

The Links Times

Alfred Dunhill Links Championship Daily News & Order of Play

ROUND 4, SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER, 2019



FINAU CHASES AMERICAN DREAM

Matthew Southgate and Victor Perez lead the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship and both are seeking their first European Tour wins today – but the US Ryder Cup star Tony Finau has them in his sights ahead of the final round at St Andrews

Englishman Matthew Southgate and Victor Perez of France share a two-shot lead going into today’s final round of the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship. Victory for either would easily be their biggest golfing triumph.

For Southgate to be in this position marks a personal milestone, having fought back from cancer in 2015, while Perez could become the most unlikely local hero ever if he wins.

Born in the Hautes-Pyrenees in

France, he has spent the last 18 months as a resident of Dundee, 25 minutes up the road, where he lives with his girlfriend, who is at dental school.

Perez shot 64 at Kingsbarns, while Southgate had a 65 on the Old Course to reach 20-under-par, two shots ahead of England’s Paul Waring, who had a 65 at Carnoustie.

Many of the enthusiastic Scottish golf fans will this morning be opting to follow Tony Finau, who finished third in the Open Championship and fifth in The Masters. After shooting a 66 on the Old

Course, he is on 17-under-par and has a chance to become the first American winner.

He said: “It’s very cool to be at the Home of Golf and the Old Course. There’s nothing like it, so to be able to have a chance to win a golf tournament here is going to be something special.

“I was happy with the way I played. I missed a short one on 17, but outside of that I played nicely. You’ve got to keep it out of the bunkers here. I think not being in a pot bunker today was a huge bonus for me.”

PRO LEADERS

Victor Perez	-20
Matthew Southgate	-20
Paul Waring	-18
Tony Finau	-17
Joakim Lagergren	-17

TEAM LEADERS

Pavan/Goodwin	-29
Fleetwood/Phipps II	-29



SOUTHGATE READY TO TAKE CHANCE

After back-to-back top ten finishes, the Englishman believes he has what it takes to win, while co-leader Victor Perez is an unlikely candidate for the tag of local hero

Matthew Southgate hopes his strong run of recent form will culminate in victory at this year's Alfred Dunhill Links Championship.

The 30-year-old Englishman and Frenchman Victor Perez have a share of the lead on 20-under-par, two shots clear of Paul Waring. Should either of the leaders stay in front of the field today, he will claim the first European Tour title of his career.

Southgate - who was diagnosed with cancer in 2015 and made a successful and swift recovery - has posted top ten finishes in two of his last five tournaments. He finished tied for tenth at both the Scandinavian Invitation and the KLM Open, and hopes he can build on that momentum in the final round at the Old Course.

"My swing feels very solid," said Southgate. "I feel very happy in my own head at the moment and am playing with such a clear mind. I've been hitting the ball fantastically for the first three days, so there's no reason why I can't shoot another good score."

Frenchman Perez - a resident of Dundee where his girlfriend is at dental school - has capitalised on his local knowledge this week. "It's more about being at home and all the little things that come

with it," he said. "You drive your own car and sleep in your own bed, which is a huge thing when you travel around and live in hotels all the time.

"I also feel comfortable playing in the wind, which is an advantage. This is what we practice for. The Home of Golf, in the final group - what more could you ask for?"

Young Englishman Jordan Smith is nicely poised for a final-round challenge, lying just four shots adrift of the Championship leaders on 16-under-par.

The 26-year-old shot a third-round 68 at Kingsbarns and admits that he has started to find his form in recent weeks.

He said: "Before [the BMW PGA Championship] at Wentworth, I missed five out of six cuts and got into a few bad habits with my swing. Then myself and my coach looked into it, and I went to Wentworth and had a pretty nice week, tying for 24th. I've carried it into this week and my game is in good shape now.

"Being in the last couple of groups at St Andrews will be great. We had a good day there on Thursday, so hopefully I can take that good form into the final round."

