

2014 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

(The 36th of 41 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

**Royal Liverpool GC
Hoylake, England**

July 17-20, 2014

**FedExCup Pts: 600
Par/Yards: 37-37—72/7,312**

First-Round Notes – Thursday, July 17, 2014

Weather: Mostly sunny. Winds N/NW10-15 mph, with gusts to 30 mph. High of 78.

First-Round Leaderboard

Rory McIlroy	66 (-6)
Matteo Manassero	67 (-5)
6 players	68 (-4)

First-Round Leader Stats

Since 1975, just five first-round leaders of the Open Championship have gone on to win: Tiger Woods (2005), John Daly (1995), Greg Norman (1993), Seve Ballesteros (1988) and Tom Watson (1980).

Last year at Muirfield, Zach Johnson led by a stroke after 18 holes with a 5-under 66. He finished T6.

The lowest opening-round score at the Open Championship is 63, set by Rory McIlroy at St. Andrews in 2010.

In 2006, Graeme McDowell led after the first round at Royal Liverpool GC with a 6-under 66, when the course played to 7, 258 yards..

In the 12 previous Open Championships hosted by Royal Liverpool, the first-round leader has gone on to win three times (Arnaud Massy/1907, J.H. Taylor/1913 and Bobby Jones/1930).

The first-round leader/co-leader has gone on to win eight of 34 stroke-play events on the PGA TOUR in 2014, most recently Brian Harman at last week's John Deere Classic.

Rory McIlroy (66)

Making his seventh Open Championship start, and sixth straight, Roy McIlroy is looking to add a third different major championship title to his resume. McIlroy won the 2011 U.S. Open and 2012 PGA Championship. McIlroy won the U.S. Open in wire-to-wire fashion.

McIlroy's 66 in round one today is three strokes off his lowest score at The Open Championship. At St. Andrews in 2010, he opened with a 9-under 63 en route to T3 honors.

At Royal Liverpool GC in 2006, fellow countryman Graeme McDowell also led after the first round with a 6-under 66, but finished T61.

McIlroy is a six-time winner on the PGA TOUR and is in search of his first win since the 2012 BMW Championship. He has amassed six titles on the European Tour, with the most recent coming at this year's BMW PGA Championship.

McIlroy has produced six top-10 finishes in 10 starts on the PGA TOUR this season, and has yet to finish outside the top-25. On the European Tour, he has claimed four top-10 finishes in nine starts.

Here's a look at McIlroy's six previous finishes at the Open Championship: T42-2007, T47-2009, T3-2010, T25-2011, T60-2012 and MC-2013.

Ranked 181st, McIlroy's second-round scoring average this year is 72.89.

McIlroy takes the 18-hole lead for the 10th time on the PGA TOUR with today's 66. The two that resulted in victory were the 2011 U.S. Open and 2012 BMW Championship. He held a 2-stroke lead after 18 holes at the 2010 Open Championship, but finished T3.

Matteo Manassero (67)

Following a T13 at the Open Championship in 2009, Italy's Matteo Manassero missed the cut in 2011 and 2013. This marks his fourth start in the event.

Manassero is making his 13th major championship start this week, with a T13 at the 2009 Open Championship his best showing among them.

Manassero hit 9/14 fairways in regulation (64.3 percent) and 15/18 greens (83.3 percent).

Manassero is making his eighth start of the season on the PGA TOUR this week, with a T8 at the Valspar Championship his lone top-10 finish. He has made 14 starts on the European Tour this season, where he has collected two top-10 finishes.

Manassero is the winner of four European Tour titles, most recently the 2013 BMW PGA Championship.

Adam Scott (68)

In his 15th Open Championship appearance, World's No. 1 Adam Scott opened with a 4-under 68. A T8 at Royal Liverpool GC in 2006, second-place finish in 2012 and T3 honors last year represent his three top-10 finishes at the Open.

Scott's 68 represents just his fourth opening-round score in the 60s in 15 starts.

Scott is making his 11th start of the season on the PGA TOUR this year. Included in six top-10 finishes was his 11th TOUR win at the Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial.

Scott's second-round scoring average this year on the PGA TOUR, 69.00, is more than a stroke better than any other round.

