

The Links Times

Alfred Dunhill Links Championship Daily News & Order of Play

ROUND 4, SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER, 2021



GREAT TO BE BACK, SAYS WILLETT

Danny Willett leads the Alfred Dunhill Links and could clinch the Championship on his birthday, but the former Masters winner is just thankful that the landmark event is back and the Old Course will once again be lined with golf fans

The stage is set for an enthralling climax in the final round of a thrilling Alfred Dunhill Links Championship at St Andrews today, with the burning question being: can anyone stop Danny Willett winning on his 34th birthday?

The 2016 Masters and Alfred Dunhill Links Team Champion opened up a three-shot lead after a classic round in wet conditions, with six birdies and no bogeys, for a peerless 66 on the Old Course, to reach 14-under-par.

It could be a double celebration today. With his partner Jimmy

Dunne, above, he is also joint leader of the Team Championship, tied on 27-under-par with Scotland's Ewen Ferguson and The Vamps lead singer Brad Simpson.

Afterwards, Willett thanked the Scottish galleries who turned up to watch. "It's great to have the fans back, and to have the Dunhill Links format back, we missed it last year. It's great to have everyone here. We're getting cheered on and it's great to be back on British soil."

Back to his full powers after an operation in the summer for appendicitis, Willett said: "Another 18 holes to go. You need to drive it

close, and as soon as you get on the 12th tee, you know you've got tough conditions coming straight into the wind on the last six holes."

It looked as if Willett might be sharing the lead with fellow Englishman Daniel Gavins but, on the 16th at Kingsbarns, Gavins hit his ball on to the beach and dropped a shot, following it with double bogeys at the 17th and 18th to drop back to ten-under-par.

The chasing pack on 11-under-par are overnight leader Tyrrell Hatton and Richard Bland from England, and Ireland's Shane Lowry and John Murphy.

Hatton started with four birdies in the first five holes, but bogeys at the 13th, 14th and 15th left him with a 71. Bland had a sparkling 64 at St Andrews, with Lowry and Murphy both shooting 67.

*During the round play stopped on all three courses for a minute's silence to remember the victims of the Covid-19 pandemic.

EUROPEAN TOUR | Race to DUBAI

IWC
SCHAFFHAUSEN

dunhill

BLAND'S BIG YEAR KEEPS ON GOING

The veteran has already won his first European Tour title at the 478th attempt and is now one of four in-form stars chasing down Championship leader Danny Willett

A remarkable year for 48-year-old Richard Bland could get even better tomorrow after the veteran English professional defied the elements at the Old Course to shoot a brilliant eight-under-par 64 and catapult himself into a four-way share of second place behind tournament leader Danny Willett, who shot a superb bogey-free 66.

And Ireland's Shane Lowry, one of the few bright lights in Europe's Ryder Cup defeat last week, also bounded into contention for a maiden Alfred Dunhill Links title with an impressive 67 in the wind and rain of St Andrews.

Bland won an emotional first European Tour victory at the 478th attempt in May, beating young Italian Guido Migliozzi in a sudden-death play-off in the British Masters. He then headed to the US Open, acquitting himself with huge credit at Torrey Pines, and has enjoyed further good finishes this summer.

He and 2019 Open champion Lowry are on 11-under-par alongside Tyrrell Hatton, seeking a record third Championship and another Irishman, John Murphy.

Lowry admitted there was "a bit of fatigue" following the excitement of his Ryder Cup debut but added: "It's a bit of calm after last

week and it's still a big tournament. I'm a competitive person, and when I play I want to do well.

"I'm giving it my all and have managed to play some nice golf over the last three days. I shot level par on the back nine today with a bad bogey on 10, and I would have taken that standing on the 10th tee. That was when the rain started coming in, it was quite cold and the ball was going nowhere.

"I'm in a nice position now and I look forward to it. Anybody that's involved in golf or into golf and has been here knows that this place is probably one of the most special places in the golf world, if not the most special place. So to be able to lift the trophy on that green would be incredible."

With four birdies in the first five holes, it had earlier looked as if Hatton was well on his way to a unique hat-trick at the Alfred Dunhill Links, but bogeys at the 13th, 14th and 15th derailed him.

Hatton said: "I obviously got off to a very nice start, and then just hit a couple of loose shots and I feel like I just lost all momentum."

