



## 34th Annual Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai Advance Media Information

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**Dates:** January 16-21, 2017

**Course:** Hualalai Golf Course, Ka'upulehu-Kona, Hawaii

**Par/Yards:** 36-36—72/7,107

**Year Opened:** 1992 (Jack Nicklaus)

**Field:** 49 professionals **Format:** 54-hole stroke-play event with no cut.

**Purse:** \$1,800,000; **Winner's Share:** \$300,000

**Television:** Golf Channel will televise all three rounds live from 2:00-5:00 p.m. All times are local.

**2016 Champion:** **Duffy Waldorf** defeated **Tom Lehman** by one stroke.

**2016...A Look Back:** **Duffy Waldorf** rolled in a 25-foot birdie putt on the 54th hole to defeat **Tom Lehman** by one stroke and claim the title at the Hualalai Golf Course. The former UCLA star played all 54 holes without a bogey for his second win in his last three starts on the PGA TOUR Champions dating back to 2015. Waldorf posted a final-round, 6-under-par 66 for a three-round total of 18-under-par 198. Waldorf trailed by as many as two strokes with six holes remaining, but birdied three of his final six holes to overtake Lehman, who also finished the day without a bogey. Moments after Waldorf sank his putt, Lehman's effort from 18-feet to force a playoff finished just inches short.

**The 2017 Schedule:** The 34th annual Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai is the first of 26 official events in 2017, a season that concludes with the Charles Schwab Cup Championship, November 7-13, at the Desert Mountain Club (Cochise Course) in Scottsdale, Ariz. The PGA TOUR Champions primary purpose is to provide significant competitive and earnings opportunities for players age 50 and older, to protect the integrity of the game and to help grow the reach of the game in the U.S. and around the world.

**About PGA TOUR Champions:** PGA TOUR Champions is a membership organization of golf's most recognizable and accomplished players, age 50 and older, including 32 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame. The Tour's mission is to provide financial opportunities for its players, entertain and inspire its fans, deliver substantial value to its partners, create outlets for volunteers to give back and generate significant charitable and economic impact in tournament communities. In 2017, the PGA TOUR Champions schedule includes 26 tournaments in 18 states, Japan, Wales and Canada, with purses totaling more than \$55 million. The Charles Schwab Cup, which includes the Regular Season and the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs, is used to determine the season-long champion. All events are televised in the United States, with most receiving complete coverage on Golf Channel, the exclusive cable-television partner of PGA TOUR Champions. Internationally, telecasts air live, tape-delayed or in a highlights-package format in excess of 206 countries and territories, reaching more than 145 million households. The PGA TOUR's web site is PGATOUR.COM, the No. 1 site in golf, and the organization is headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Follow PGA TOUR Champions at facebook.com/PGATOURChampions, on Twitter @ChampionsTour and on Instagram @pgatourchampions.

**About the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai:** This tournament is the PGA TOUR Champions season-opening event and is celebrating its 21st year on the Big Island. It was first played as the Senior Tournament of Champions in 1984 and the venue was La Costa Country Club in Carlsbad, Calif., from 1984-94. The limited-field tournament then moved to the Hyatt Dorado Beach in Puerto Rico from 1995-96 before relocating again to Hualalai on the Big Island in 1997. Miller Barber (1986, '89), Al Geiberger (1992, '93), George Archer (1990 and 2000), Dana Quigley (2003, '05), John Cook (2011, '13), Hale Irwin (1997 and 2007) and Bernhard Langer (2010, '14) have all won this event multiple times with Archer being the only player to claim titles at two different venues (1990 at La Costa and 2000 at Hualalai).

**Title Sponsor:** With over 90 years of experience in providing reliable, high-quality products, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation (TOKYO: 6503) is a recognized world leader in the manufacture, marketing and sales of electrical and electronic equipment used in information processing and communications, space development and satellite communications, consumer electronics, industrial technology, energy, transportation and building equipment. Embracing the spirit of its corporate statement, Changes for the Better, and its environmental statement, Eco Changes, Mitsubishi Electric endeavors to be a global, leading green company, enriching society with technology. For more information visit: <http://www.MitsubishiElectric.com>.

### ***MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CHAMPIONSHIP AT HUALALAI STORYLINES...***

**Top-Notch Field on Tap Again:** This year's 49-man starting field includes 11 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame group includes Fred Couples, Hale Irwin, Bernhard Langer, Colin Montgomerie, Larry Nelson, Ben Crenshaw, Sandy Lyle, Tom Watson, Vijay Singh, Mark O'Meara and Tom Kite. Of the 49 players in this year's field, 18 have won 37 major titles on the PGA TOUR. As a group they have won 349 PGA TOUR events and 286 more on the PGA TOUR Champions. Below is a list of those who claimed major titles on the PGA TOUR.