Jim Furyk (68)

At the 2006 Open Championship at Royal Liverpool, Jim Furyk also opened with a 4-under 68 en route to fourth-place honors.

Making his 16th consecutive Open Championship appearance, Furyk is in search of his second major championship title. At the 2003 U.S. Open, Furyk claimed a 3-stroke victory over Stephen Leaney.

In 72 major championship starts before this week, Furyk has claimed 20 top-10 finishes, five of which have come at The Open Championship. His last top-10 finish in this event was a T5 in 2008 (Royal Birkdale).

Furyk, a 16-time winner on the PGA TOUR, is in search of his first win since the 2010 TOUR Championship by Coca Cola en route to claiming that year's FedExCup title.

In round one, Furyk hit all but two fairways in regulation (85.7 percent) and 15/18 greens (83.3 percent).

Sergio Garcia (68)

Now at 61, Sergio Garcia holds the record for most consecutive major championship appearances. Adam Scott trails Garcia with 53, including this week.

Garcia also ranks second in most major starts without a victory entering this week:

Player	Starts
Lee Westwood	65
Sergio Garcia	63
Steve Stricker	63 (Not in the Open Championship field)
K.J. Choi	52

Garcia is making his 18th Open Championship start this week, having made the cut in 13 of the previous 17. He owns seven top-10 finishes, of which three are top fives. In 2007, he lost in a playoff to Padraig Harrington at Carnoustie.

Today's 68 is his 16th sub-70 score in 61 rounds in the event.

At the 2006 Open Championship at Royal Liverpool, Garcia also opened with a 4-under 68, before finishing T5.

Coming into the week, Garcia had collected an impressive six top-10 finishes in just 10 starts on the PGA TOUR. His best among them is a share of second place from the Travelers Championship, his last TOUR start prior to

this week. On the European Tour, Garcia has two top-10 finishes in nine starts. One of those was a win at the Commercial Bank Qatar Masters in January.

Brooks Koepka (68)

In his second Open Championship start, Brooks Koepka overcame a double-bogey six at the second hole with seven birdies en route to a 4-under 68. Koepka missed the cut in last year's Open Championship.

Koepka, a 24-year-old Florida native, won three events on the Challenge Tour in 2013, the second of which being a record 10-stroke victory at the Fred Olsen Challenge de Espana. With the three Challenge Tour wins, Koepka earned his European Tour card for the remainder of the 2013 season and all of 2014.

Koepka is looking for his first PGA TOUR win this week in his 14th start this season. His two top-5 finishes came with a T3 at the Frys.com Open in his first start of the season and a T4 at the U.S. Open last month.

Koepka is making his fifth major championship start this week (fourth as a professional). His 68 in round one of today's Open Championship matches his lowest major championship score from round two of this year's U.S. Open.

Francesco Molinari (68)

Francesco Molinari, the younger of the two Molinari brothers in this week's Open Championship, made an eagle-three at the last to post a 4-under 68 to match Edoardo's score.

Francesco Molinari missed just two of Royal Liverpool's 14 fairways in round one (66.6 percent), and found 12/18 greens (64.5 percent).

Francesco Molinari is making his seventh Open Championship start this week. His best finish among them is T9 at Muirfield last year.

The 2014 Open Championship is Francesco Molinari's 23rd major championship start. His best finish is T9 from last year's Open Championship.

Francesco Molinari is making his ninth start of the season on the PGA TOUR this week, with a T5 and T6 at the Arnold Palmer Invitational and PLAYERS Championship, respectively, his two top-10 finishes. He has made 13 starts on the European Tour this season, where he has also collected a pair of top-10 finishes.

Edoardo Molinari (68)

Edoardo Molinari birdied his first two holes and two of his last three en route to a 4-under 68 in round one of the Open Championship. His score matches that of older brother Francesco.

Edoardo Molinari is making his fifth Open Championship start this week, and first since 2011. His best finish in the event is a T27 at St. Andrews in 2010.

This marks Edoardo Molinari's first start on the PGA TOUR in the 2013-14 Season. He has made 14 starts on the European Tour this season, with runner-up honors at the Irish Open his best showing. He is a two-time winner on the European Tour.

Tiger Woods (69)

Thanks to five birdies in a six-hole stretch on the inward nine, Tiger Woods opened with a 3-under 69 for the second straight year at The Open Championship.

