

Shane Lowry



Shane Lowry is an Irish professional golfer. He plays on the European Golf Tour and the PGA Tour. Lowry was born on 2nd April 1987. He grew up in Clara, County Offaly. Shane Lowry came from a sporting background. His father, Brendan, was part of the 1982 All-Ireland winning Offaly football team. Shane Lowry began playing golf at an early age. He spent much of his childhood summers playing pitch and putt on the local course with his friends. Lowry began playing golf at the age of twelve.

The European Tour is a collection of golf tournaments held throughout the year, mainly in Europe. Tournaments on the PGA Tour are held mainly in North America.

Amateur

Shane Lowry shocked spectators in May 2009 when he won the Irish Open at County Louth Golf Club while still an amateur. Lowry won the competition after a sudden death playoff against English opponent, Robert Rock. Lowry became only the third amateur to ever win on the European Tour. Even more impressively, Lowry became only the second golfer from the Republic of Ireland to win the Irish Open in the last 30 years.

The Irish Open is a professional golf tournament on the European Tour. The Irish Open was first held in 1927. The tournament has occurred annually since 1975. The prize fund for winning the Irish Open is currently \$7 million.

Turning Professional

Lowry decided to turn professional the week after his triumphant Irish Open victory. He made his professional debut on 28th May 2009 at the European Open. Unfortunately, he did

not perform well in his first tournament as a professional golfer. In November 2009, Lowry achieved his highest professional result when he finished third place at the Dunlop Phoenix Tournament in Japan. In January 2010 he finished fourth in the



Abu Dhabi Golf Championship. This fourth-place finish was enough to move Lowry into the top-100 of the Official World Golf Ranking just months after turning professional. Lowry won for the first time as a professional when he claimed the 2012 Portugal Masters, finishing the tournament fourteen under **par**.

Par is the number of shots that a golfer should need to complete a hole. In golf, players aim to complete each hole in the least number of shots possible. Whoever has the lowest score at the end of a tournament is declared the winner.

In August 2015, Lowry won the 2015 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational. He finished two shots ahead of runner-up, Bubba Watson. His victory granted him membership to the PGA Tour. In 2016, Shane Lowry competed in the United States Open, the annual open golf tournament in the United States. Lowry looked destined to win the tournament

after the third day of golf. He finished the third day with a four-shot lead. However, a poor performance during the final day meant Lowry had to accept a joint-second place finish. In January 2019, Lowry won Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship, which is one of the eight tournaments in the Rolex Series.

The Rolex Series is a collection of eight tournaments which have a higher prize fund than regular golf events. Each tournament in the Rolex Series has a minimum prize fund of \$7 million.

Open Championship

The biggest achievement of Lowry's career came in 2019 when he won the Open Championship, the oldest and one of the most prestigious golf tournaments in the world. The tournament was held at Royal Portrush Golf Club in County Antrim, Northern Ireland. Lowry's victory was special for several reasons. This was Lowry's first major title of his career. He became the second ever player from the Republic of Ireland to win a major. Lowry also set a new course record on the third day of the competition, scoring eight under par.



The Golf Champion Trophy, more commonly known as the Claret Jug, is the trophy presented to the winner of The Open Championship.

A **major** championship is one of the most respected tournaments in world golf. There are four majors which are contested annually; the Masters Tournament, the PGA Championship, the U.S. Open and the Open Championship.

Questions

1. Why was Shane Lowry's victory at the Irish Open in 2009 significant?

2. When did Shane Lowry make his professional debut?

3. Where was Shane Lowry's first victory as a professional?

4. What is par?

5. What are the four major championships in golf?

6. How do you think Shane Lowry felt on the final day of the United States Open in 2016?
Explain your answer.

7. What is the Rolex Series?

8. Why was Shane Lowry's victory at the Open Championship special?

9. How do you think Shane Lowry felt after winning the Open Championship in 2019?
Explain your answer.

10. What did you find most interesting about Shane Lowry?

Answers

1. Why was Shane Lowry's victory at the Irish Open in 2009 significant?
Lowry became only the third amateur to ever win on the European Tour. Lowry also became only the second golfer from the Republic of Ireland to win the Irish Open in the last 30 years.
2. When did Shane Lowry make his professional debut?
Shane Lowry made his professional debut on 28th May 2009 at the European Open.
3. Where was Shane Lowry's first victory as a professional?
Lowry won for the first time as a professional when he claimed the Portugal Masters in 2012.
4. What is par?
Par is the number of shots that a golfer should need to complete a hole. In golf, players aim to complete each hole in the least number of shots possible.
5. What are the four major championships in golf?
The four major championships are the Masters Tournament, the PGA Championship, the U.S. Open and the Open Championship.
6. How do you think Shane Lowry felt on the final day of the United States Open in 2016? Explain your answer. **Answers may vary.**
7. What is the Rolex Series?
The Rolex Series is a collection of eight tournaments which each have a minimum prize fund of \$7 million.
8. Why was Shane Lowry's victory at the Open Championship special? **This was Lowry's first major title of his career. He also became only the second player from the Republic of Ireland to win a major. Lowry also set a new course record on the third day of the competition, scoring eight under par.**
9. How do you think Shane Lowry felt after winning the Open Championship in 2019? Explain your answer. **Answers may vary.**
10. What did you find most interesting about Shane Lowry? **Answers may vary.**