Smith's countryman Tyrrell Hatton - winner of the tournament in 2016 and 2017 - is one shot further back on 15-under-par.



RETURN OF THE CHAMPION AS GREAT DANE GOES LOW

Lucas Bjerregaard flashed back to last year's victory as he walked down the 18th on the Old Course, but he fears that slips at the final two holes may cost him a chance to keep his crown

Defending champion Lucas Bjerregaard has the chance of securing back-to-back Alfred Dunhill Links Championship titles after shooting a six-under-par third round 66 at the Old Course.

As the 28-year-old Dane admitted afterwards, his final tally at St

Andrews could have been even better had he parred the Road Hole and then birdied the 18th, which was reachable downwind for many players. Nevertheless, Bjerregaard is inside the top ten and will start his final round very much in contention for a third European Tour victory.

"I am pretty happy, although it was obviously a shame to finish with a bogey on 17 and then not take advantage of 18," said Bjerregaard. "But, other than that, I played lovely and made some good putts.

"It was a little different wind to what we are used to here at the



EN ROUTE TO ANOTHER BIRDIE...

The 6th at Kingsbarns is now universally known as ‘Phelps’ Hole’ after the Olympic legend’s 159ft putt in the Alfred Dunhill Links in 2012. Frenchman Victor Perez, seen here driving, didn’t match that, but it was one of his nine birdies in a stunning 64 on his way to a share of the lead.



BIRDIE RUSH GIVES SHANE FLYING FRONT NINE

Open champion Shane Lowry equalled the best nine holes of his European Tour career as he went out in 30 at the Old Course.

The Irishman kicked off with five birdies and added a sixth at the 9th hole. A run of three more at 13, 14 and 15 briefly opened the door for a round that would have catapulted him into contention for the title, but successive bogeys meant that a birdie at the final hole gave him an eventful eight-under 64.

Lowry headed to the clubhouse at 13-under-par for the Championship, tied for 17th and counting the cost of an opening 73 at Carnoustie that left him chasing a world-class field.

In the Team Championship, Gerry McManus, brother of the horserace owner JP, partnered Lowry for a 60 that left them one shot behind the last of the teams to make the final round.

Old Course, and the front nine played a lot harder than it usually does.”

For Bjerregard, walking down the 18th fairway of the Old Course again brought back fond memories of his triumph here last year, pictured right.

He added: “You have a lot of emotions. It’s pretty special.

“You remember how special a place it is. A lot of people feel a bit of pressure, as you don’t want to hit it out-of-bounds on one of the widest fairways in the world. So, there are always a few things going through your head, but it’s such a cool feeling walking down that hole.”



The Alfred Dunhill Links Championship celebrates links golf at its finest and is played over the Old Course at St Andrews, the Championship Course at Carnoustie and Kingsbarns Golf Links.

The final round, after the cut is made, is played over the Old Course.

With a total prize fund of US\$5million, there are two separate competitions - an individual professional tournament and a Team Championship, in which each professional is paired with an amateur.



LEADERBOARD ENDS GOODWIN’S WAIT

Tommy Fleetwood has a share of the lead in the Team Championship while an ever-present finally gets to the top

Tommy Fleetwood and his amateur partner Ogden Phipps II are joint leaders in the Team Championship going into today’s final round at the Old Course after shooting 60 to post an overall score of 29-under-par.

Ryder Cup hero Fleetwood and businessman Phipps share the lead with Italian pro Andrea Pavan and his amateur partner Chris Goodwin.

Canadian businessman Goodwin has played in all 19 Alfred Dunhill Links Championships but had never before seen his name at the top of the team competition’s leaderboard.

What’s more, he was able to

walk off the 18th green at St Andrews and look up at a giant scoreboard confirming that he and his professional partner, Pavan, had shot a third round 61 for a share of the lead.

Goodwin said: “I made the cut in 2009 and brought my wife over from Canada so she could watch the final day, but that’s the first time I’ve had my name in the leading group. It would be great if it was still there [on Sunday] evening!”

