



Regions Tradition

Greystone Golf & Country Club (Founders Course) | Birmingham, Alabama | May 15-20, 2018

Media Contacts

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Quick Facts

- **Course:** Greystone Golf & Country Club (Founders Course)
- **Par:** 72 **Yardage:** 7,277
- **Course Designer(s):** Bob Cupp / Hubert Green (1991, 2015)
- **Purse:** \$2,400,000 (Winner: \$360,000)
- **Golf Channel Coverage** (all times local): Thurs. & Fri: 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- **Social Media:** Twitter ([@RegionsTrad](#)), Instagram ([@RegionsTradition](#)), [Facebook](#)

Field Overview (as of 5/14/18)

Defending champion and two-time event winner Bernhard Langer (2016, 2017) headlines a 78-player field that features a total of eight past Regions Traditions champions including fellow two-time winners Fred Funk (2008, 2010) and Tom Lehman (2011, 2012) along with David Frost (2013), Tom Kite (2000), Jeff Maggert (2015), Kenny Perry (2014) and Loren Roberts (2005).

Langer's start comes on the heels of his win two weeks ago at the Insuperity Invitational at The Woodlands Country Club in Houston, Texas, where he earned his 37th PGA TOUR Champions title. He extended his streak to 12 consecutive years with a victory, setting a Tour record and breaking a tie he previously shared with Hale Irwin. Langer is now just eight wins shy of Hale Irwin's record of 45 PGA TOUR Champions titles. In all, he has 38 top-10s (79.17%) and 10 wins (20.83%) in 48 major starts, and his worst finish was a tie for 23rd at the 2010 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship.

33 of the top-36 players in the current Charles Schwab Cup standings will compete in Birmingham this week, as well as seven players who have won this season: Paul Broadhurst, Mark Calcavecchia, Joe Durant, Steve Flesch, Jerry Kelly, Vijay Singh and Steve Stricker.

Additional field highlights:

- Nine members of the World Golf Hall of Fame
- 63 PGA TOUR winners with 378 total career victories
- 58 PGA TOUR Champions winners with 254 total career victories
- 18 with a PGA TOUR Champions major title; 20 with a PGA TOUR major

First Timers

A total of eight players will be making their first appearance at the Regions Tradition: Bob Estes, Steve Flesch, Jerry Kelly, Len Mattiace, David McKenzie, Tim Petrovic, Fran Quinn and Tommy Tolles.

2017 Recap: Langer Successfully Defends Title

Bernhard Langer and Fred Funk began the back nine tied at 16-under par, and the turning point came on the par-4 12th. Funk, the most accurate driver on Tour, hit his tee shot out of bounds and went on to make triple bogey. Meanwhile, Langer made a 16-foot birdie and moved to 17-under par. The four-shot swing gave Langer a three-shot lead over Scott Parel, with six holes to play. Langer closed out the win with birdies on Nos. 12, 13, 14 and 17. His final-round 64 was the lowest round of the tournament and his eighth consecutive round in the 60s at Greystone Golf & Country Club. In the tournament's two years at this course, he has a 67.38 scoring average. Additionally, he has the lowest scoring average in tournament history (69.31 in 36 rounds).

Langer Back on Top

With his win in Texas, **Bernhard Langer** moved to No. 1 in the Charles Schwab Cup for the first time this season. He has led the standings at least once in 10 of the last 11 seasons, with the only exception being 2011 when he missed multiple months due to a thumb injury.

Since 2008, Langer's first full season on PGA TOUR Champions, Langer has topped the standings 122 of 265 weeks (46.04%), and the next-closest player is Tom Lehman, who has spent 32 weeks at No. 1. Only five other players have led in multiple seasons since 2008, as John Cook, Fred Couples, Fred Funk, Tom Lehman and Colin Montgomerie were each No. 1 in two seasons.

Florida → Alabama

Scott McCarron and **Steve Stricker** will travel to Birmingham after playing in THE PLAYERS Championship last week. McCarron earned his spot in the field as the winner of the 2017 Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Championship, held at Caves Valley Golf Club in Baltimore. It was McCarron's 14th start at THE PLAYERS Championship, where his best finish was T35 in 1998, and the 52-year-old missed the cut after carding rounds of 79-73.

In his 21st start at THE PLAYERS Championship, Stricker finished T23 and he has now made the cut in each of his last five starts (2013-2015, 2017-2018).