<b>Masters</b>	<b>U.S. Open</b>	<b>Open Championship</b>	<b>PGA Championship</b>
Vijay Singh (2000)	Lee Janzen ('93, '98)	Tom Watson ('75, '77, '80, '82, '83)	Vijay Singh ('98, '04)
Mark O'Meara (1998)	Hale Irwin ('74, '79, '90)	Mark O'Meara (1998)	Larry Nelson ('81, '87)
Bernhard Langer ('85, '93)	Tom Watson (1982)	Tom Lehman (1996)	David Toms ('01)
Fred Couples (1992)	Tom Kite (1992)	Mark Calcavecchia (1989)	Jeff Sluman (1988)
Ben Crenshaw ('84, '95)	Larry Nelson (1983)	Sandy Lyle ('85)	John Daly ('91)
Crag Stadler (1982)		John Daly ('95)	
Tom Watson ('77, '81)			
Sandy Lyle ('88)			
Larry Mize ('87)			

**Can Langer Continue His Dominance in 2017:** After capturing a record eighth Arnold Palmer Award as the Tour's leading money winner in 2016, a record sixth Jack Nicklaus Award as PGA TOUR Champions Player of the Year and a fourth Charles Schwab Cup title, what's in store for Bernhard Langer in the upcoming campaign? He has been the dominant player since joining the Tour full time in 2008. A victory in 2017 would be the 30<sup>th</sup> of his PGA TOUR Champions career, moving the Boca Raton, FL resident into second place on the all-time list for victories on Tour behind Hale Irwin with 45. The 2016 campaign was another banner year for the World Golf Hall of Famer. Despite a change in his putting style, Langer posted four victories, was a runner-up four times and in 21 events, his worst finish was a T13 (American Family Insurance Championship). Since becoming a member of PGA TOUR Champions in 2007, Langer is a combined 1,513 strokes under par in his career. His 1,513 strokes under par is nearly 500 strokes better than the next best player Jay Haas, who is a combined 1,056 strokes under par since 2007. Langer has also posted 355 rounds in the 60s during that time, best on Tour and 64 more than Jay Haas.

**David Toms First Member of 2017 Rookie Class to Debut:** The ever-changing face of PGA TOUR Champions continues in 2017 with the expected addition of several new faces joining the fold in the upcoming season. David Toms, a 13-time winner on the PGA TOUR, including the 2001 PGA Championship, will be the first of the new players to debut when he competes at this event. Two-time Masters champion Jose Maria Olazabal is slated to debut at the Allianz Championship next month and three-time winner Jerry Kelly is expected to make his debut at the Chubb Classic also in February. Steve Stricker, who will captain the 2017 United States Presidents Cup team, turns 50 in late February and could debut at the Tucson Conquistadores Classic in March. Also turning 50 in 2017 is Steve Flesch, the winner of four PGA TOUR events. He becomes eligible in May and could make his debut at the Kitchen Aid Senior PGA Championship later that month.

**Ten Players Making First Appearance Here:** This year's field includes eight players making their debuts at this tournament. New faces include Paul Broadhurst, David Toms, Jesper Parnevik, John Daly, Sandy Lyle, Doug Garwood, Gene Sauers, Scott McCarron, Carlos Franco, and Woody Austin.

**Field Includes Nine Former Champions:** Nine former winners of this event are entered this week, including two-time winners Hale Irwin ('97, '07) and Bernhard Langer ('09, '14). Joining the pair are Fred Funk ('08), Larry Nelson ('01), Tom Kite ('02), Loren Roberts ('06), Miguel Angel Jimenez ('15), Duffy Waldorf ('16) and Tom Watson ('10).

**Irwin's Success in the Aloha State is Unsurpassed:** Hale Irwin will make his record 22nd consecutive appearance in this year's Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai, easily the longest streak by any player. No current PGA TOUR Champions player has enjoyed the success Irwin has in Hawaii. A two-time winner of this event (1997 and 2007), Irwin's 2007 victory was the last of his 45 career PGA TOUR Champions titles, 16 more wins than Lee Trevino and Bernhard Langer, the next-closest players on the all-time victory list. Irwin won 19 of his 45 titles after age 55, and his win on the Big Island in 2007 came at 61 years, 7 months, 18 days, making him, at the time, the sixth-oldest winner in PGA TOUR Champions history. Irwin's win in 2007 was also his ninth official TOUR title in Hawaii and 12th victory overall in the Aloha State. On the PGA TOUR Champions, in addition to his two wins at Hualalai, Irwin won the old Turtle Bay Championship/Kaanapali Classic six times and five times in succession (2000-05, no event in 2004). He also claimed the 1981 Hawaiian Open on the PGA TOUR. Irwin's three unofficial wins in Hawaii came at the 1999 Senior Skins Game at Mauna Lani and the 2001 and 2002 Senior Skins at Wailea. As a result of that success in the state, Irwin has amassed earnings totaling \$4,476,153 in Hawaii.