Tiger Woods has opened the Open Championship with a round in the 60s nine times now. Two of the previous eight led to wins (2005, 2006). Last year at Muirfield, he opened with a 2-under 69 and finished T6.

Tiger Woods has birdied the first hole of an Open Championship (18 starts) just three times. In round one, Woods opened with a bogey. His only other scores worse than par at the first hole in round one were bogey in 2013 (T6) and triple bogey in 2003 (T4).

Woods' bogey-bogey start is a first in his Open Championship career. His only worse starts were being 3-over after two, due to a triple bogey on the first hole in 2003 and a triple bogey on No. 2 in 1995 (amateur).

Woods is seeking his 15th Major Championship victory in his 71st start (65 professional, 6 amateur) in a major.

The 2014 Open Championship marks the 19th major start since his last major win at the 2008 U.S. Open.

Woods, the 2007 and 2009 FedExCup, enters this week's Open Championship ranked 212th in the standings. Should he advance to the FedExCup Playoffs, he would become the lowest ranked player entering the Open Championship to qualify for the Playoffs (since 2009 under current structure). The current distinction belongs to Dean Wilson who, in 2010, came into the Open ranked 195th.

Tom Watson (73)

Tom Watson opened with a 1-over 73 in his 37th Open Championship and 141st Major Championship appearance.

At The Open Championship at Royal Liverpool in 2006, Watson opened with an even-par 72 (finished T48).

Watson's T48 in 2013 represented his 26th made cut at the Open Championship. His T22 in 2011 was one of 69 top 25s in majors.

Watson is a five-time winner of the British Open (1975, 1977, 1980, 1982, 1983).

Phil Mickelson (74)

Defending champion Phil Mickelson got off to a less-than-ideal start, posting a 2-over 74. He has been able to open an Open Championship with a round in the 60s on just three occasions (21 starts).

Mickelson is making his 88th start in a Major Championship this week, with just nine missed cuts. Since 2000, he has four only missed cuts in majors (2007 U.S. Open, 2007 & 2012 Open Championship, 2014 Masters).

Mickelson comes into the week remaining in search of his season's first top 10. He has never previously made it in a season to The Open Championship with fewer than three top-10 finishes already under his belt. Of the 18 years in which he has played The Open Championship as a professional, he has averaged nearly six top-10 finishes a year before the third major of the season.

Mickelson is seeking to become the seventh player with consecutive Open Championship victories since 1951: Padraig Harrington (2007-08), Tiger Woods (2005-06), Tom Watson (1982-83), Lee Trevino (1971-72), Arnold Palmer (1961-62) and Peter Thomson (1954-56). Sixteen players have performed the feat throughout Open history.

Ernie Els (79)

2012 Open Championship winner Ernie Els struggled in round one to a 7-over 79 in his 23rd Open Championship start and 87th Major Championship start. Last year, he posted an opening-round, 3-over 74 en route to T26 honors.

Els' 7-over 79 is one stroke shy of his record-high score in an Open Championship. At the 2008 event at Royal Birkdale, he opened with a 10-over 80.

At the 2006 Open Championship at Royal Liverpool GC, Els finished third (68-65-71-71—275).

Most rounds in the 60s in Open Championship history (39-Ernie Els, 37-Nick Faldo, 33-Jack Nicklaus).

Most under-par rounds since 1963: 59 (Jack Nicklaus), 53 (Nick Faldo), 49 (Ernie Els), 45 (Tom Watson).

After missing the cut in his Open Championship debut in 1989, Els finished outside of the top 30 just once (T34-2005) in 18 consecutive appearances between 1992 and 2009, including 12 top-10s and eight top-5s. His win in 2012 marked his 19th made cut in 22 Open starts, snapping a streak of two straight misses (2010-11).

Additional Player Notes

Brian Harman, who won last week's John Deere Classic and clinch The Open Championship's final spot, opened with an even-par 72. In his only other major championship start, Harman missed the cut at the 2012 U.S. Open.