Tommy Fleetwood, pictured right, is six shots adrift of Willett after a 71, while Victor Perez, the defending champion from 2019, missed the cut by two strokes after a level par 72 at St Andrews.



OLD COURSE ENCORE FOR TROUBADOURS OF DUNHILL

With the top 20 in the Team Championship lining up at the Old Course at St Andrews today, music fans will be able to see three stars spanning 30 years of chart hits



The Dunhill Supergroup – the musicians among the amateur field – were determined to stick around for a curtain call as Ronan Keating and his merry band fought for a place in the top 20 of the Team Championship who will return for today's finale at St Andrews.

Keating was playing his favourite

of the three links – Kingsbarns – in the company of Dave Farrell, the bassist from Linkin Park and took a break midway to give an impromptu performance of one of his biggest hits, 'Life is a Rollercoaster'.

His first two rounds were played alongside The Vamps singer Brad Simpson, pictured left, who, with his partner, the Scottish pro Ewen

Ferguson, finished the day with a share of the lead on 27-under-par after a strong finish.

Also returning for today's play at St Andrews will be Huey Lewis. The 'Power of Love' star teamed up with Spanish partner Adri Arnaus to finish six shots back.

"We're all good friends," said Keating of the musicians in the



GOUGH AND ROOT HAPPY TO FOLLOW ON THIS TIME

Two England cricket greats will be back at the Old Course today for the final round of the Team Championship. Former all-rounder Darren Gough and current Test captain Joe Root both made the cut.

Gough and his pro partner, the two-time European Tour winner Sam Horsfield finished on 20-under-par, after a 66 on Kingsbarns.

"Me and Sam have been brilliant together all week. Sam hasn't had his best week but we still dovetailed so well," said Gough. "We gave ourselves a chance and we sneaked in."

Gough, currently a radio host on talkSPORT, will have another chance to play on the Old Course and admitted it's been a dream to tee it up at the Home of Golf.

"The whole week has been the bucket list. I played in the Dunhill many years ago, one of the first, and I've not played for a long time so I was lucky enough to get an invitation this year and it's been a terrific five days, so whether I was here for the last day or not it's been an absolute dream."

Joining Gough at the Old Course will be Root. He drove it out of bounds from the Old Course's 18th tee but a par from his pro partner Ross Fisher - who holds the course record of 61 at St Andrews - was just enough to make it to the Team Championship finale.

"I didn't even mind it when it rained hard for a while this afternoon," said Root.

"How can you not love playing these amazing courses and in a tournament as good as this?"

field. "Brad and I got to play together on the first two days and today I'm out with Dave."

Keating was playing with Eddie Pepperell at Kingsbarns and the pair, right, ended the day on 22-under-par. The singer and broadcaster is a Dunhill regular and has a firm favourite among the three Links Golf challenges he faces each year.

"I love Kingsbarns, but it's a bit of a wolf in sheep's clothing, it's the most challenging for an amateur like me. There's a lot of problems, a lot of rough, a lot of bunkers."

"It's been brilliant playing with Eddie. On Friday at Carnoustie it was a lesson watching these guys deal with the wind - us amateurs were getting our backsides kicked."



IWC PILOT. ENGINEERED FOR ORIGINALS.



Big Pilot's Watch 43. Ref. 3293:
The functional design with its easy-to-read dial and distinctive cone-shaped crown has ensured the Big Pilot's Watch of its iconic status. Now, for the first time, it is available in a 43-millimetre case that combines a striking

presence on your wrist with unprecedented comfort. The IWC-manufactured 82100 calibre, sapphire crystal back, and EasX-CHANGE rapid strap replacement system are further features of this enormously versatile sports watch.
IWC. ENGINEERING DREAMS. SINCE 1868.

**DOWNLOAD THE NEW IWC APP
FOR VIRTUAL TRY-ON**

IWC-manufactured 82100 calibre · Pellaton automatic winding system · 60-hour power reserve · Central hacking seconds · See-through sapphire-glass back · Water-resistant 10 bar · Diameter 43 mm · Stainless steel

IWC Schaffhausen, Switzerland · www.iwc.com

IWC
SCHAFFHAUSEN

As soon as Ahmad Rashad realised he had made a hole-in-one on the 15th at Kingsbarns, he knew the one person he wanted to tell about it – Tiger Woods. Sometimes it helps to have the greatest player of the modern era on speed dial.

