

Amateur Women's Open - Day One: Libby leads the way

Gosforth Park's Libby Bell leads the way after day one at the English Women's Open Stroke Play Championship, following a tremendous five-under round at Manchester Golf Club.



The 18-year-old notched seven birdies and sits just one shot ahead of Switzerland's Romaine Masserey (Montreux) heading into day two.

The Swiss golfer shot four-under which included a tap-in eagle on the 12th after a driver and five-wood combination to the green, as well as a kick-in birdie on the third in her superb bogey-free round.

Vanessa Chychrun (Mid Ocean Club) landed a mammoth 80-foot putt up a ridge on the 10th for birdie as she went on to card a round of three-under. The Bermudan sits in tied-3rd alongside Cherry Marley (The Oaks) who also enjoyed a stellar day with seven birdies on the card.

England player Jessica Hall (Bishop Auckland) picked up five birdies but came in at -2 to finish alongside Madeleine Smith (Norwood Park) and Ava Bates (Wentworth) in a tie for 5th.

Six players are tied-8th and just four back of the leader including Manchester Golf Club's own Abbie Teasdale.

Also joining her is Nicola Slater (Woodsome Hall) who was -4 through three holes on the back-nine as she shot a blistering 33 after the turn. Alex Sparrow (Stoke by Nayland) enjoyed six birdies including a chip-in on the 8th but she also finished on -1.

Another Swiss youngster in Lara Gerhardsen is tied-8th after a run of three birdies on the bounce on the back-nine, while Ireland's Clodagh Coughlan's second shot on 14 almost rolled in for an albatross, before she went on to shoot -1.

England star Nellie Ong (Eaton, Norwich) maintained her recent form with a one-under round, with England teammate Sadie Adams is just one shot back, but fellow England players Amelia Wan (Sherwood Forest) and Lili-Rose Hunt (Redditch), endured tough days as they both finished three-over.

Elsewhere there were some epic putts from Alexandra Bonfield and Ireland's Mairead Martin and some impressive chip-ins from Yale Lee and Isabella Taylor-Stokes.

No doubt there will be plenty more on day two as the competition gears up for the cut, in which the top-40 plus ties will make it through to Saturday's final day, where competitors will play 36 holes.

View the leaderboard by [clicking here](#).