Since 1934, only 10 players on the PGA TOUR have won the week before winning a major, with Lee Trevino the only player performing the feat at the British Open:

2007	Tiger Woods	won WGC-Bridgestone Invitational followed by PGA Championship
2006	Phil Mickelson	won BellSouth Classic followed by Masters
1988	Sandy Lyle	won Greater Greensboro Open followed by the Masters
1971	Lee Trevino	won the Canadian Open followed by the British Open
1959	Art Wall	won the Azalea Open followed by the Masters
1949	*Sam Snead	won the Greater Greensboro Open followed by the Masters
1946	*Ben Hogan	won the Winnipeg Open followed by the PGA

1945 *Byron Nelson won the Chicago Victory Open followed by the PGA
 1939 Ralph Guldahl won the Greater Greensboro Open followed by the Masters
 1939 *Henry Picard won the Scranton Open followed by the PGA
 *No event scheduled the week after first win. Major was the next event contested

Last week's Scottish Open champion Justin Rose carded an opening-round, even-par 72. His lone top-10 finish at the event remains a T4 in his inaugural start in 1998. Rose missed last year's Open Championship cut at Muirfield, following rounds of 75-77.

Nick Faldo opened with 4-over 76 in his 36th Open Championship appearance He missed the cut at the 2006 Open Championship at Royal Liverpool GC..

Miscellaneous Notes

Past Open Championship Winners and Score

Tiger Woods	69
Louis Oosthuizen	70
Stewart Cink	71
Darren Clarke	72
Tom Watson	73
David Duval	73
Padraig Harrington	74
Ben Curtis	74
Justin Leonard	74
Nick Faldo	76
Todd Hamilton	77
Paul Lawrie	79
Ernie Els	79
Sandy Lyle	82

Amateur Leaderboard

Ashley Chesters	70
Cheng-tsung Pan	74
Paul Dunne	75
Bradley Neil	79

Three amateurs have won the Open Championship a total of six times:

Bobby Jones	3	1926, 1927, 1930
Harold Hilton	2	1892, 1897
John Ball Jr.	1	1890

First-Timers at the Open Championship

Just nine players have won the Open Championship in their first appearance: Ben Curtis (2003), Tom Watson (1975), Tony Lema (1964), Ben Hogan (1953), Denny Shute (1933), Jock Hutchison (1921), Mungo Park (1874), Tom Kidd (1873) and Willie Park Sr. (1860).

Of the 37 first timers at the Open Championship in 2014, Kristoffer Broberg, David Hearn and Ashley Chesters (a) enjoyed the best opening round (70).

Recent Major Championship Trends

- International players have won five of the last eight majors (2014 U.S. Open/Martin Kaymer, 2013 U.S. Open/Justin Rose, 2013 Masters/Adam Scott, 2012 PGA Championship/Rory McIlroy and 2012 Open Championship/Ernie Els).
- The last 23 major championships have been won by 19 different players. Martin Kaymer, Phil Mickelson, Bubba Watson and Rory McIlroy are the only players with two wins in majors in that span.

Year	Winner	Major
2014	Martin Kaymer	U.S. Open
2014	Bubba Watson	Masters
2013	Jason Dufner	PGA Championship
2013	Phil Mickelson	Open Championship
2013	Justin Rose	U.S. Open
2013	Adam Scott	Masters
2012	Rory McIlroy	PGA Championship
2012	Ernie Els	Open Championship

2012	Webb Simpson	U.S. Open
2012	Bubba Watson	Masters
2011	Keegan Bradley	PGA Championship
2011	Darren Clarke	Open Championship
2011	Rory McIlroy	U.S. Open
2011	Charl Schwartzel	Masters
2010	Martin Kaymer	PGA Championship
2010	Louis Oosthuizen	Open Championship
2010	Graeme McDowell	U.S. Open
2010	Phil Mickelson	Masters
2009	Y.E. Yang	PGA Championship
2009	Stewart Cink	Open Championship
2009	Lucas Glover	U.S. Open
2009	Angel Cabrera	Masters
2008	Padraig Harrington	PGA Championship

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Rory McIlroy (66), Thomas Bjorn (70) and Ryan Moore (70).

Eighteen players posted rounds in the 60s on Thursday. By comparison, the largest number of rounds in the 60s during a first round at the Open Championship is 50 (Turnberry, 2009).

The par-4 seventh hole played the toughest on Thursday, yielding a 4.429 average and just five birdies. The easiest hole was the par-5 10th at 4.590.