

The Open 2022

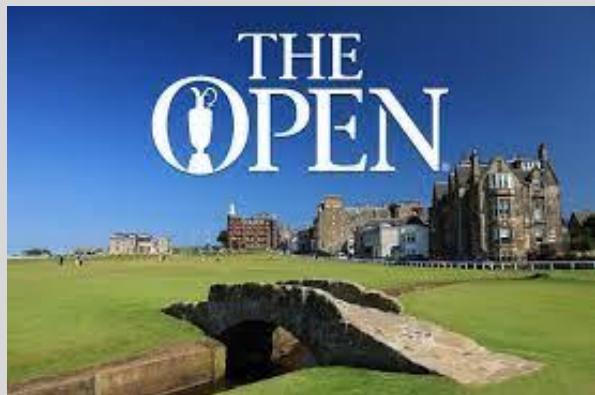
Preview



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Introduction



A jewel in the British sporting calendar, The Open is possibly the most prestigious of the 5 Majors and winning it will 'make' a golfer's career... as well as his bank account!

Past winners include modern day legends such as Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus, Tom Watson, Seve Ballesteros and Tiger Woods. Players like Rory McIlroy, Jordan Spieth, Brooks Koepka and Dustin Johnson will hope to eventually join that pantheon of greats, they are all Major winners already but are not quite there yet... a win at St Andrew's will push them even closer.

But enough history, what about this year's event?

Not every player will be suited by the links course at St. Andrew's, especially if the 'great British summer' does get a bit inclement... as it is prone to do!

Bookies will be falling all over themselves to attract the punter's pound, especially in these belt tightening times. While some will be paying on the first 5 or 6 places, the more aggressive will be paying 8 and even 10 places!

The one thing that is apparent is that they are remarkably 'uniform' in their pricing of odds for players at the top of the market who are all household names, regardless of their current form, as they know that the casual armchair punter leans towards players they have already heard of.

Betting Strategy



You need to find value in The Open betting markets and take 2,3 or even 4 players against the field in the outright betting market.

Bookies will be offering a myriad of more 'exotic' markets from Top 20 finish to Top GB player to who wears the most garish trousers (possibly!!)

We think that the 'safest' exotic markets to play are probably a Top 20 finish and to make/not make the cut... there will also be value to be found in the first two days 3 ball matches, as some of the bigger names like Patrick Cantlay and Justin Thomas have limited experience on links courses and don't often travel out of the U.S., and like fine wines... they tend not to travel too well!!

Bookies will also be offering in-play betting, and those of you who are more conservative punters, will readily exchange a reduction in odds for the guarantee that their pick has not blown out early in the competition.

We hope that this betting preview will show you just why there is great value to be found in betting on golf, and that our knowledge and experience can help you to narrow down the field and not just take the 'easy' option of following the big-name players in... this is just what the bookies want you to do and their markets will be lopsided so there is significantly less value to be had in backing them.

Consequently, there is value to be found lower down the betting markets; especially in the 20/1 to 50/1 range, and with prices like these even an e/w place can pay almost as well as a win bet on the top 3 in the market.

So, it's time now have a look at the field and the outright betting market....

The world's top ten golfers considered.

The current top ten golfers in the official world rankings are:

1. Scottie Scheffler
2. Jon Rahm
3. Rory McIlroy
4. Collin Morikawa
5. Justin Thomas
6. Cam Smith
7. Patrick Cantlay
8. Viktor Hovland
9. Sam Burns
10. Matt Fitzpatrick

Let's look at them all briefly and see how they currently set up for this year's Open.



Scottie Scheffler – The Masters winner and a multiple winner on the PGA Tour in 2022. Does not have a lot of experience of playing outside the U.S. at the highest level. A calm and steady golfer who can cope in most conditions. The 12/1 available may be a bit short with some unknowns re St Andrews for him?



Jon Rahm – not at his best in recent times but has plenty of experience on courses like St Andrews. A volatile golfer on course if things are not going well. And that can easily happen on this course. The current 12/1 odds are not that generous based on his current form.



Rory McIlroy - is the current 9/1 favourite. No stranger to St Andrews and similar courses. Prone to making errors at present but could tear this course apart on his best form. Will the pressure of the crowd play on his mind? A firm favourite in this part of the world and he would be a very popular potential winner.