“The first thing I did was text Tiger!” said a delighted Rashad after completing his round. “He is a dear friend of mine and I wanted to let him know. He got back straight away – all he said was: ‘Well, I guess that means you’re buying’.”

With the wind whipping up and the North Sea only a few metres to his right, Rashad lined up his shot. “It was 176-yards. I took my 7-iron out because of how windy it was,” he said. “I’ve played the hole before and didn’t hit it far enough, but this time I hit it right at the pin. It took one bounce and went in, but I wasn’t sure from where I was.

“Then everyone went crazy!”

Rashad, pictured celebrating with Wladimir Klitschko, is one of the greatest wide receivers in the history of the Minnesota Vikings. He executed one of the most celebrated NFL plays when he caught a last-second, Hail Mary pass, to take the Vikings to the 1980 play-offs. He is now a leading broadcaster, focusing mainly on the NBA.

“This might be the highlight of my sporting career,” he said. “And that’s saying something!”

Rashad was playing with his pro partner Kristoffer Broberg and they will start the final round at the Old Course four shots behind the joint leaders in the Team Championship.

So, how will the man of the hour celebrate? “I celebrate life every day!” he said. “I’ve just been so happy to be here and it’s been great to have everyone here stopping me to say ‘hey, great hole-in-one!’”



EWEN FEELS FANTASTIC

“I’ll remember forever my first time at the Dunhill” says Ewen Ferguson as the young Scottish professional starts five shots behind leader Danny Willett today

Scotland’s best hope of victory in the Alfred Dunhill Links today appears to lie with Ewen Ferguson, though it will need a remarkable round on the Old Course to make an impression on Danny Willett who is five shots ahead.

Ferguson produced a bogey-free 69 at Kingsbarns to be 9-under-par and in a tie for ninth.

He said: “Overall I’m feeling fantastic. My game is in a really good place. I feel the team I’ve got around me right now is just amazing. My coach has been here this week and my caddie Shane has been on Tour for a long time.

“There were a lot of things at these courses that I didn’t know, so it’s been great, and hopefully I can keep making some birdies.”

How will he approach today’s final round on the Old Course?

“I’m looking forward to it. Having everyone watching makes things quite special. But I’m not going to approach it any differently, just the same as I did on the first day. But I know it’s going to be a really memorable week. I’ll remember forever my first time at the Dunhill.”



Danny Willett



Tyrrell Hatton



Ewen Ferguson



Sbane Lowry

TODAY'S ORDER OF PLAY

10th Tee

Game No	Tee	Tee Time	Professional/Amateur	Professional's Score					Team Score
				R1	R2	R3	Total	+/- Par	
1	10	09.30	Calum HILL	73	69	70	212	-4	
			Lucas BJERREGAARD	70	70	72	212	-4	
			Thomas AIKEN	69	72	71	212	-4	
2	10	09.41	Jorge CAMPILLO	70	73	69	212	-4	
			Yikeun CHANG	67	73	72	212	-4	
			Luke DONALD/Jamie Redknapp	72	72	68	212	-4	
3	10	09.52	David DRYSDALE	71	72	70	213	-3	
			Thomas PIETERS	72	70	71	213	-3	
			Marcel SIEM	71	71	71	213	-3	
4	10	10.03	Alexander BJÖRK	74	69	70	213	-3	
			MJ DAFFUE	70	74	69	213	-3	
			Julian SURI	69	73	71	213	-3	
5	10	10.14	Grant FORREST	73	73	67	213	-3	
			Rhys ENOCH	72	69	72	213	-3	
			Ben JONES	70	72	71	213	-3	
6	10	10.25	Tom LEWIS	68	75	70	213	-3	
			Martin KAYMER	69	72	73	214	-2	
			Justin HARDING	69	75	70	214	-2	
7	10	10.36	Min Woo LEE	71	73	70	214	-2	
			Benjamin HEBERT	74	72	68	214	-2	
			Stephen GALLACHER	71	68	75	214	-2	
8	10	10.47	Oliver FISHER	68	70	76	214	-2	
			John CATLIN	68	72	74	214	-2	
			David HORSEY	73	69	72	214	-2	
9	10	10.58	Ryan FOX/Shane Warne	75	71	68	214	-2	-20
			Marcus ARMITAGE	69	75	70	214	-2	
			Andy SULLIVAN	73	72	69	214	-2	
10	10	11.09	Troy MERRITT	67	73	74	214	-2	
			Brett RANKIN	71	72	71	214	-2	
			Thorbjørn OLESEN/Brett Desmond						
11	10	11.20	Ross FISHER/Joe Root						-21
			Laurie CANTER/Rurik Gobel						-21
12	10	11.31	Zander LOMBARD/Dan Fireman						-20
			Shubhankar SHARMA/Toby Leighton-Pope						-20

