

Young stars making a final push for golfing success

The Justin Rose Telegraph Junior Golf Championship starts in Quinta do Lago on 1 December. **Rod Gilmour** profiles the girls who made the cut



ELLA CANTWELL
Age: 16
Handicap: +2.7
Home course: Esker Hills
Golfing hero: Shane Lowry. He's from my home club and is inspirational.
Favourite club: Putter. I like to sink putts. Ella won the Ulster U18 Girls, then shot eight-under at the Leinster Girls the following week to qualify for Quinta, and received her first U18 Irish cap this summer. She has played camogie (an Irish sport similar to hurling) at county level, Gaelic football and hurling.



TALA CLARKE
Age: 18
Handicap: +1.9
Home course: Knebworth
Golfing hero: Tiger Woods. His drive and commitment to the game is unmatched.
Favourite club: Putter. It always saves me. Tala, a 2023 finalist who started playing when she was two, is relishing "one last shot" in her final junior event. She finished in the top 10 at the Scottish Girls and won the Hertfordshire Girls for the second time this year. Tala will attend Jacksonville State University next year.



LAUREN CRUMP
Age: 16
Handicap: +6.2
Home course: Hill Valley GC
Golfing hero: Scottie Scheffler. He's the best.
Favourite club: Three iron. I like using it at links courses and hitting low ones. This season Lauren retained the English Girls' Championship and won the English Women's County Champion of Champions titles, and on her 16th birthday she shot a hole-in-one at the European Team Championships.



AMELIA GABIN
Age: 16
Handicap: +2.6
Home course: Quinta do Lago
Golfing hero: Nelly Korda. I love her swing and her personality.
Favourite club: Seven wood. It is not common so it feels like it's "my thing". The Portuguese National Champion runner-up and a returning finalist, Amelia has played a string of events for the national team this year, and she scored her second hole-in-one in February.



LARA DOUGLAS
Age: 17
Handicap: 0.6
Home course: Glenbervie Golf Club
Golfing hero: Rory McIlroy. He goes into every competition determined to win.
Favourite club: My driver. I rarely miss a fairway. Lara played in the Genesis Scottish ProAm at the Renaissance Club with Richie Ramsay and Matteo Manassero. Any advice they gave must have paid off: in Lara's next competition she shot four under par to qualify for these finals.



ELLIE MAE HORSTED
Age: 18
Handicap: +1.9
Home course: Woodhall Spa
Golfing hero: Rory McIlroy, for everything that he's been through
Favourite club: Three wood. It's reliable. Her 2025 county victories included winning the Ladies Club Championship at Milton Golf Club for the third year in a row. Ellie Mae has been trying to qualify for the Justin Rose Telegraph finals "for years", and missed out on the net competition top three several times.



AALIYAH HRYNIEWIECKA-IRWIN
Age: 18
Handicap: +2.5
Home course: Crosland Heath
Golfing hero: Rory McIlroy. I love his attacking style of play.
Favourite club: My driver as I am quite long and accurate. A scratch golfer at 14, Aaliyah returned from knee injury and one year out of the game to win a Faldo boys' and girls' event in 2024. She kept her form going this summer by finishing third in the English Amateur and Fairhaven Trophies.



DAISY LEE
Age: 16
Handicap: +4.3
Home course: Lancaster
Golfing hero: Min Woo Lee. His sense of humour is great, and so is his short game.
Favourite club: All my irons. I think it's fun to hit different types of shots. Daisy's 10 top 10 finishes were capped with U16 wins at the English Schools and Irish Girls. She qualified for Quinta thanks to her first six-under-par score in the English Schools event. She puts her season down to a "will to do better".



CHARLOTTE NAUGHTON
Age: 17
Handicap: +6.8
Home course: Longhurst Hall
Golfing hero: Rory McIlroy. He's a very fierce golfer.
Favourite club: My driver. It's very accurate and I find fairways. Returning finalist Charlotte, an England women's squad member, produced a career high to win the individual title at the World Junior Girls Championship in Canada. She then represented Team Europe in the Junior Ryder Cup.



ERIN HUSKIE
Age: 17
Handicap: +0.6
Home course: Stirling Golf Club and Dunblane Golf Club
Golfing hero: Seve Ballesteros. He could carry out any shot that he visualised.
Favourite club: My utility wedge. I got it this year and am very accurate with it! The Scottish U18 squad member, part of their Young Leaders Programme, has had six top 10 finishes this year. Erin is also an ambassador and the girls' captain for Junior Tour Scotland.



ZOE MCLEAN-TATTAN
Age: 17
Handicap: +2.7
Home course: Romford
Golfing hero: Nelly Korda. I admire her swing and the power she produces.
Favourite club: My driver. I create a lot of speed and enjoy hitting it far. The University of Louisiana Monroe student led from the outset after a superb 69, which qualified her for these finals, to win the Flogas Irish Girls Open. Zoe finished third in the Irish Women's and European Girls Team Championship.



ALAYNA RAFIQUE
Age: 17
Handicap: +2.6
Home course: Jumeirah Golf Estates
Golfing hero: Rory McIlroy. I once played with him – and he really inspired me.
Favourite club: Driver. It's the most powerful club in the bag. Alayna is in top form. She won the Els Club Ladies Open; set a course record at the Trump International Amateur Open in Dubai; was runner-up at the Sir Henry Cooper Championships; and third at the Tommy Fleetwood Invitational in Dubai.

NET WINNERS

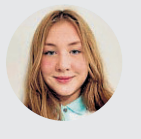
Every year we invite three net winners (players entering qualifying tournaments with a handicap) to experience finals week in Portugal.



MEGAN BUSSELL
Age: 14
Handicap: 21.7
Home course: Woodhall Spa
Golfing hero: Lottie Woad. I followed her at the Open.
Favourite club: My new putter. I like the feel of it. Megan won the Lincolnshire net competition to win her trip to Portugal. In April she defended her Lincolnshire Schools title and played for the county handicap team, winning three junior titles.



LILY JOHNSTON
Age: 14
Handicap: 13.8
Home club: The Bedfordshire
Golfing hero: Rory McIlroy because of his dedication and passion.
Favourite club: Eight iron. I use it for a variety of shots – it's my go-to club. A returning net prize winner, Lily won the 36-hole Ladies Net Championships at her home club. "Junior girls couldn't play before, so I was proud to win," she says.



EMILIA LAYZELL
Age: 14
Handicap: 26.6
Home course: Thonock Park, Gainsborough
Golfing hero: Charlie Hull. She brings glamour and skill to women's golf.
Favourite club: Six iron. I hit this the best. Proud to be a part of her club junior team, Emilia won the Lincolnshire North league and Lincs County 2025, and is looking forward to competing in the national county championship next year.

Catch up with the latest from the Justin Rose Telegraph Junior Golf Championship at telegraph.co.uk/juniorgolf