

The Punter's De-Brief: Wiesberger wins in style



Bernd Wiesberger celebrates his homeland win

There was disappointment for our man on Saturday but what have we learnt for next year's Lyoness Open in Austria?

With a blistering finish, which saw him birdie seven of his last ten holes, **Bernd Wiesberger** flew home to win the Lyoness Open by three strokes on Saturday. Emulating fellow countryman, Markus Brier, he's the second Austrian to win the event and, following his success at the Ballantine's Championship in April, it was his second European Tour victory.

At the RBC Canadian Open, after a nervy Sunday when nobody seemed to want to take control, **Scott Piercy** finished on top of the pile. Having also won last year's Reno Tahoe Open ([next week's event](#)) last year, this was Piercy's second PGA Tour victory.

My Bets

Six days after the ecstasy of Ernie Els' unexpected victory at the Open Championship, I can't really moan about the agonising defeat of another [pre-event pick in Thomas Levet](#). Swings and roundabouts I guess but he did look the most likely beneficiary of Thorbjorn Olesen's surprisingly poor final round on Saturday and it was disappointing that he didn't win.

Olesen had entered the final round with a commanding three-shot lead and after a birdie at the third hole had seemingly settled any nerves he may have had, the young Dane was **matched at just 1.251/4**. Although finding water on the par five 6th, Olesen still made par there, and even though the putts weren't dropping he still looked to be in command but slowly but surely my man Levet reeled him in and by the time the Frenchman birdied the 13th, his third in four holes, he'd hit the front.

Matched at a low of [2.0621/20](#), Levet looked the winner but then Wiesberger just went bonkers! His iron-play was simply stunning as he stiffed shot after shot to tap-in birdie range, and when he did make a mistake, hitting a wild drive on the ultra tough 17th hole, Lady Luck was looking over him. His tee-shot hit a tree and pinged straight back out onto the fairway, from where he gave himself yet another birdie opportunity.

Having made two at the 5th hole, Levet missed short birdie putts on all three remaining par 3's, most notably on the 15th, when his attempt horse-shoed out, but he did very little wrong and basically caught a tartar in Wiesberger.

Mercifully, I layed plenty back at all rates down to [2.1011/10](#) and although a win would have been much better, the fact he'd come so close and traded so low, meant I made a nice profit on the event.

My sole pre-event pick in Canada, **Ernie Els**, had flopped on Thursday and I spent the whole event struggling to see an angle in. I'd thought Piercy had looked the best value at halfway but I wasn't sufficiently confident to part with any cash. Thankfully, as detailed in [the In-Play Blog](#), I thought he looked a better price at [5.85/1](#) before round four, than he'd been at [6.611/2](#) on Saturday, and I had a modest bet.

It wasn't a spectacular week by any means but it was nicely profitable.

What have we learnt for next year?

Given the Canadian Open is played out at different venues each year; I won't waste any energy looking at this year's event in detail. Instead, I'll concentrate on the **Lyoness Open**, which will be staged at the Diamond Course again for the next three years.

This year's renewal was dominated by the market leaders right from the off. Third favourite, **Pablo Larrazabal**, made the early running on Thursday morning and so fast was his start that he actually traded below [4.03/1](#) before the afternoon starters had even teed-off but he soon drifted back out when Olesen matched his opening 64.

And then after Olesen, who had started the event as favourite, had dominated for almost the entirety of the tournament, second favourite, Wiesberger flew through to collect.

In rain-softened conditions, with placing from the fairway in-place all week long, and receptive greens accepting approach shots, scoring was especially good this year. A faster and harder Diamond Course could represent a different test however.

After three stagings at the venue, two constants have now emerged. For the third year in-a-row, **Greens In Regulation** was by far the most important stat, and once again, veterans contested for the title, even though the conditions favoured the longer, possibly more aggressive younger players in the tournament.

England's Richard Bland was far too pedestrian on day four but Levet certainly came close and I'll be looking for a wily old stager that finds plenty of greens for next year's renewal - especially if the course is said to be running fast.

There are two events to look forward to this week, the third WGC event of the year, the [Bridgestone Invitational](#) and the [Reno-Tahoe Open](#) from Nevada, which this year will use the Modified Stableford system for scoring for the first time.