Player Capsules

- **Steve Stricker:** This season on PGA TOUR Champions, Stricker has two wins and four top-five finishes, and he is currently No. 2 in the Charles Schwab Cup. He has made 10 starts on Tour since he turned 50 in 2017, and he has broken par in all 25 of his individual rounds (67.80 scoring average). He currently ranks No. 1 in scoring average (67.89), greens in regulation (80.86%), putting Average (1.679 putts per GIR), eagles and birdies.
- **Steve Flesch:** Steve Flesch claimed his first title on PGA TOUR Champions with a birdie on the final hole in a three-man playoff at the Mitsubishi Electric Classic. The defeat over Bernhard Langer and Scott Parel broke a streak of 169 consecutive starts without a win and he became the 14th player to own a title on the Web.com Tour, PGA TOUR and PGA TOUR Champions. Most recently, at his Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf debut, Flesch partnered with David Toms to finish T5, his fifth career top-10.
- **Vijay Singh:** Singh's 2018 season includes a win at the Toshiba Classic, his second career victory and first individual win on PGA TOUR Champions. He has three top-10s in five starts and is No. 4 in the Charles Schwab Cup. He has also played six events on the PGA TOUR, and his best finish was 49th at the Masters.
- **Joe Durant:** With a win at the Chubb Classic in February and six top-10s this year, Durant has returned to the top five of the Charles Schwab Cup, a standing that eluded him in 2017. He spent 13 consecutive weeks in the top five to end the 2016 campaign, but in 2017 his highest position was 11th. Last year he finished 16th in the final standings, down from his fifth-place finishes in 2016 and 2015. He is the only player with top-10 finishes in each of the last five tournaments. Through nine events, he ranks in the top-10 of 10 statistical categories, including birdie average (2nd, 4.75 per round), scoring average (3rd, 69.29), driving accuracy (5th, 77.38%) and putting

average (9th, 1.714 putts per GIR). By comparison, he was a top-10 player in just four categories at the end of 2017, with his best being T6 in ball striking.

SEC Connections

12 players in the field attended a SEC university: Steve Lowery (Alabama), Jerry Pate (Alabama), John Daly (Arkansas), John Huston (Auburn), Mark Calcavecchia (Florida), Scott Dunlap (Florida), Scott Parel (Georgia), Tommy Tolles (Georgia), Russ Cochran (Kentucky), Steve Flesch (Kentucky), David Toms (LSU) and Jeff Maggert (Texas A&M)

Major Stretch

The Regions Tradition is the first of five major championships in the next seven tournaments on PGA TOUR Champions.

1. **Regions Tradition** | May 17-20 | Greystone Golf & Country Club (Birmingham, Alabama)
2. **KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship** | May 24-27 | Harbor Shores (Benton Harbor, Michigan)
3. **U.S. Senior Open Championship** | June 28 – July 1 | The Broadmoor Resort (Colorado Springs, Colorado)
4. **Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Championship** | July 12-15 | Exmoor Country Club (Chicago, Illinois)
5. **The Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex** | July 26-29 | Old Course (St. Andrews, Scotland)

Charitable Impact

In addition to the performance on the course, Regions Tradition prides itself on giving back. Since the tournament became Regions Tradition in 2011, the event has raised over \$4.5 million for area charities and more than \$16 million since the tournament's inception in 1992. Children's of Alabama serves as the primary beneficiary of the tournament.

Regions Tradition to continue through 2023

Last April, PGA TOUR Champions and Regions Bank announced a title sponsorship extension of the Regions Tradition through 2023. Greystone Golf & Country Club, which debuted as the tournament venue in 2016, will remain as host through the 2023 event.

Since 2011, Regions has been title sponsor of the Tradition, a major championship introduced in 1989. Prior to sponsoring the Tradition, Regions and the PGA TOUR presented the Regions Charity Classic from 2006-2010.

Host Course

The Founders Course at Greystone Golf & Country Club, which hosted the Bruno's Memorial Classic from 1992 through 2005, returns as host for a third consecutive year. Originally designed by Bob Cupp and Alabama native Hubert Green, the course underwent significant renovations in 2015.

With a scoring average of 71.502, Greystone Golf & Country Club ranked as the ninth toughest course on Tour last season.

- **Hardest hole:** No. 3 (par 4, 453 yards) – 31 birdies, 4.193 average
- **Easiest hole:** No. 13 (par 5, 531 yards) – 4 eagles, 146 birdies, 4.605 average

Year	R1	R2	R3	R4	Overall Average (Rank)
2017	71.684	71.821	72.013	70.481	71.502 (9 th)
2016	71.63	71.235	73.136	73.148	72.287 (9 th)

PGA TOUR Champions – 2018 Season Overview

PGA TOUR Champions is a membership organization of professional golfers age 50 and older, including 35 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 2018, the PGA TOUR Champions schedule includes 27 tournaments across the United States, Scotland and Canada, with purses totaling more than \$56 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 in excess of 190 countries and territories, reaching more than 330 million potential households. Follow PGA TOUR Champions online at PGATOUR.com, [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pgatourchampions), [Twitter \(@ChampionsTour\)](https://twitter.com/ChampionsTour) and [Instagram \(@pgatourchampions\)](https://www.instagram.com/pgatourchampions).

Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs

In 2017, Kevin Sutherland became just the third player to win the Charles Schwab Cup Championship and the Charles Schwab Cup in the same season. His breakthrough win at the season-ending event was the first of his PGA TOUR Champions career, and it was enough for him to surpass Bernhard Langer, who had won the Charles Schwab Cup the previous three years.