The top 20 qualifying teams also include Rory McIlroy and his father Gerry, who shot 62 at St Andrews and lie joint second in the Team Championship on 28-under, together with the pairing of English pro Matthew Southgate



and Peter Dawson, the former chief executive of the R&A.

Former footballer Andrii Shevchenko will also tee it up in the final round after making the cut with pro partner Nicolai Højgaard.

A host of celebrity names who failed to make the cut include

cricketer Matthew Vaughan, actors Bill Murray and Greg Kinnear, and Dragons Den investor Peter Jones.

Jones said: “I had a lot of fun this week playing with Andrew ‘Beef’ Johnston and Luke Wilson. This is the world’s greatest pro-am. event”



ESCAPE AT CARNOUSTIE...

Calum Hill splashes out of a bunker on the 14th hole at Carnoustie. He is now on 15-under-par with fellow countrymen Russell Knox and Richie Ramsay one shot further back. He said: "As a Scot it's great to be in contention. It's brilliant to think I'll be playing the Old Course with a chance to win."

EAGLE HAS LUKE BACK ON SONG

When Luke Donald chipped in for an eagle two at the 18th on the Old Course it brought the house down and shifted him into contention.

It also completed a phenomenal round of 57 for the Englishman and Jamie Redknapp in the Team Championship.

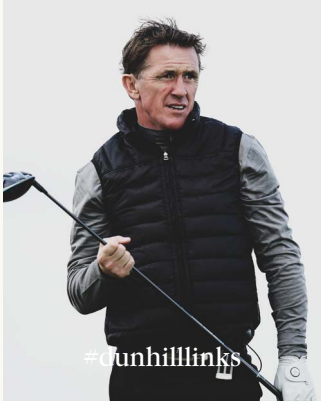
That pair are now two off the pace, with Donald – who has slipped to No 553 in the world rankings – four shots adrift of the leaders in the pro tournament on 16-under-par.

Of his eagle, Donald said: "I had 53 yards. I just nipped it nicely and it rolled in. It was nice to make a two on the 18th at the Old Course.

"I've always enjoyed this event and it's great to have Jamie here, he's a good friend. He played great and made some putts."



TOP POSTS





Victor Perez



Matthew Southgate



Paul Waring



Tony Finau

TODAY’S ORDER OF PLAY

10TH TEE

Game No	Tee	Tee Time	Professional/Amateur	Professional's Score					Team Score
				R 1	R 2	R 3	Total	+/- Par	
1	10	09.55	Ryan Fox	64	68	73	205	-11	
			Victor Dubuisson	68	67	70	205	-11	
			Rikard Karlberg	69	68	68	205	-11	
2	10	10.06	Raphaël Jacquelin	69	69	67	205	-11	
			Johannes Veerman	72	63	70	205	-11	
			Tommy Fleetwood/Ogden Phipps II	66	69	70	205	-11	-29
3	10	10.17	Tom Lewis	70	70	65	205	-11	
			Mike Lorenzo-Vera	68	65	72	205	-11	
			Lee Slattery	68	66	72	206	-10	
4	10	10.28	Marcus Kinhult	66	70	70	206	-10	
			Zander Lombard/Dan Fireman	67	68	71	206	-10	
			Alvaro Quiros	70	70	66	206	-10	-24
5	10	10.39	John Catlin	72	65	69	206	-10	
			Rory McIlroy/Gerry McIlroy	70	66	70	206	-10	
			Harry Hall	70	68	68	206	-10	-28
6	10	10.50	Wil Besseling	68	67	71	206	-10	
			Matt Wallace	70	68	68	206	-10	
			Joost Luiten	69	67	71	207	-9	
7	10	11.01	Scott Jamieson/Cian Foley	69	66	72	207	-9	
			Oliver Fisher	68	69	70	207	-9	
			David Horsey	68	67	72	207	-9	-26
8	10	11.12	Grant Forrest	72	70	65	207	-9	
			Dean Burmester	73	68	66	207	-9	
			Tapio Pulkkanen	65	68	74	207	-9	
9	10	11.23	Matthieu Pavon	68	71	68	207	-9	
			Julien Guerrier	69	69	69	207	-9	
			Fabrizio Zanotti	66	71	70	207	-9	
10	10	11.34	Sam Horsfield	72	67	68	207	-9	
			Oliver Wilson	72	67	68	207	-9	
			Rafa Cabrera-Bello/Dermot Desmond						-27
11	10	11.45	George Coetzee/Aidan Crawley						-26
			Nicolai Højgaard/Andrii Shevchenko						-26
12	10	11.56	Jason Scrivener/Andrew White						-24
			Shubhankar Sharma/Johan van Zyl						-25

