



R&A
THE WOMENS AMATEUR
CHAMPIONSHIP

PLAYER
HANDBOOK

The 120th Women's Amateur Championship

13 – 18 June 2023

Prince's Golf Club

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HISTORY.



Jess Baker, 2022 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 2022, Jess Baker triumphed by defeating Sweden's Louise Rydqvist 4&3 in an exciting Final at Hunstanton.

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.

2023 HOST VENUE PRINCE'S



The fine Kent links will stage the historic 120th Women's Amateur Championship after Jess Baker's win at Hunstanton in Norfolk in 2022. Boasting a rich history, Prince's offers modern championship links golf in an idyllic coastal setting. It boasts 27 holes across the Shore, Dunes and Himalayas nine-hole lay-outs.

A host to Final Qualifying for The Open from 2018 to 2022, the course also co-hosted The Amateur Championship in 2013 and 2017. The club sits next to Royal St George's, host to The Open in 2021.

2024 HOST VENUE ROYAL BIRKDALE



Situated on the golden links of the North West coast in Southport, Royal Birkdale is one of the finest links courses in England. Birkdale was established in 1889 but extensively redesigned in 1922 to create the current layout, which winds its way through the sand dunes towering over each of the fairways. Since first hosting The Open in 1954, the course has been the most regular venue for the Championship other than St Andrews and has held more Championships and International events (Open Championships, Ryder Cups, Women's Opens, Senior Opens, Amateur Championships, Walker Cups and Curtis Cups) since World War Two than any other course in the world.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

DAY	EVENT	TIME
Monday 12 June	Official Practice Day	7:30am–3:00pm
Tuesday 13 June	Stroke Play Qualifying Round 1	6:45am–3:45pm
Wednesday 14 June	Stroke Play Qualifying Round 2	6:45am–3:45pm
Thursday 15 June	Preliminary Round (1 st Round) Match Play (2 nd Round)	7.00am–8.00am approx. 8.30am–1.45pm approx.
Friday 16 June	Match Play (3 rd Round) Match Play (4 th Round)	7.30am–9.45am 1.10pm–2.40pm
Saturday 17 June	Quarter-Finals Semi-Finals	8.15am–9.00am 1.00pm and 1.30pm
Sunday 18 June	Final (36 Holes) Prize Presentation	8.30am and 1.00pm 4.30pm approx.

Timings subject to change.



ENTRY AND EXEMPTIONS.

With a WAGR[®] Power Ranking of 902.8034 in 2022, 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 2013-2022
	Winners of the US Women's Amateur Championship 2018-2022
	Winners of the European Ladies' Amateur Championship 2018-2022
	Winners of the Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific Championship 2018-2022
	Winner of the Women's Amateur Latin America Championship 2022
	Winners of The Mark H McCormack Medal 2013-2022
II	Winner of the US Women's Mid-Amateur Championship 2022
	Winner of The R&A Girls' Amateur Championship 2022
	Winner of The R&A Student Tour Series 2022/23
III	Members of the 2022 Curtis Cup Teams
IV	Players who reached the last 16 of the Women's 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 15 players and anyone tying for 15th place in the WAGR [®] listing on completion of WAGR [®] week 2022/52
VII	The top 25 players and anyone tying for 25th 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 will be determined by order of WAGR[®] listing 1-1000 on completion of WAGR[®] week 2023/19 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[®] 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

- Championship Trophy & Pam Barton Memorial Salver
- Gold Medal
- The 2023 AIG Women's Open
- The 2023 Evian Championship
- The 2024 US Women's Open
- The 2024 Chevron Championship
- The 2024 Augusta National Women's Amateur Championship
- Ladies European Tour Event

Runner Up

- Diana Fishwick Cup
- Silver Medal
- LET Access Event
- Final Qualifying for the AIG Women's Open



Semi Finalists

Bronze Medal
LET Access Series Event

Leading Strokeplay Qualifier

Doris Chambers Trophy

Lowest 18 Hole Qualifying Score

Angus Trophy

PAST WINNERS



Could 2023 be your year?

TICKETING AND PLAYER BENEFITS.

Access to the Women's 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 Championship 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)
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 allergens should contact the catering teams onsite.





CADDIES

A limited number of caddies will be available from Royal St Georges at competitors' own expense and should be booked early to avoid disappointment. To book a caddie please contact:

Telephone: +44 (0)1304 613 090 Ext. 3

Email: caddiemaster@royalstgeorges.com



LIVE SCORING / TV

There will be live scoring throughout 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:

Monday 12 June: 7.30am–3.00pm

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 venue 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.

Prince's 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

Holiday Inn Dover

Telephone: +44 (0) 1304 821230

Email: reservations@holidayinndover.co.uk

Dunkerley's of Deal

Telephone: +44 (0) 1304 375016

Email: info@dunkerleys.co.uk

The Bell Hotel Sandwich

Telephone: +44 (0) 1304 613388

Email: bellhotel@shepherd-neame.co.uk

In addition to the above options there are numerous accommodation options and details can be found at: www.visitsandwich.co.uk



Airports

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

London City Airport (88 Miles)

www.londoncityairport.com

London Gatwick Airport (94 miles)

www.gatwickairport.com

London Stansted Airport (109 miles)

www.stanstedairport.com

London Heathrow Airport (116 miles)

www.heathrow.com

Airport transfers are the responsibility of competitors.



Taxi

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

Telephone: +44 (0) 333 344 8424

Email: transport@intx.co.uk



Train

There is a train station at Sandwich approximately three to four miles from the golf club.

Trains go from Charing Cross station in Central London to Sandwich every hour which take a little over two hours. Alternatively there is a faster train from St Pancras (1 hour 45 mins).



Ferry

Prince's is located just 15 miles from Dover Ferry Port

www.doverport.co.uk

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www.randa.org

Championship Enquiries: amateurentries@randa.org

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 ENTER HERE