Collin Morikawa - is our defending champion having won at Royal St Georges last year in calm conditions. A top ball striker who should enjoy the course layout this year. A good temperament and has the confidence of having won in 2021. He needs to find his best form but is not far off it. It is exceedingly difficult to defend a major and so that goes against him. The 20/1 available now looks correct and is OK value if you ignore the defending champion negative.



Justin Thomas – JT does get let down by his putter these days. JT does not have the best record outside of the U.S. so I'm unsure as to whether there is much value at odds of 14/1. A recent major winner, though at the USPGA Championship and so he can deliver on the big occasion



Cam Smith - The course sets up well him and his form was red hot a few months ago but he has gone off the boil of late. If he finds his form again, the 25/1 available is big. I can see Cam strategically plotting his way around St Andrews if he can keep his driving relatively straight.



Patrick Cantlay does not have a good record in Majors. His few visits outside the U.S. have also not been very productive. He can be left alone at current odds of 28/1. Inclement weather may suit him more than other Americans taking part.



Viktor Hovland has the game to cope with most types of course. He can be let down by his game around the green though, so will need to find the greens on approach at St Andrews to be competitive. The 28/1 available is OK but no more than that. Viktor will have no issues with a bit of wind and rain if it comes at The Open.



Sam Burns - is another golfer who has been in good form of late. He has won three times on the USPGA Tour in the past fifteen months. Against him is the fact he is inexperienced outside the U.S. and it is unclear as to how he will get on at St Andrews. But the 40/1 available now looks to be decent value.



Matt Fitzpatrick - is our latest Major winner, having won the U.S. Open last month. Matt would prefer tricky weather conditions as this would be a leveller, but he must be right in things based upon current form and his ability on this type of course. It is extremely difficult to win two Majors in a row but the 20/1 available now looks fair.

Five golfers to have onside at St Andrews.



Rory McIlroy – A former Open Champion. Rory is not e/w value at the current odds of 9/1, but in the week of the tournament the bookmakers will be going up to ten places. I think that he is a win only cover bet if you're having a few selections in the tournament. It could all go wrong for Rory on day one, but if he is on his game, he can easily win at St Andrews. You will be more likely get value on the exchanges on Rory I would think.



Jordan Spieth – A former Open champion who enjoys playing on British links courses. Jordan has an adaptable game and enjoys doing the unusual. His putting needs to improve for him to contend but he would not be too bothered by a bit of wind on course. The 22/1 available now is just OK.



Hideki Matsuyama – A supreme ball striker and a past Masters champion, who can raise his game for Majors. Hideki is at home on most types of course and can adapt his game if the wind is blowing. He's another golfer who will need to find his best putting form, but he should be able to find most greens on approach. There is some 33/1 out there and that is good. 28/1 is also OK.



Louis Oosthuizen – Now playing on the LIV Golf tour. The last two Open Championships played at St Andrews have seen Louis win easily and then finish second. So, he is the obvious pick as course specialist. Regularly contends in majors and can play well in poor weather conditions. Louis has not play much in recent times but

knows how to peak for a major. The 40/1 currently available looks OK.



Justin Rose – Another former Major winner who is coming back to form. Rosey has decent course form at St Andrews and plays well on links courses. He has a long history in the Open when he went close as a young amateur. A top-class iron player, which is always necessary at St Andrews. At 50/1 with enhanced place terms Justin looks worth a go.

Five golfers to avoid at St Andrews



Justin Thomas – I can't see much evidence as to how this type of course suits JT? OK, he is a great ball striker, but he does not have a good record in Open Championships or on UK links courses. That may change but at his current odds I see little justification for backing JT at St Andrews. The only caveat I would have is that Bones Mackay is his caddie and he has a wealth of experience with Phil Mickelsen on such courses.



Xander Schauffele – A recent, if a bit fortunate winner on the USPGA Tour and current Olympic champion. Xander has a better record than Justin Thomas on UK links courses, but he has failed to win on such. Xander has a big following punter wise, especially in the States. However, based upon what he

has actually achieved in the past I am not excited by best odds of 25/1.



Patrick Cantlay – whilst being one of the top golfers on the USPGA Tour today Patrick has struggled in Majors so far in his career. Not one to leave the shores of America much, and when he has done so he has not fared very well. Therefore, I cannot see him enjoying the type of course and conditions he will encounter at St Andrews and there are several other golfers much more suited to such.



