

The 151st Open Championship (R&A)

Royal Liverpool Golf Club (Hoylake) • Liverpool, England • July 20-23, 2023

Links Manager

James Bledge

Email: links@royal-liverpool-golf.com

Years at Course: 1 1/2

Years as a Superintendent: 9

Previous Courses: Royal Cinque Ports, West Scotland, PGA of Sweden National, Kingsbarns, Miklagard, Dumfries, Galloway Golf Club

Hometown: Dumfries, Scotland

Tournaments Hosted: Bledge has hosted four Open Qualifiers, the Amateur Championship and the Boys Amateur Championship in his career.

Other Key Golf Personnel

Paul Gardner, Assistant Superintendent

Chris Trimble, Assistant Superintendent

Phil Turner, Equipment Manager

John Heggarty, Professional

Number of Employees: 12

Number of Tournament Volunteers: 33

Golf Course Dogs: Stevie and Siouxsie (Fox Red Labs)

Course Architect

Architect (year): Robert Chambers and George Morris (1869 – 9 holes), Harry Colt (18 holes)

Renovation Architect (year): Donald Steel, Martin Hawtree, Martin Ebert

Twitter

Links Manager - [@JamesBledge](https://twitter.com/JamesBledge)

Course - [@RLGCHoylake](https://twitter.com/RLGCHoylake)

Tournament - [@TheOpen](https://twitter.com/TheOpen)

Tournament Fact Sheets for the PGA TOUR, LPGA, PGA TOUR Champions, Korn Ferry and Epson Tours and USGA and PGA of America championships can be found at: <https://www.gcsaa.org/media/tournament-fact-sheets>

Tournament Set-up

Par: 35-36—71

Yardage: 7,383

Course Statistics

Average Green Size: 6,458 sq. ft.

Total Property Acres: 197

Acres of Fairway: 22

Acres of Maintained Rough: 15

Number of Sand Bunkers: 84

Number of Holes Water is in Play: 0

Soil Conditions: Sand

Water Sources: Borehole

Drainage Conditions: Free Draining

Turfgrass

Greens: Bentgrass / fescue .150"

Collars: Fescue / bentgrass .255"

Approaches: Fescue / bentgrass .255"

Tees: Fescue .255"

Fairways: Fescue .395"

Rough: Fescue / bentgrass / dozens of other dune land species 2"

Additional Notes

- All playing areas are overseeded with fescue, paths with dwarf ryegrass and greens with Browntop bentgrass.

- A new 17th hole was created in 2019. There are new fairway bunkers on the left of No. 1 and right of No. 15.

- Edges of greens were taken out to provide more pin positions.

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Since 1926 the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to 19,000 members in more than 78 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and improve communities through enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf.

- Average fairway widths in landing areas are 32 yards.
- Course had a very dry start to the summer, but rain since the end of June has greened the course.
- Course mined 4,000 tons of sand from the dunes for bunkers, saving money and transport from quarries cutting down on carbon footprint.
- Course is Geo Certified.
- Wildlife on the course include the rare Natterjack toads, skylarks and foxes.
- Tournament routing is regular No. 17, 18, 1, 2, 3, etc...
- Royal Liverpool Golf Club member Matthew Jordan qualified for The Open.