1ST TEE

Game No	Tee	Tee Time	Professional/Amateur	Professional's Score					Team Score
				R 1	R 2	R 3	Total	+/- Par	
13	1	09.55	Robert Karlsson	67	70	67	204	-12	
			Danny Willett	72	66	66	204	-12	
			Eddie Pepperell	70	66	68	204	-12	
14	1	10.06	Sebastian Söderberg	71	64	69	204	-12	
			Benjamin Hébert	73	64	67	204	-12	
			Ricardo Gouveia	70	67	67	204	-12	
15	1	10.17	Thomas Detry	72	69	63	204	-12	
			Shane Lowry	73	66	64	203	-13	
			Aaron Rai	68	66	69	203	-13	
16	1	10.28	Matthew Fitzpatrick	69	67	67	203	-13	
			Padraig Harrington	69	68	66	203	-13	
			Callum Shinkwin	72	68	63	203	-13	
17	1	10.39	Robert MacIntyre/Ashton Curtis	71	66	66	203	-13	-24
			Haotong Li/Allen Zhang	71	68	64	203	-13	-26
18	1	10.50	Alex Noren	69	66	68	203	-13	
			Russell Knox	66	66	70	202	-14	
			Justin Rose	68	64	70	202	-14	
19	1	11.01	Richie Ramsay	65	67	70	202	-14	
			Matthew Jordan	66	64	71	201	-15	
			Calum Hill/John Tyson	66	65	70	201	-15	-25
20	1	11.12	Jeunghun Wang	70	65	66	201	-15	
			Lucas Bjerregaard	67	68	66	201	-15	
			Tyrrell Hatton	66	68	67	201	-15	
21	1	11.23	Luke Donald/Jamie Redknapp	68	68	64	200	-16	-27
			Andrea Pavan/Chris Goodwin	68	65	67	200	-16	-29
22	1	11.34	Jordan Smith/Moss Ngoasheng	64	68	68	200	-16	-27
			Tony Finau/Ryan Smith	67	66	66	199	-17	-24
23	1	11.45	Joakim Lagergren/Frank Vivier	69	62	68	199	-17	-26
			Paul Waring/Tony Bird	65	68	65	198	-18	-25
24	1	11.56	Matthew Southgate/Peter Dawson	65	66	65	196	-20	-28
			Victor Perez/Norbert Dentressangle	64	68	64	196	-20	-24