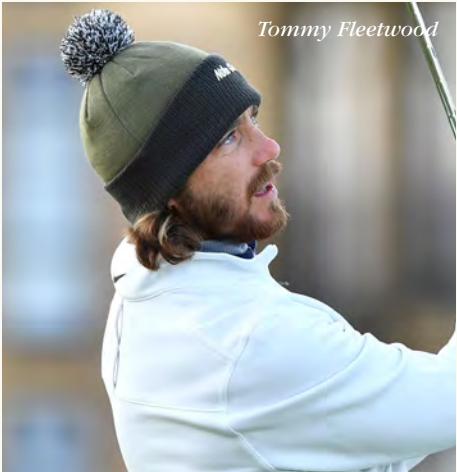
1st Tee

Game No	Tee	Tee Time	Professional/Amateur	Professional's Score					Team Score
				R1	R2	R3	Total	+/- Par	
13	1	09.30	Branden GRACE	70	74	67	211	-5	-24
			Guido MIGLIOZZI	68	72	71	211	-5	
			Michael HOEY/Maeve Danaher	65	75	71	211	-5	
14	1	09.41	Kristoffer BROBERG/Ahmad Rashad	71	71	69	211	-5	-23
			Sebastian SODERBERG	68	74	69	211	-5	
15	1	09.52	Álvaro QUIROS/Scott Desano	68	74	69	211	-5	-21
			Billy HORSCHEL/Billy Horschel Sr	69	73	68	210	-6	
16	1	10.03	Dean BURMESTER	70	69	71	210	-6	
			Haotong LI	64	72	74	210	-6	
			Nicolas COLSAERTS	64	75	71	210	-6	
17	1	10.14	Adrian OTAEGUI	67	73	70	210	-6	-22
			Callum SHINKWIN	72	72	66	210	-6	
			Eddie PEPPERELL/Ronan Keating	68	71	71	210	-6	
18		10.25	Wilco NIENABER	71	70	68	209	-7	
			Nicolai HØJGAARD	70	68	71	209	-7	
			Richie RAMSAY	67	72	70	209	-7	
19	1	10.36	Matthias SCHMID	71	68	70	209	-7	
			Deyen LAWSON	70	68	70	208	-8	
			Tommy FLEETWOOD	66	71	71	208	-8	
20	1	10.47	Alex NOREN	70	68	70	208	-8	-21
			Matthieu PAVON	68	70	70	208	-8	
			Adri ARNAUS/Huey Lewis	64	76	67	207	-9	
21	1	10.58	Ewen FERGUSON/Brad Simpson	65	73	69	207	-9	-27
			Jeff WINTHER/Christer Lihammar	66	71	69	206	-10	
22	1	11.09	Daniel GAVINS/Bob Diamond	67	68	71	206	-10	-24
			Joakim LAGERGREN/Mark Madden	67	72	67	206	-10	
23	1	11.20	Shane LOWRY/Gerry McManus	71	67	67	205	-11	-26
			Richard BLAND	69	72	64	205	-11	
			Tyrrell HATTON	64	70	71	205	-11	
24	1	11.31	John MURPHY/Oliver Baker	69	69	67	205	-11	-22
			Danny WILLETT/Jimmy Dunne	67	69	66	202	-14	