The third edition of the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs will begin with 72 players at the Dominion Energy Charity Classic (Oct. 15-21). The top 54 will advance to the following week's PowerShares QQQ Championship, and the season will conclude with the top 36 players at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship (Nov. 5-11).

At the start of the playoffs, each player's regular-season money total will become the equivalent number of points (e.g. \$330,000 equals 330,000 points). During the three playoff events, each dollar earned is worth two points, and those points will be added to a player's regular-season point total. After the Dominion Energy Charity Classic, the top 54 players will advance, and after the PowerShares QQQ Championship, the top 36 players will qualify for the season-ending Charles Schwab Cup Championship. The player with the most points at the conclusion of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship will win the Charles Schwab Cup.

2018 Rookie Class

For players to become eligible to compete for PGA TOUR Champions events they must turn 50 years of age by the first competition round. If a player plays less than six tournaments in his first season of eligibility, he is considered a rookie the following season. Newcomers for 2018 with at least one PGA TOUR win include:

- Brent Geiberger (May 22)
- Robert Gamez (July 21)
- Dudley Hart (August 4)
- Darren Clarke (August 14)
- Chris DiMarco (August 23)

Upcoming rookie classes include:

- 2019 – Retief Goosen (February 3), Angel Cabrera (September 12), Ernie Els (October 17)
- 2020 – Jim Furyk (May 12), Mike Weir (May 12), K.J. Choi (May 19), Phil Mickelson (June 16)

PGA TOUR Champions – 2018 Schedule

1. **Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai:** Jerry Kelly birdied the 18th hole in the final round to turn a one-shot deficit into a one-shot victory over Colin Montgomerie. Leading by one on No. 18, Montgomerie found the fairway bunker off the tee and missed the green with his approach. After Kelly made his 18-foot birdie putt, Montgomerie had a chance to force a playoff, but his six-foot par putt slid by the hole.
2. **Boca Raton Championship:** Mark Calcavecchia captured his fourth PGA TOUR Champions title in wire-to-wire fashion, finishing two shots better than Bernhard Langer. Langer, who trailed by as many as four on Sunday, evened the score at 16-under with two holes to play, but he bogeyed the last two holes and finished second. The win was Calcavecchia's first since the 2015 Principal Charity Classic.
3. **Chubb Classic:** Over the last six holes at the Chubb Classic, Joe Durant and Steve Stricker traded two two-shot swings and one three-shot swing. In the end, it was Durant's birdie-birdie finish that produced a 19-under total and four-shot victory, the third of his PGA TOUR Champions career and first since the 2016 3M Championship.
4. **Cologuard Classic:** One year after bogeying No. 18 and finishing runner-up in his PGA TOUR Champions debut, Steve Stricker parred the closing hole en route to a 14-under total and two-stroke victory. It was his first win in his eighth start on Tour, and it was his first victory since the 2012 Sentry Tournament of Champions.
5. **Toshiba Classic:** As many as six players shared the lead Sunday, and Vijay Singh was the last man standing as his five back-nine birdies helped him post an 11-under total and a one-shot victory. It was his first individual win since the Dell Technologies Championship on September 1, 2008, and he had played 237 individual tournaments since that triumph. Singh is the first FedExCup champion (2008) to win on PGA TOUR Champions.
6. **Rapiscan Systems Classic:** For the first time, Steve Stricker claimed consecutive titles on PGA TOUR Champions with his 11-under-par effort at the Rapiscan Systems Classic. Stricker held a one-stroke lead through the front nine on Sunday before making four back-nine birdies to secure the title. His 4-under 68 on Sunday was his 25th consecutive round of par or better (the longest active streak on Tour) and kept his stat of never carding a round over par on PGA TOUR Champions intact.
7. **Mitsubishi Electric Classic:** With a birdie on the second extra hole, Steve Flesch prevailed in a three-man playoff and won the Mitsubishi Electric Classic, his first win on PGA TOUR Champions. Flesch birdied No. 18 to get into a playoff with Bernhard Langer and Scott Parel, and he birdied it twice more in the playoff, first eliminating Langer on the first extra hole, and then Parel. Because of inclement weather in Sunday's forecast, both the second and final rounds were played on Saturday.
8. **Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge:** Kirk Triplett holed a bunker shot for birdie on the first playoff hole to secure the victory with partner Paul Broadhurst at the Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge. The team of Bernhard Langer and Tom Lehman birdied five of their last seven holes (best ball) to get into a playoff at 24-under, but they settled for second place after they both missed birdie putts in sudden death.
9. **Inspirity Invitational:** Bernhard Langer saved par on the 54th hole to win wire-to-wire and claim his fourth victory at the Inspirity Invitational. Langer led by one through 36 holes, but he started the final round 2-over through eight holes and fell four shots off the pace. He played the last 10 holes bogey free, and birdies on Nos. 9, 10, 13 and 15 gave him an 11-under total and a one-shot win over Paul Goydos, Bart Bryant and Jeff Maggert.