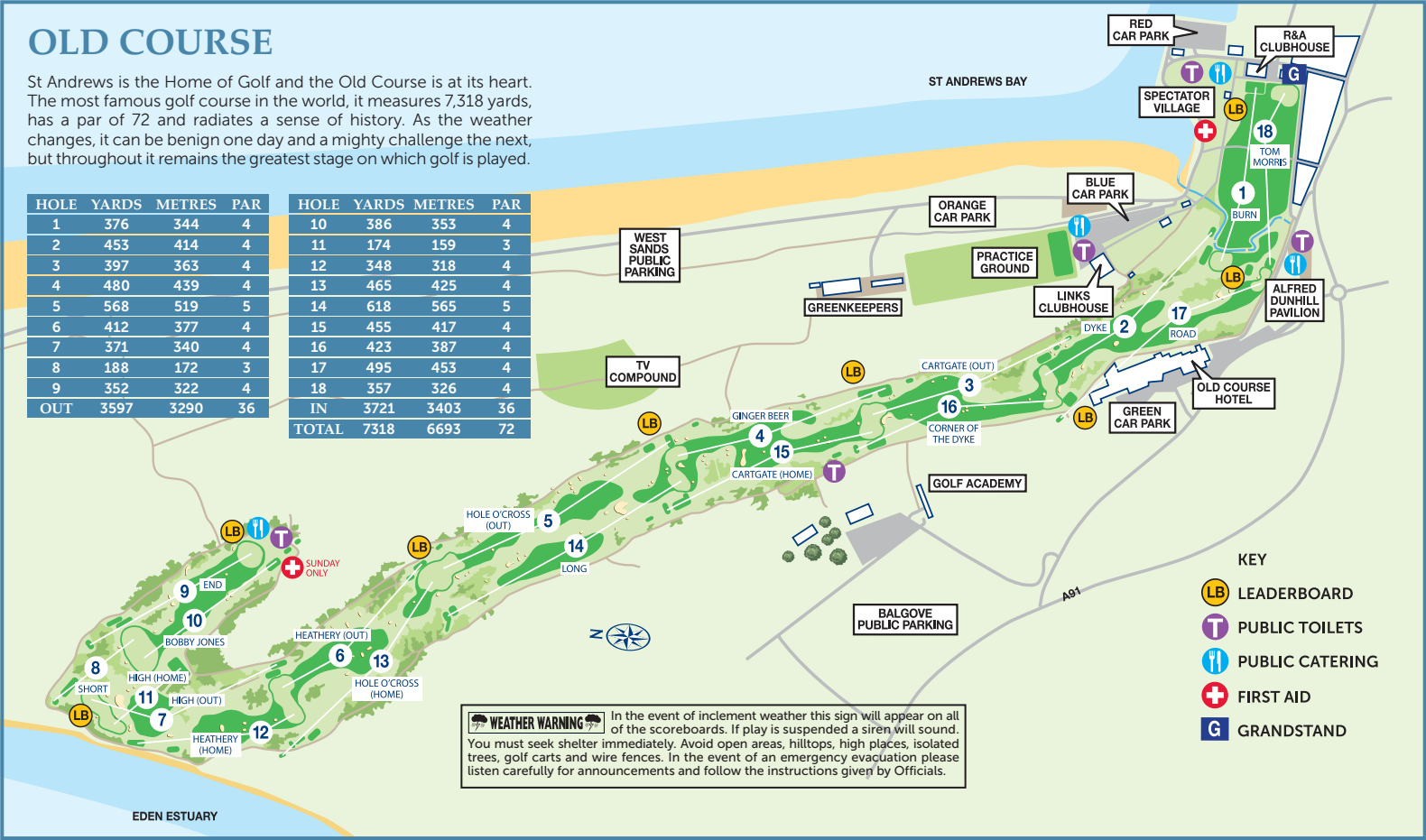
All times are subject to change



OLD COURSE

St Andrews is the Home of Golf and the Old Course is at its heart. The most famous golf course in the world, it measures 7,318 yards, has a par of 72 and radiates a sense of history. As the weather changes, it can be benign one day and a mighty challenge the next, but throughout it remains the greatest stage on which golf is played.

HOLE	YARDS	METRES	PAR	HOLE	YARDS	METRES	PAR
1	376	344	4	10	386	353	4
2	453	414	4	11	174	159	3
3	397	363	4	12	348	318	4
4	480	439	4	13	465	425	4
5	568	519	5	14	618	565	5
6	412	377	4	15	455	417	4
7	371	340	4	16	423	387	4
8	188	172	3	17	495	453	4
9	352	322	4	18	357	326	4
OUT	3597	3290	36	IN	3721	3403	36
				TOTAL	7318	6693	72



It needs only a glance at the list of past Open Champions at the Old Course to understand why St Andrews holds such an illustrious place in golfing history. The majestic setting, with the 18th green in particular providing an iconic sporting scene, just adds to the unique appeal of the Home of Golf.