Richard Bland



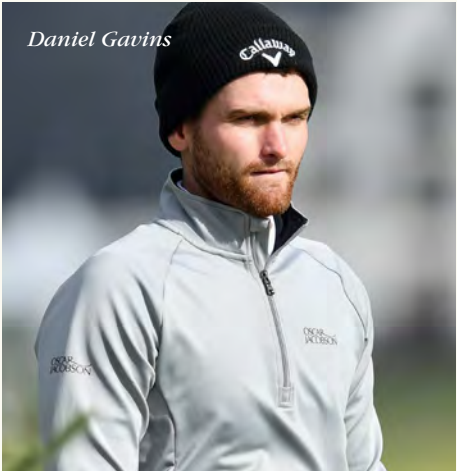
Tommy Fleetwood



Jeff Winther



Daniel Gavins



PRO
LEADERBOARD



TEAM
LEADERBOARD



LOCAL BAKERY TAKES THE CAKE

The annual shop window display competition did not disappoint as Fisher & Donald's bakery wins first prize

The St Andrews' branch of Fisher & Donaldson Bakery has taken top honours in this year's Alfred Dunhill Links window display competition. Shops and businesses in the town centre produce creative, golf-themed displays to mark the annual Championship.

Fisher & Donald's window, designed by the shop's retail manager Sandra Wallace, not only featured

an imaginative display, but also included specially produced Alfred Dunhill empire biscuits and other golf-themed baked items.

Amid a number of other outstanding entries, two runner-up prizes were awarded to fashion boutique Miller's Tale and St Andrews Golf Shop. Both the winners and runners-up are being treated to Afternoon Tea at the Old Course Hotel to enjoy Sunday's final.



ROAR OF CROWD DRIVES HAZEL ON

Royal Troon golfer Hazel MacGarvie says her Alfred Dunhill Links debut has inspired her to follow her dream of turning professional.

The 20-year-old, who won the 2019 St Rule trophy on the Old Course with a record score, partnered Robin Roussel and named her first-ever round on Carnoustie as the highlight of her week.

Hazel said the experience has made her realise she's capable of pursuing a professional career in the sport. "I really enjoyed it when I hit a good shot and people clapped," she said. "It gives you a boost of confidence, especially the round I had at Carnoustie on Thursday. That's definitely something that's spurred me on to say I am good enough to take this to the next level, so fingers crossed."

BAFFLED HORSCHEL MAKES A SPLASH

Billy Horschel could only smile as he approached the Swilken Burn. What had seemed a perfect approach with his second shot of the day had pitched three inches short, hit the pin hard and spun all the way back into the water.

Undaunted, he climbed down and took a stance in the stream. However, fortune was still against him and his ball ricocheted off the wall of the burn and ended ten yards behind him, back on the first fairway.

After a deep breath a delightful chip left Horschel with a tap-in for an adventurous five.

Horschel has been playing with his father in the Team Championship and Billy Snr. celebrated his 70th birthday on Friday at Kingsbarns, where Dunhill presented him with celebratory champagne after his round.



ANDY SEES A BIT OF HEAVEN IN LINKS GEMS

The Ocean's Eleven star has fallen for the history of the Championship courses and the people he has met

Hollywood superstar Andy Garcia described a week on three of the greatest Links golf courses in the world as being “a little closer to heaven” after concluding his sixth appearance at the Alfred Dunhill Links.

Across those visits, Garcia has fallen for the history of the courses and the hospitality of the Scottish people.

“Golf began on the Old Course and when you go out there you think about the equipment they used to use and the enthusiasm they had for the game,” said Garcia. “You think to yourself, ‘This is where it happened’. It’s a very special place, it’s sublime.”

But the star of such movies as *The Untouchables* and *Ocean’s Eleven* was just as taken by the people as the place and also highlighted the warmth of the reception he received from the locals and

the friendly environment enjoyed by the amateurs.

