



The Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex

Old Course at St. Andrews | St. Andrews, Scotland | July 26-29, 2018

First-Round Notes

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Course Setup: Par 72 / 7,216 yards (Front: 35.042, Back: 37.724, R1 total: 72.766)

Weather: Mostly sunny with a high in the low 70s. Wind from the SE at 10-15 mph.

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	Player	To Par	Scores
T1.	Kirk Triplett	-7	32-33 – 65
T1.	Thaworn Wiratchant	-7	31-34 – 65
T3.	Paul McGinley	-6	31-35 – 66
T3.	Stephen Ames	-6	33-33 – 66
T5.	Bernhard Langer	-5	32-35 – 67
T5.	Scott McCarron	-5	32-35 – 67
T5.	David Toms	-5	31-36 – 67

Quick Links:

- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Tee Times](#)
- [PGATOURmedia.com](#) (transcripts and other resources available for download)

Kirk Triplett, 32-33 – 65 (-7)

- Triplett returned a bogey-free 65 and is a first-round leader/co-leader for the third time on PGA TOUR Champions. This is his second 18-hole lead/co-lead in a major, as he led after opening with an 8-under 62 at the 2017 U.S. Senior Open; he went on to finish second behind Kenny Perry.
- Triplett is making his fourth start at The Senior Open and first since 2015. His best finish was T8 at Royal Porthcawl in 2014.
- He played The Open Championship twice, and he finished T60 (73-71-74-72) at St. Andrews in 2000.
- In April at the Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge, Triplett holed a bunker shot for birdie on the first playoff hole to secure the victory with partner Paul Broadhurst. It was his sixth career win on PGA TOUR Champions. This season, he has three top-10s and is currently No. 19 in the Charles Schwab Cup.

Thaworn Wiratchant, 31-34 – 65 (-7)

- Wiratchant's outward 31 included five straight birdies on Nos. 3-7, and a birdie on No. 18 gave him a share of the lead at 7-under.
- Wiratchant, 51, is the Asian Tour's all-time wins leader with 18 victories. In 2012, he became the Tour's oldest Order of Merit champion at the age of 45.
- He earned entry into the field by finishing No. 9 on the Staysure Tour's 2017 Order of Merit. In March, Wiratchant won the Sharjah Senior Golf Masters, his second career victory on the Staysure Tour, and he's currently 15th in the Order of Merit.
- Last year, he finished T57 in his Senior Open Championship debut.

First-Round Lead Notes

- Since 2003, the first-round leader/co-leader has gone on to win The Senior Open Championship seven of 15 times, including last year when Bernhard Langer opened with a 2-under 69 and led by one.
- Four first-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win this year on PGA TOUR Champions: Jerry Kelly (Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai), Mark Calcavecchia (Boca Raton Championship), Bernhard Langer (Insperity Invitational) and Miguel Angel Jimenez (Regions Tradition).
- The top-seven players represent five countries: United States (Kirk Triplett, Scott McCarron, David Toms), Thailand (Thaworn Wiratchant), Canada (Stephen Ames), Ireland (Paul McGinley), Germany (Bernhard Langer).

Paul McGinley, 31-35 – 66 (-6)

- McGinley birdied Nos. 1, 4, 5, 7, and 9 en route to a 31, tied with David Toms, Thaworn Wiratchant and Scott Dunlap for the lowest score of the day on the outward nine.
- His score of 6-under 66 is his best on either PGA TOUR Champions or the Staysure Tour. He has two top-25s in six starts on PGA TOUR Champions, and his best finish was a T20 at the 2017 DICK'S Sporting Goods Open.
- McGinley has two top-10s on the Staysure Tour this season, with the best being a T4 at the Shipco Masters.
- In Open Championships at St. Andrews, he finished T20 (69-72-71-70) in 2000 and T41 (70-75-73-69) in 2005.

Stephen Ames, 33-33 – 66 (-6)

- Ames' 66 was just his third first-round score in the 60s in his last 20 starts, and it was his best opening score since a 66 at the 2017 Pacific Links Bear Mountain Championship.
- He is tied for third, which is his best first-round position in a senior major. Previously, his best was T9 at this year's U.S. Senior Open.
- In two previous starts at The Senior Open, Ames finished T18 in 2016 and T22 in 2015. In the 2005 Open Championship at St. Andrews, he missed the cut (76-74).
- Ames' best finish this season was a T10 at the American Family Insurance Championship, and he's currently No. 48 in the Charles Schwab Cup.

Other Player Notes

- Defending champion **Bernhard Langer** is T5 after opening with a 5-under 67. In 10 previous starts at The Senior Open, he has three wins (2010, 2014, 2017) and nine top-10s and his worst finish was T12 in 2011.
- In his first tournament round at St. Andrews, **Scott McCarron** carded a 5-under 67 and is tied for fifth. He has three top-five finishes in majors this season, the most recent being a T4 at the Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS.
- After birdying five of the first six holes, **David Toms** was even-par on the inward nine and is T5 after shooting 67. Toms made his Open Championship debut at the Old Course in 2000, and his T4 finish was his best in eight starts. This week, Toms is making his debut at The Senior Open Championship.
- Three of this year's major winners are among the top-10 after 18 holes.
 - **Miguel Angel Jimenez** (Regions Tradition) – T8, -4
 - **David Toms** (U.S. Senior Open) – T5, -5
 - **Vijay Singh** (Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Championship) – T8, -4
- **Colin Montgomerie**, one of five Scots in the field, played his last seven holes in 4-over en route to a 1-under 71. This is his sixth start in The Senior Open, and his résumé includes a runner-up in 2014 and a third-place finish in 2015.
- **John Daly**, winner of the 1995 Open Championship at St. Andrews, is T17 after a first-round 69.
- **Nick Faldo**, winner of the 1990 Open Championship at St. Andrews, is T108 after a first-round 76.
- At the age of 68, **Tom Watson** recorded a bogey-free 69 and is T17. Watson played in eight Open Championships at St. Andrews, including a T2 in 1984. He won The Open five times and The Senior Open three times (2003, 2005, 2007).
- Charles Schwab Cup leader **Jerry Kelly** made triple bogey on No. 13, and he's T84 after shooting 2-over 74.
- Prior to the round, **Jose Maria Olazabal** (back) withdrew and was replaced by first alternate **Dan Olsen**, who is T41 after carding a 1-under 71.
- **Ian Woosnam** (back) withdrew during the first round.