### ***MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CHAMPIONSHIP AT HUALALAI NOTES...***

**Field Includes Seven Former Charles Schwab Cup Winners:** Seven players entered in this year's tournament have won 15 of the 16 previous Charles Schwab Cups. This includes Hale Irwin (2002, '04), Tom Watson (2003, '05), Jay Haas (2006, '08), Loren Roberts (2007, '09), Bernhard Langer (2010, '14, '15 & '16), Tom Lehman (2011, '12) and Kenny Perry (2013). The only previous winner not in the event is Allen Doyle, who won the inaugural Cup in 2001.

**Event Holds Unique Distinction:** As it begins its 21<sup>st</sup> year at the Hualalai Golf Course, the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai holds the distinction of being the longest running event on PGA TOUR Champions held at the same venue. The Toshiba Classic had held that distinction previously at 21 years through 2016, but is not on the 2017 schedule. It will return in 2018.

**Better Go Low:** For the last 16 years, the winner of this event has carded three rounds in the 60s and the only player to post a round over par and win the event was Hale Irwin in 1997 when he shot a 1-over-par 73 in the opening round. However, winds were clocked at 35-40 mph in that first round.

**Pernice Looking to Extend Streak:** Tom Pernice, Jr., will begin the 2017 season with a string of 236 holes without a three-putt. His last three-putt came on No. 7 in the second round at the Toshiba Classic. Doug Garwood had the longest streak in that category in 2016 at 282 holes.

**Last Group is Place to Be:** For the 10th time in the last 11 years, the tournament winner has come from the final pairing. The exception during this stretch was John Cook in 2011 (second-to-last pairing).

**They Succeeded on Their First Try:** Nine players have claimed this championship in their first appearances, including the last two champions Miguel Angel Jimenez and Duffy Waldorf. Prior to Jimenez, the last to do so was Loren Roberts (2006). Others to accomplish the feat are John Jacobs (1999), John Bland (1996), George Archer (1990), Dave Hill (1988), Peter Thomson (1985) and Orville Moody (1984).

**Field Has International Flavor:** This year's field includes players from 11 different countries. In addition to the United States, players hail from England (Broadhurst & Chapman), Japan (Idoki), Fiji (Singh), South Africa (Frost), Germany (Langer), Scotland (Montgomerie & Lyle), Sweden (Parnevik), Spain (Jimenez), Mexico (Toledo), and Paraguay (Franco).

**Roberts 2006 Effort Tied a Record:** Loren Roberts' winning total of 25-under-par 191 tied the all-time Tour numerical record for the lowest three-round score. It also established a PGA TOUR Champions best mark in relation to par (since matched by two others). That same year, Don Pooley finished one stroke back of Roberts, earning the distinction of posting the lowest score in PGA TOUR Champions annals that didn't win. Roberts also established a record for most birdies in a 54-hole event, making 26 at Hualalai in 2006. That mark was tied by Fred Couples in 2011, at the AT&T Championship and Duffy Waldorf at the 2016 Toshiba Classic. The year he was the runner-up, Pooley had 25 birdies. Hale Irwin had 25 when he won in 2007.

**How the Leaders Have Fared:** In the 33-year history of the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai, the player(s) who are leading or tied for the lead after 36 holes have gone on to win the tournament 23 times. In the last 10 years, Hale Irwin (2007), Tom Watson (2010), Dan Forsman (2012), Bernhard Langer (2014), Miguel Angel Jimenez (2015) and Duffy Waldorf (2016) have been the 36-hole leaders who went on to triumph. Since the event moved to Hualalai in 1997, eight first-round leaders/co-leaders have won, including Bernhard Langer (2009), Tom Watson (2010) and Waldorf (2016).

**Hualalai is Among the Easiest on Tour:** In the last 10 years, the par-72 Hualalai Golf Course has been the one of the easiest layouts on the PGA TOUR Champions. Here are the yearly stroke averages by the field since 2007 and where it ranked for course difficulty on Tour:

Year	Scoring Average/Rank	O/U Par	Eagles	Birdies	Rounds in the 60s
2016	69.915/26 <sup>th</sup> of 26	-2.085	16	560	63
2015	70.283/23 <sup>rd</sup> of 24	-1.717	17	520	57
2014	69.098/26 <sup>th</sup> of 26	-2.902	27	560	67
2013	70.417/25 <sup>th</sup> of 26	-1.583	11	469	46
2012	70.374/24 <sup>th</sup> of 24	-1.626	24	487	50
2011	68.746/24 <sup>th</sup> of 24 <sup>th</sup>	-3.254	28	602	78
2010	69.130/26 <sup>th</sup> of 26	-2.870	18	510	66
2009	69.561/24 <sup>th</sup> of 25	-2.439	11	505	50
2008	69.081/29 <sup>th</sup> of 29	-2.919	24	586	75
2007	68.715/30 <sup>th</sup> of 30	-3.285	27	587	78

**Two Holes Rank Among Easiest on Tour:** In 2016, Nos. 4 and 10 were among the three easiest on PGA TOUR Champions. No. 4 ranked 466<sup>th</sup> and No. 10 ranked 467<sup>th</sup> among 468 holes last year. The easiest hole was No. 11 at Canyon Meadows G&CC, host of the Shaw Charity Classic.

