

With qualification for the Justin Rose Telegraph Junior Golf Championship 2021 now over, we are delighted to announce our six 'net qualifiers' who will play at Walton Heath Golf Club during finals week from October 6-8. Sophie Goonewardane-Brown, Lily Davis, Alicia Wilson, Ben Brownless, Oliver Christopher and Armaan Basra Singh have all qualified to play at the prestigious course in our net final while 12 boys and 12 girls playing off scratch battle it out in a separate contest to be crowned the 2021 Justin Rose Telegraph Junior Golf champion.

The six net qualifiers taking their place at Walton Heath

<p>NAME: SOPHIE GOONEWARDANE-BROWN</p> <p>Age: 11, Handicap: 24.1, Home course: The Warwickshire Golf & Country Club, Golfing hero: Matt Wallace, Robert Rock, the Solheim Cup team and Lexi Thompson!</p> <p>Sophie says she can't wait to stay in the hotel during finals week, play the course and meet the competitors.</p>	 <p>NAME: LILLY DAVIS</p> <p>Age: 13, Handicap: 11.2, Home course: Durham City, Golfing hero: Georgia Hall</p> <p>Lilly recently shot an 80 at Whickham GC and says she can't wait to meet more junior golfers and play on finals day at Walton Heath.</p>
<p>NAME: ALICIA WILSON</p> <p>Age: 17, Handicap: 24.7, Home course: Sturminster Marshall Golf Club, Golfing hero: Georgia Hall</p> <p>Alicia started when she was 8 and joined Mike Dodd Sturminster Marshall Academy. She plays in the Dorset EZGO junior golf competition and was overall winner in 2017.</p>	 <p>NAME: BEN BROWNLESS</p> <p>Age: 14, Handicap: 9.1, Home course: Hexham Golf Club, Golfing hero: Rory McIlroy</p> <p>Ben shot a net 56 at his qualifying open at the Northumberland Schools event having only started playing golf seriously two years ago.</p>
<p>NAME: OLIVER CHRISTOPHER</p> <p>Age: 15, Handicap: 6.8, Home course: Forest Hills, Golfing hero: Tiger Woods</p> <p>Ollie started playing when he was six in Western Australia. His mum and dad used to take him to a driving range that had kangaroos hopping across. His net 58 at The Kendleshire is his best achievement to date.</p>	 <p>NAME: ARMAAN BASRA SINGH</p> <p>Age: 13, Handicap: 12.2, Home course: Olton Golf Club, Golfing hero: Jordan Spieth</p> <p>Armaan started golf at Olton GC aged seven after his father suggested giving it a go, and he has never looked back. He says he can't wait to play in his first finals, meet new people and experience the occasion.</p>

The net qualifiers (the best juniors playing off handicaps) have always been a key component of these finals and tournament partner Justin Rose was determined to increase the number of places reserved for them. The last time the tournament was held in Quinta do Lago in 2019 – with last year’s event lost to Covid – there were four net qualifiers, but this year that number has increased to six.



Trophy laden: the 2019 net finalists – Chloe Northover, Raymond Tse, Freddie Fairhurst and Erin Wilson – meet Justin Rose and a few of his many trophies and Olympic gold medal at Quinta do Lago

Why our net qualifiers are so important to me

Tournament sponsor Justin Rose keenly anticipates the climax of the junior season

It has been another brilliant year in pro and amateur golf and it is now very exciting to focus our attention on the Justin Rose Telegraph Junior Golf Championship Final.

I am particularly excited for the 2021 edition, having had to postpone last year’s event because of Covid.

As many of you will know, I was lucky enough to win the event when I was a 17-year-old in 1997 and it will always have a very special place in my heart.

It now gives me so much pleasure to sponsor it and support the talent coming through at finals week. It is also very important to me that we have the six places for our net qualifiers at the final too, to show how inclusive golf can be and that you don’t need to be off scratch to get so much out of the game.

For me this event is all about increasing golf participation as well as celebrating the very best in elite junior golf.

By increasing the number of net qualifiers we are able to show that it is a sport for everyone and the beauty of the handicap system is that it gives all players a chance to make their mark.

This year’s net qualifiers all have great stories to tell and I hope they get to enjoy a fantastic three days at the prestigious Walton Heath GC at the finals in October. It is a course I know well and I know it will provide a fitting challenge for them.

It is great to see the players celebrated in these pages today and I hope it can also inspire other junior golfers out there to follow in their footsteps and reach the finals next year.