



## **GolfRSA launches the GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge at Royal Liverpool**

The R&A 9-Hole Challenge Final is played on The Open Championship course on the Friday prior to The Open. It is currently contested by competitors from Great Britain & Ireland, Australia & New Zealand, but the exciting news is that South Africa has been included from 2023, with one pair able to play in the R&A 9 Hole Challenge Final at Royal Liverpool Golf Club.

One lucky pair will win:

### **Grand Prize sponsored by the R&A:**

1. **4 nights' B&B accommodation** at [Thornton Hall Hotel](#) – Players may bring a guest, but any additional charges would be at players' own cost. (Arrival 12<sup>th</sup> July – departure 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023).
2. All reasonable **return travel costs** to Royal Liverpool venue – for the two players only
3. **2 x tickets per player to 2 practice days and 2 championship days of The Open**
4. **Welcome Reception** in the Thornton Hall Hotel on Thursday 13 July – including drinks/canapés – this is for players and their guests (1 guest per person), also in attendance will be The R&A captain, host club officials and R&A officials.
5. **Final Dinner** at Royal Liverpool Golf Club on Friday 14 July – players only, R&A captain and officials and host venue officials.
6. Travel to/from the hotel/club for the Final and the Dinner.
7. Goody bag.

### **Additional contribution from GolfRSA:**

1. Refund for the **cost of a short-stay visa** to the UK.
2. **A daily subsistence allowance** per day for 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> July (5 days)
3. Some additional **funding support** towards costs associated with staying for The Open Championships

Given the relatively short lead time, the **2023 GolfRSA Race to the R&A 9 Hole Challenge at Royal Liverpool** competition will run as follows:

- **Lucky Draw of 2 players** who meet the minimum criteria to play together as a pair at The R&A 9-Hole Challenge Final (The final is contested on a team basis of aggregate net scores)
- Players will be eligible for the lucky draw if they meet the following criteria:
  - **GolfRSA affiliated member** with a handicap with HNA (no handicap limit)
  - South African citizen / **passport holder**
  - **Adult** of over 18 years of age
  - Played **3 rounds of 9 holes of golf in the month of April** at any club in South Africa, with scores captured on the HNA system
- 20 names, in order, will be drawn live in the first week of May 2023 (more details to follow). GolfRSA will then engage with the winners in order of draw to ensure that further eligibility criteria are met, including:
  - **Passport valid for 6 months** after return date of travel (end Jan 2024)

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- The individual meets all health -related conditions put in place by the country of destination or any transit country.

Looking ahead, the **2024 GolfRSA Race to The R&A 9 Hole Challenge** will offer golfers the chance to play their way into the R&A 9-Hole Challenge Final through a series of qualifying events.

- Each club in South Africa will run their own internal competition/series to pick their top club pair to represent the club in the Race to the Open. This pair needs to be selected by the end of February 2024.
- Club pairs will play in GolfRSA regional tournament in March, with the regional winners going to a National Final in the month of April 2024. The winners of the Final will represent South Africa at the R&A 9-Hole Challenge Final in 2024 (Royal Troon, Scotland).

\*Note: Although final details for the 2024 tournament doc will be circulated at a later date, clubs can plan and prepare a 9 hole selection series for their club pair in the meantime.

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