Brooks Koepka – ‘Brooksy’ recently got married, joined the Saudi backed LIV Tour and said that he does not much enjoy playing golf regularly. OK, he does have a good record in Majors, but not so much at The Open. Although he has contended in the past he has dropped away towards the end of the tournament. Brooks appears to be not happy at present and he looks fed up with being pursued by the media. Initial 33/1 odds do tend to look big, but with all of what is going on with Brooks, I would not want him onside at St Andrews. A potential bet to miss the cut.



Tiger Woods – A two-time winner of the Open Championship at St Andrews in past years. However, he's still struggling to recover from the injuries sustained in a car crash that threatened his life. Tiger does not play much at all these days; he could do well on the first two days of the tournament but then struggle as the week wears on. There will be many punters who will back Tiger for obvious reasons and the current 50/1 odds initially look big, but I do not see him being able to compete against the big boys over four straight days.

Some dark horses worth considering at 33/1+



Hideki Matsuyama – as already discussed Hideki is a top ball striker and a former Masters winner and he is a golfer who can raise his game for the Majors. Apart from his win at Atlanta, Hideki has contended in several other Majors and he does not have a bad record in The Open Championships either. So, the 33/1 available could well be a value each way punt.



Sam Burns – if Sam can adapt his current game to UK links courses, then he must be considered good each way value at 40/1 odds. A winner three times on the USPGA tour in recent times Sam has gravitated to the world top ten golfers currently. Not one to be intimidated by the big occasion the twenty-five-year-old may well rise to the occasion at St Andrews if getting off to a good start.



Tommy Fleetwood loves a links course... having grown up on the northwest coast of England. ‘Tommy Lad’ as he is known has found some decent form in 2022 and must be relishing the opportunity to compete for a Major at St Andrews. Tommy would appreciate some non-friendly weather during the week as a leveller against the top players. Tommy finished well at a recent Major and at 40/1 he could challenge come the Sunday of the Open Championship.



Tony Finau – I can see Tony going either very well around St Andrews or alternatively missing the cut. I think that it all depends on how wayward Tony is off the tee. If he keeps the ball safe off the tee, I can see him taking the course apart, if his putter is behaving. There is 50/1 out there at present, and you will see much worse selections at these odds in Majors than Tony.



Adam Scott – an experienced former Major winner who has a good record at UK links courses. No stranger to these shores or to St Andrews, he knows his way around the course in various conditions. ‘Scotty’ needs his broom handle putter to behave on the old course but he is a terrific ball striker and can flight the ball both ways. At 66/1 with an enhanced number of places offered there could be a bit of value in backing Adam Scott at St Andrews.

And finally, the best long shots



Alex Noren – the Swede prefers to play on courses that are not straight forward and do not always require long distance off the tee. Alex can also play in wind and rain and cold conditions. A bit inconsistent form-wise but does contend on the USPGA Tour a few times each year. He is experienced on UK links courses as well. 100/1 is readily available on the Swede.



Branden Grace – the South African has contended in previous Open’s and in U.S majors in the past. He is also a winner on both the USPGA and now DP World Tour. Grace has some good form on UK links course to add to all of that and can also cope with windy conditions. There is some 150/1 about Grace and that could look big come Open weekend.



Lucas Herbert – the big hitting Aussie has won on the DP World Tour in the UK and in Ireland in the past. Lucas comes from a coastal region of Australia and has much experience in playing in windy conditions. He has shown up well in some of the more recent Majors and will not be overawed. Lucas has been preparing for the Open Championship in our part of the world and should be primed to go once the action commences at St Andrews. Currently 150/1 is available on him.



Henrik Stenson – another experienced Swede and former Open champion, having seen off Phil Mickelson in an epic final round battle in 2016. Henrik went off the boil for a while but in recent months has come back to form. A good second place finish on the DP World Tour attests to that. He could be one to come through in what may be a difficult week for most of the big boys. Another 150/1 shot at present.



And finally, a real outsider – **Guido Migliozzi**. Available at 250/1. The enigmatic Italian regularly contends on the DP World Tour but struggles to get over the line. A streaky golfer who can score very low on his day. Decent form leading up to The Open and does really go for it and he is not scared to play shots when the pressure is on. Guido also has some decent form in the states when invited to play there and showed up well in the recent U.S. Open.

In conclusion, we hope that you enjoy the 150th Open championship at St Andrews and that this betting preview has given you some good ideas on what and who to look out for...

Good luck with your bets