**Success in Openers:** In 2010, Tom Watson's victory at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai made him just the second player to win a season-opening event on both the PGA TOUR and PGA TOUR Champions. Tom Kite was the first to do so, capturing the season-opening event on the Big Island in 2002. He opened the 1991 PGA TOUR season with a victory at the Infiniti Tournament of Champions at La Costa. Watson won the 1978 Joe Garagiola-Tucson Open and the 1984 Seiko-Tucson Match Play Championship when both events opened the PGA TOUR season.

**Youngest and Oldest Winners:** Hale Irwin's 2007 win at Hualalai came at 61 years, 7 months, 18 days, making him the oldest winner in event history. Tom Watson's victory in 2010 at 60 years, 4 months, 20 days made him the second-oldest winner. Only one other player over 60 has claimed this event and that was George Archer in 2000 when he won for the second time (60 years, 3 months, 6 days). Archer was also the youngest winner in event history (50 years, 3 months, 6 days) when we won at La Costa in 1990.

**Others in Field Enjoyed Success in Hawaii:** Eighteen of the 49 players in this year's field have posted one or more victories in the state of Hawaii on either the PGA TOUR or PGA Champions. Hale Irwin has won nine official events, including eight on the PGA TOUR Champions and three more unofficial events. Tom Watson has won five times. Irwin and Paul Goydos are the only players to have won an official event on the PGA TOUR and the PGA TOUR Champions in Hawaii.

**Here is how the previous 10 champions have performed at the Hualalai Golf Course.**

Year	Winner	Score	Eagles	Birdies	Pars	Bogeys	D/Bog.	Par 3s	Par 4s	Par 5s	Front	Back
2007	Irwin	-23	0	25	27	2	0	-1	-11	-11	-11	-12
2008	Funk	-21	1	23	26	4	0	-1	-9	-11	-11	-10
2009	Langer	-18	0	23	26	5	0	-1	-7	-10	-5	-13
2010	T. Watson	-22	2	22	26	4	0	-3	-8	-11	-5	-17
2011	Cook	-22	1	21	31	1	0	-4	-7	-11	-9	-13
2012	Forsman	-15	0	17	35	2	0	-1	-6	-8	-6	-9
2013	Cook	-17	1	15	38	0	0	-3	-4	-10	-4	-13
2014	Langer	-22	1	21	31	1	0	-4	-8	-10	-9	-13
2015	Jimenez	-17	1	21	28	2	2	+2	-7	-12	-5	-12
2016	Waldorf	-18	0	18	36	0	0	Even	-9	-9	-11	-7

**Inside the Numbers:** Hale Irwin is the leading money-winner in tournament history with \$1,222,837. Irwin's T9 finish in 2013 gave him eight career top-10s in this championship, one short of Tom Watson's nine top-10s, the most in tournament history...Watson is second in earnings here with \$1,175,933 followed by Bernhard Langer with \$1,123,250. ..Five players have won the Mitsubishi Electric Championship in wire-to-wire fashion – Peter Thomson (1985), John Jacobs (1999), Tom Kite (2002), Watson (2010) and Duffy Waldorf (2016)...Last year, Tom Lehman was an impressive 13-under-par on the par-5 holes for the event...Fred Couples closed with a 6-under-par 66 last year to finish T5, his fourth straight top-five finish in this event and his fifth top-10 finish...Five different members of the World Golf Hall of Fame have won this event since 2001 – Watson (2010), Langer (2009, '14), Hale Irwin (2007), Tom Kite (2002) and Larry Nelson (2001)...Doug Tewell has the only hole-in-one in this event at Hualalai. In 2002, Tewell aced the par-3 8<sup>th</sup> hole in Round 1...Three of the four highest number of birdies recorded in a 54-hole event on the PGA TOUR Champions came at this event. Loren Roberts set the mark with 26 in 2006, one more than Don Pooley, who finished second that year...Couples has a career scoring average in the event of 67.19 in 21 rounds with 18 rounds in the 60s. Rocco Mediate has averaged 67.17 but has played in just two events here...Mark O'Meara led all players with 20 birdies in this event a year ago.