Among the winners of the 28 Open Championships staged here since 1873 are both modern masters and older legends of the game. Tiger Woods won in both 2000 and 2005, Jack Nicklaus in 1970 and 1978, Severiano Ballesteros in 1984 and Bobby Jones in 1927. The most recent winner was Zach Johnson four years ago.

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TOUGH GUY VINNIE GETS LESSON TO REMEMBER

Vinnie Jones is convinced that playing with the best golfers in the world helps improve his own game.

The former footballer is now an actor, using the tough-guy image he earned playing for Wimbledon, Chelsea, Leeds United and Wales to star in films such as Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels, and Snatch.

Jones is partnering the South African professional Justin Harding in his first Alfred Dunhill Links Championship and they finished outside the top 20.

Jones said: "It helps me when I am playing with great players like Justin. Watching the professionals up close makes you realise how well they strike the ball, and they don't try to force it. That gets you into a better rhythm. As an amateur you play better yourself when you are with better players."



MUSIC NIGHT HITS THE RIGHT NOTES

From rock to reels, St Andrews came alive on Friday during a series of gigs across the town for the annual Alfred Dunhill Music Night – part of the celebrations around the Championship.

The talented singer and guitarist Hugh Kelly played his mix of classic and modern favourites, triggering a rapturous singalong at the St Andrews Brewery pub

on South Street. Casio Band wooed the crowd at The Vic with a lively set of cover tunes, while the Fizzle Chimps entertained revellers at Molly Malones.

Mikey MacLennan of the popular Perthshire band The Carloways played St Andrews Brewery's bar on North Street. Forgan's hosted ceilidh band Three Little Words for a night of traditional Scottish dancing.

GOODE DESPERATE TO GET BETTER

The actor's latest film is playing in the local cinema, but the curtain came down on his bid for the Team Championship

Actor Matthew Goode loves St Andrews, but said he hates his golf game after he and partner Benjamin Hebert missed the cut in the Team Championship.

Goode, star of Downton Abbey, The Crown and The Imitation Game, described the Old Course as "his favourite place in the world" but was frustrated by his contribution to his team. "I just hate my game at the moment," he said. "I just do not have any consistency and I need it to improve."

Goode and Hebert, who lost in a play-off at the Scottish Open this year when seeking his first European Tour win, actually finished strongly.

The actor - who appears in the film adaptation of Downton Abbey which is playing at the cinema in St Andrews this week - improved

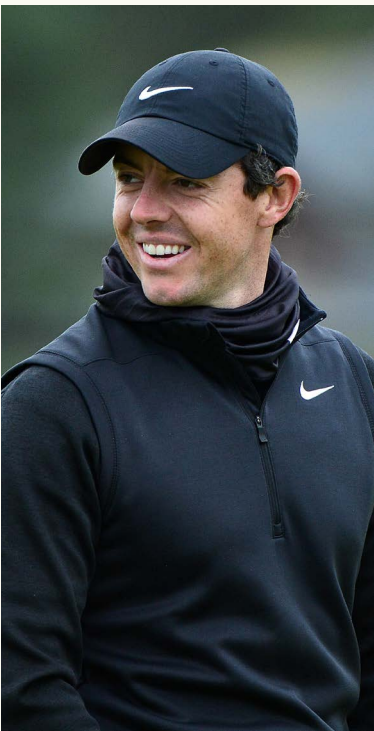
Hebert's five-under 67 by a further four shots at the Old Course.

That left them at 22-under for the Championship, falling just short of the mark required for another walk around the venue of which Goode has become so fond.



MEMORIES FROM A GREAT WEEK AT THE LINKS







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