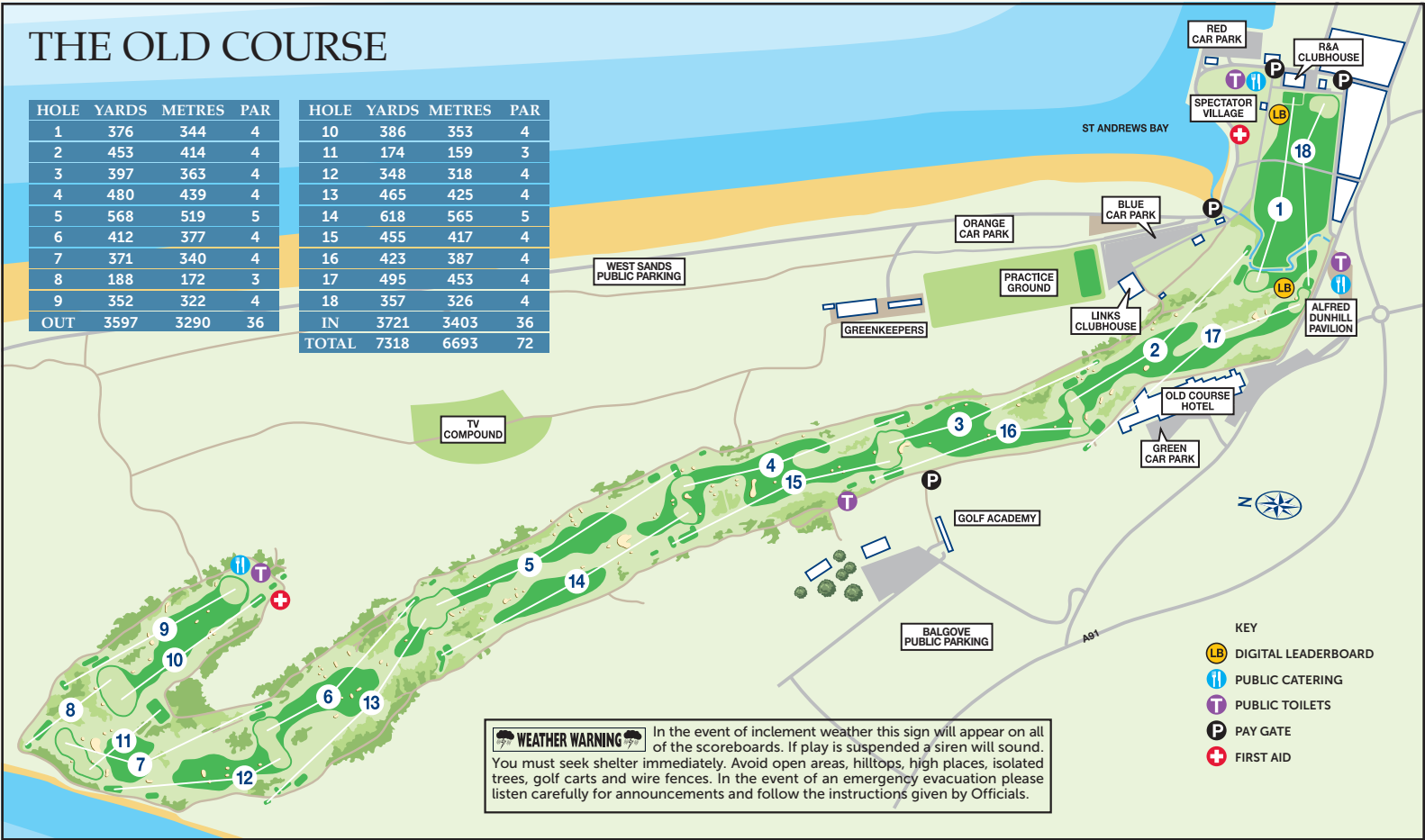
“The people are so hospitable and warm, there’s always a special Scottish smile on everybody’s face, a rosiness,” he said. “The courses almost feel like a religious experience when you’re out on them, especially Carnoustie and St Andrews. It’s a little closer to heaven.”

Garcia, a member of the Lakeside club Toluca Lake, California, finished off his week with playing partner Troy Merritt on Kingsbarns, posting a final score of 12-under-par in the Team Championship.

Also heading home after a memorable week is Dunhill regular and cricket legend, Lord Ian Botham, who played alongside David Horsey.

“It’s the first date you look for in your calendar and you just block it off,” said Botham.

“I’ve only missed one year and that was for an operation. I look forward to it, it’s fantastic.”



MEMORIES FROM A GREAT WEEK AT THE LINKS



The one time Joe Root was trying to get out! The England cricket captain plays from a bunker in a practice round at Kingsbarns



Seve Ballesteros' son Javier, who was playing in the Championship, and daughter Carmen, were special guests at an exhibition to honour their father



A champagne moment as Billy Horschel Snr. celebrated his 70th birthday with son Billy after finishing their second round at Kingsbarns





dunhill