



—ROYAL LYTHAM &—  
ST ANNES 2026

## 2026 AIG Women's Open

Lytham St Annes, Lancashire, England | Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club | July 30-August 2, 2026

### Final-Round Notes

August 2, 2026

**Media Contacts:** [Olivia McMillan](#) (The R&A), [Carly Lyvers](#) (LPGA), [Nicola Kenton](#) (LET)

**Course Setup:** 35-36—71, 6,519 yards

**Weather:** Partly cloudy with dry conditions and temperatures in the upper 60s F. Swirling winds possible at times.

**Race to CME Globe Points:** 650 (winner)

**Purse:** \$10 million (\$1.5 million winner's purse)

#### QUICK LINKS

[AIG Women's Open Virtual Media Hub](#)

[Interview Transcripts](#)

[LPGA Tour Online Media Center \(OMC\):](#)

[Tournament Website](#)

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

LPGA Tour: @LPGA, @LPGAMedia (X), @lpga\_tour (Instagram, TikTok)

Tournament: @AIGWomensOpen (X, Instagram)

### LEADERBOARD

|    | Player           | To par | Score             |
|----|------------------|--------|-------------------|
| 1  | Shiho Kuwaki*    | -5     | 66-70-73-70 – 279 |
| 2  | Esther Henseleit | -5     | 73-69-67-70 – 279 |
| 3  | Yealimi Noh      | -4     | 67-70-69-74 – 280 |
| T4 | Nelly Korda      | -2     | 73-68-73-68 – 282 |
| T4 | Jeenoo Thitikul  | -2     | 64-73-72-73 – 282 |

\*Kuwaki won with a par on the second playoff hole

### COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Winner: **Shiho Kuwaki** prevailed over **Esther Henseleit** with a par on the second playoff hole
  - Member of the JLPGA Tour
  - Led the field in number of greens hit in regulation with 58/72
  - Played two playoff holes on No. 18
    - Made par on both
  - Earned her first major championship victory in her seventh start in a major championship and 10th start on the LPGA Tour
  - Became the first non-member to win the AIG Women's Open since **Sophia Popov** in 2020
  - With her win, she had until midnight to accept LPGA Tour membership for the 2026 season
    - Kuwaki deferred membership until 2027
- 2nd: **Esther Henseleit** bogeyed the second playoff hole to finish solo second
  - Made a 40-foot putt for birdie on No. 18 to force a playoff

- This is her best finish of the 2027 season
- This is her career best finish at a major championship
  - Previous best a solo seventh at 2024 The Chevron Championship and a T7 at the 2024 Amundi Evian Championship
- Finished solo fourth last week at the ISPS HANDA Women's Scottish Open
- 3rd: **Yealimi Noh** played her final round at 3-over-par
  - Finished solo third for her best finish of the 2026 season
    - Also her best finish since her 2025 win at the Fortinet Founders Cup
  - Matches her career best finish in a major championship
    - Also finished solo third at the 2021 Amundi Evian Championship
  - [Yealimi Noh Final Round Interview | 2026 AIG Women's Open](#)
- T4: World No. 1 **Nelly Korda** and World No. 2 **Jeeno Thitikul** finished T4
  - Korda played her final round 3-under-par to rise 12 spots
    - Secured the 2026 Rolex ANNIKA Major Award over Haeran Ryu
    - Made a long birdie putt on No. 18 to finish in the top-5
  - Thitikul's first round 64 was the low round of the week
    - This was her best finish in a 2026 major championship
- **Paula Martin Sampedro** finished T29 and earned Low Amateur Honors

#### ABOUT THE CHAMPION

Rolex Rankings No. 46 Shiho Kuwaki

- Second start at the AIG Women's Open
  - Missed the cut in her first appearance in 2025
- 2026: Two wins on the JLPGA
  - Ranked first in the JLPGA Mercedes Ranking
  - Made the cut in all four major championships she competed in
    - T14 – U.S. Women's Open, T24 – KPMG Women's PGA Championship, T41 – The Amundi Evian Championship
- Career: One win and one additional top-10 on the LPGA Tour
  - Finished T2 at the 2023 Toto Japan Classic
  - Has five career wins on the JLPGA Tour
- Became the first non-member to win a major championship since Yuka Saso at the 2021 U.S. Women's Open
- Became the first non-member to win on the LPGA Tour since Youmin Hwang at the 2025 LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei
- Becomes the 37th non-LPGA professional to win an LPGA event, the 12th to win a major championship
- Becomes the third player from Japan to win the AIG Women's Open joining Miyu Yamashita (2025) and Hinako Shibuno (2019)
- Becomes the seventh player from Japan to win a major championship on the LPGA Tour
  - First since Yamashita at last year's AIG Women's Open

#### CHAMPIONSHIP SCORING RECORDS (SINCE IT BECAME A MAJOR IN 2001):

18 holes – 62, Minea Blomqvist (R3, 2004); Mirim Lee, (R1, 2016)

36 holes – 132, Ashleigh Buhai (2019)  
54 holes – 199, In-Kyung Kim (2017); Ashleigh Buhai (2022)  
72 holes – 269, Karen Stupples (2004)

## QUOTABLES

*Shiho Kuwaki on being the second consecutive player from Japan to win the AIG Women's Open*

"Yeah, after last year, Yamashita's win, and to be able to win again as a Japanese player is such an amazing feeling, and I hope as part of Team Japan we can continue to light up the golf world and hope everyone enjoys it as well."

*Esther Henseleit on her mindset throughout the week*

"Yeah, going into Friday, the first point was kind of making it to the weekend. I didn't have a great first day and then just played really solid; managed to make some putts. And, yeah, I didn't think when I finished yesterday that I was going to be in the final group either, so, yeah, just kind of taking it as it comes. Today was fun. Of course there is like a couple shots I maybe could have done better and if I could have them back, sure, I would take it. But, yeah, I tried my best on every shot and maybe next time."

*Yealimi Noh on her final round and performance during the week*

"Obviously it stings coming up one short and having a not great round, but I'm still very happy to have been in this position. And coming down 18 in front of the big crowds and playing at The Open, it was really special. Reminded me why I love this game and why I'm here."

## ON LPGA.COM

[Shiho Kuwaki Wins Maiden Major Title With Playoff Victory at 2026 AIG Women's Open](#)

[Nelly Korda wins 2026 Rolex ANNIKA Major Award](#)

[Nelly Korda Caps an Incredible Major Campaign With a Tie for Fourth at Royal Lytham](#)

[Eight Automatic Qualifiers for 2026 European Solheim Cup Team Confirmed](#)

[Final Round Highlights](#)

[Jeeno Thitikul Final Round Interview](#)

[Mimi Rhodes Final Round Interview](#)

[Haeran Ryu Final Round Interview](#)

[Yealimi Noh Final Round Interview](#)

## SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

[A moment worth savoring.](#)

[Hard-fought victory 🏆](#)

[Esther's biggest hype man 🗣️](#)

[It really is the little things 🥰](#)