Silver Medal LET Access Event Final Qualifying for the AIG Women's Open</p>



- Semi Finalists

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- Leading Strokeplay Qualifier

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- Lowest 18 Hole Qualifying Score

Bronze Medal  
LET Access Series Event

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Doris Chambers Trophy

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Angus Trophy

PAST WINNERS

[CLICK HERE](#)

Could 2024 be your year?



# SPECTATOR SERVICES.



## ACCESS & CAR PARKING

Access and Car Parking at the 121st Women's Amateur Championship is free of charge and spectators are welcome.



## WATER AT THE CHAMPIONSHIP

The R&A supports sustainable practices which go hand in hand with protecting the future of our planet. Fixed water stations are available at various locations on site. Please bring a refillable water bottle.



## CATERING

Catering will be available in the spectator area close to the clubhouse. Any spectators with allergens should alert the catering teams onsite.



## SPECTATOR INFORMATION

All Spectator Information can be viewed on the

 [SPECTATOR PORTAL](#)



## LIVE SCORING / TV

There will be live scoring throughout on [www.randa.org](http://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](#)

# ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL.

Portmarnock is well located and easily accessible for both domestic and international guests and we hope the following information assists you when planning your trip.



## Local Hotels

Hotels can be found at [www.visitdublin.com/](http://www.visitdublin.com/) accommodation

Dublin City Centre is approximately 45 minutes from Portmarnock Golf Club.



## Airports

International and domestic flights operate to only 1 airport within easy reach of Portmarnock including:

**Dublin Airport** (7 miles)  
[dublinairport.com](http://dublinairport.com)



## Taxi

Airport "Meet and Greet" transfer service can be pre-booked at competitors' own cost at <https://expresspark.ie/shop/book-now/>

Telephone: 0863996141

Email: [info@expresspark.ie](mailto:info@expresspark.ie)



## Train

There is train station in Portmarnock less than 2 miles from the golf club.



## Ferry

Portmarnock Golf Club is located less than 12 miles from Dublin Ferry Port



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SPECTATOR INFORMATION



MORE INFORMATION

