



ISPS HANDA Melbourne World Cup of Golf

Team/Player Notes

First-round leaderboard

T1	AUSTRALIA	(Marc Leishman / Cameron Smith)	62 (-10)
	KOREA	(Byeong Hun An / Si Woo Kim)	
	ENGLAND	(Tyrrell HATTON / Ian Poulter)	
T2	MALAYSIA	(Gavin Green / Ben Leong)	63 (-9)
	BELGIUM	(Thomas Pieters / Thomas Detry)	
	DENMARK	(Thorbjorn Olesen / Soren Kjeldsen)	

Australia	Marc Leishman	Cameron Smith
Official World Golf Ranking	21	33
International Victories	10	2
World Cup appearances	2	First
Australia Best World Cup Finish	1 st – 5 times – Most Recent – 2013 – Jason Day / Adam Scott	
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cameron Smith eagled the par-5 third hole to kick-start a 10-under performance in round one. • Leishman, the highest-ranked player in the field, notched his fourth career victory on the PGA TOUR at last month's CIMB Classic. • Leishman is competing in his second World Cup of Golf after finishing T9 with Adam Scott in 2016. • Smith's only PGA TOUR victory to date is also a team event – the 2017 Zurich Classic of New Orleans. 	

England	Tyrrell Hatton	Ian Poulter
Official World Golf Ranking	25	57
International Victories	3	16
World Cup appearances	First	6
England Best World Cup Finish	1 st - 1998 – David Carter / Nick Faldo 1 st – 2004 – Paul Casey / Luke Donald	
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hatton is the second-highest ranked player in the field. • Poulter, who won the 2011 Australian Masters at nearby Victoria Golf Club, carded seven birdies on the day. • Playing in his sixth World Cup of Golf, Poulter is in search of his first title after finishing second in 2011. • Hatton has three European titles to his credit, including back-to-back wins at the 2016 and 2017 Alfred Dunhill Links Championship. 	

Korea	Beyond Hun An	Si Woo Kim
Official World Golf Ranking	50	57
International Victories	3	3
World Cup appearances	2	First
Korea Best World Cup Finish	5 th – 1971 – Chang Sang Hahn / Seung Hak Kim; 1982 - Chang Sang Hahn / Sang Ho Choi	
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick start with birdies on Nos. 1, 4, 5 and 6 before adding an eagle on the par-5 seventh. • Stumbled with a bogey on the par-5 ninth but rebounded with five birdies on the back nine to post 10-under. • An held the first-round lead at last week's Emirates Australian Open before finishing T10. • 2017 PLAYERS Champion Kim has one top-10 finish through four starts on the PGA TOUR this season (T10; CIMB Classic). • Kim is the first player from Asia to win twice on the PGA TOUR before the age of 23. 	

Australia tied for first-round lead with England and Korea

Australia's Marc Leishman and Cameron Smith delighted the home crowd in round one of the 2018 ISPS HANDA Melbourne World Cup of Golf by delivering a 10-under 62 in Four-ball play, which included a birdie on the par-4 finishing hole, to tie the lead with Team England and Team Korea.

"I think it was very important for us to get off to a good start," Leishman said. "You don't want to be fighting back the whole tournament, which the scores were pretty good today, it wasn't that easy out there. So, yeah, happy to be I think tied for the lead. Cam had a nice -- had his putter going today, which was great, and we combined pretty well. So that's what you have to do in that format."

Australia opened with a 6-under 30 on the front nine thanks in part to a Smith eagle on the par-5 third hole. Leishman got going with a birdie on the par-3 sixth hole followed by two more on the seventh and ninth holes. The Australians are in search of their sixth World Cup of Golf title and first since Jason Day and Adam Scott triumphed down the road at The Royal Melbourne Golf Club.

"We kept chatting all day and I gave Leish a bit of an uppercut under the ribs after 4," Smith said. "I said, you know, you can turn up any time. We both played really well all day and we just got to keep being smart. I think it's going to keep being windy and the course is only going to get firmer and faster, so just play smart and let the putting take care of itself."

Considered among the favorites in Melbourne, the English pairing of Tyrrell Hatton and Ian Poulter proved their mettle in team play with a 10-under result of their own. Poulter kick-started the round with birdies on two of the first four holes, and the duo made their charge alternating birdies from hole Nos. 9-12 before Poulter added three in a row from Nos. 14-16.

“On a day like today you have to make some birdies,” Poulter said. “We made enough to get on the top of the board, which is the main goal. We dovetailed nicely; when one was out of position, the other one was in position and that's exactly what you have to do today.”

The two are looking to bring home England's first World Cup of Golf title since Luke Donald and Paul Casey accomplished the feat in 2004.

“This tournament's won and lost on Friday and Sunday,” Poulter said. “Foursomes is the day where you can take yourself out of the tournament pretty quickly. In Four-ball you're always going to make birdies, there's enough par 5s on the course, and hopefully you don't make any mistakes. Obviously, you know, Friday and Sunday are going to be the keys to this golf tournament.”

Byeong Hun An and Si Woo Kim were the first to combine for a 10-under 62 in the Four-ball. An contributed one eagle on the par-5 seventh hole and five other birdies while Kim, making his debut in the World Cup of Golf, fired four birdies for the team. They dropped a lone bogey on the par-5 ninth hole, the only team to do so on the hole.

“Yes, we did well because we didn't birdie the same holes. I think we saved each other pretty good, and when he was struggling, I made some birdies, and when I was out, he was making ‘some birdies,’ An said. “So I think it all worked out pretty good today. Made some good par saves. Then the bogey on No. 9 hurts a little bit, but we got enough birdies and eagles, so 10 under is pretty good.”

Team Korea's fast start has given them an opportunity to improve on their previous best finish in the World Cup of Golf which is fifth position achieved in 1971 (Chang Sang Hahn/Seung Hak Kim) and 1982 (Chang Sang Hahn/Sang Ho Choi).

The second round of the ISPS HANDA Melbourne World Cup of Golf, which will be played in the Foursomes format, gets underway at 10:35am, with the last group due out on course at 12:45pm.