**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS 1979-2023**

In 1979 two World Championship final debutants with a combined age of 61 years, 287 days fought out the youngest men’s final since 1972 and a final whose extreme youth had only been exceeded in 1934, 1936, 1937 and the afore-mentioned 1972. This event, extremely rare at the time, proved the precursor to an era in which such youthful finalists were to become the norm, and led to a sea-change in the game spear-headed by Steve Davis and Stephen Hendry who captured thirteen world crowns between them, all achieved under the age of thirty-two.

28 April 90 Stephen Hendry 21 years 105 days

1 May 11 Judd Trump 21 years 253 days

6 May 84 Jimmy White 22 years 4 days

1 May 05 Shaun Murphy 22 years 264 days

3 May 98 John Higgins 22 years 350 days

3 May 92 Stephen Hendry 23 years 111 days

19 April 81 Steve Davis 23 years 240 days

6 May 07 Mark Selby 23 years 321 days

2 May 99 Mark J. Williams 24 years 42 days

2 May 93 Stephen Hendry 24 years 109 days

30 April 00 Matthew Stevens 24 years 232 days

30 April 89 John Parrott 24 years 354 days

30 April 00 Mark J. Williams 25 years 40 days

1 May 94 Stephen Hendry 25 years 108 days

6 May 01 Ronnie O’Sullivan 25 years 152 days

1 May 83 Steve Davis 25 years 252 days

5 May 96 Peter Ebdon 25 years 252 days

6 May 01 John Higgins 25 years 353 days

29 April 95 Stephen Hendry 26 years 106 days

6 May 84 Steve Davis 26 years 258 days

3 May 09 Shaun Murphy 26 years 266 days

2 May 04 Graeme Dott 26 years 356 days

5 May 91 John Parrott 26 years 359 days

5 May 96 Stephen Hendry 27 years 113 days

4 May 97 Ken Doherty 27 years 229 days

27 April 85 Steve Davis 27 years 248 days

28 April 90 Jimmy White 27 years 361 days

4 May 03 Mark J. Williams 28 years 44 days

30 April 23 Luca Brecel 28 years 53 days

2 May 10 Neil Robertson 28 years 80 days

4 May 97 Stephen Hendry 28 years 111 days

2 May 04 Ronnie O’Sullivan 28 years 149 days

3 May 98 Ken Doherty 28 years 228 days

4 May 86 Steve Davis 28 years 256 days

4 May 08 Allister Carter 28 years 284 days

15 Aug 20 Kyren Wilson 28 years 295 days

30 April 06 Graeme Dott 28 years 353 days

5 May 91 Jimmy White 29 years 3 days

1 May 16 Ding Jun Hui 29 years 30 days

29 April 95 Nigel Bond 29 years 165 days

1 May 05 Matthew Stevens 29 years 232 days

3 May 87 Steve Davis 29 years 254 days

5 May 19 Judd Trump 29 years 257 days

3 May 92 Jimmy White 30 years 1 day

26 April 79 Dennis Taylor 30 years 96 days

This page is in two columns divided between the youngest and oldest. For the purposes of defining exact age, the age of the youngest player is their age upon striking the first shot of the final, and that of the oldest, their age upon striking the last shot of the final. For ease of reference multi-title-winners are shown in blue and runners-up in black. One of the key differences between 1979-2023 and 1927-78 is that the number of different World Champions markedly increased, with the incidence of lone Championship title-holders proving a phenomenon unknown for fifty years beyond 1927, except when two rival events were held in one year. To help highlight this new trend, such title-winners have been shown in green.

16 May 82 Ray Reardon 49 years 220 days

2 May 22 Ronnie O’Sullivan 46 years 148 days

16 Aug 20 Ronnie O’Sullivan 44 years 304 days

6 May 19 John Higgins 43 years 353 days

7 May 18 Mark J. Williams 43 years 47 days

7 May 18 John Higgins 42 years 354 days

1 May 17 John Higgins 41 years 348 days

2 May 88 Terry Griffiths 40 years 199 days

1 May 23 Mark Selby 39 years 316 days

4 May 15 Stuart Bingham 38 years 348 days

20 April 81 Doug Mountjoy 38 years 316 days

3 May 21 Shaun Murphy 38 years 266 days

5 May 14 Ronnie O’Sullivan 38 years 151 days

3 May 21 Mark Selby 37 years 318 days

6 May 13 Ronnie O’Sullivan 37 years 152 days

7 May 12 Ronnie O’Sullivan 36 years 154 days

28 April 85 Dennis Taylor 36 years 99 days

2 May 11 John Higgins 35 years 349 days

4 May 87 Joe Johnson 35 years 279 days

1 May 06 Peter Ebdon 35 years 247 days

2 May 83 Cliff Thorburn 35 years 106 days

5 May 86 Joe Johnson 34 years 280 days

6 May 13 Barry Hawkins 34 years 13 days

4 May 09 John Higgins 33 years 351 days

1 May 17 Mark Selby 33 years 316 days

5 May 03 Ken Doherty 33 years 230 days

6 May 02 Stephen Hendry 33 years 113 days

16 May 82 Alex Higgins 33 years 59 days

3 May 10 Graeme Dott 32 years 356 days

2 May 16 Mark Selby 32 years 318 days

7 May 12 Allister Carter 32 years 287 days

4 May 15 Shaun Murphy 32 years 267 days

2 May 22 Judd Trump 32 years 254 days

5 May 08 Ronnie O’Sullivan 32 years 152 days

5 May 80 Cliff Thorburn 32 years 110 days

2 May 94 Jimmy White 32 years 0 days

7 May 07 John Higgins 31 years 354 days

6 May 02 Peter Ebdon 31 years 252 days

1 May 89 Steve Davis 31 years 252 days

28 April 79 Terry Griffiths 31 years 193 days

5 May 80 Alex Higgins 31 years 48 days

3 May 93 Jimmy White 31 years 1 day

5 May 14 Mark Selby 30 years 320 days

2 May 88 Steve Davis 30 years 254 days

3 May 99 Stephen Hendry 30 years 110 days