



Hoag Classic

Newport Beach Country Club | Newport Beach, California | March 8-10, 2019

PGA TOUR Champions Media Contacts

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Quick Facts

- **Golf Course:** Newport Beach Country Club (6,584 yards / Par 71)
- **Designed by:** William Bell (1953); Harry Rainville (1973); Ted Robinson (1985, 1998, 1999)
- **Purse:** \$1,800,000 (Winner: \$270,000)
- **Golf Channel Coverage (all times local):** Friday – 3:00-5:00 p.m.; Saturday – 2:30-5 p.m.; Sunday – 2:30-5 p.m.
- **Social Media:** [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#)

Field Overview (as of 3/5/19)

The 24th-annual Hoag Classic returns to Newport Beach, California, with a field of 78 players including **Mark O'Meara**, last week's winner of the Cologuard Classic and member of the World Golf Hall of Fame. Three of this year's winners will play in the event: **Tom Lehman** (Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai), **Miguel Angel Jimenez** (Chubb Classic), and O'Meara (Cologuard Classic), as well as David Toms (No. 4), Kevin Sutherland (No. 6), Scott McCarron (No. 7), Colin Montgomerie (No. 9) and Jerry Kelly (No. 18). Seven new faces will be seen in this year's field, most notable include: **Darren Clarke**, **Bob Estes**, and **Chris DiMarco**, as well as 32 of the top 36 players from last year's Charles Schwab Cup.

- 6 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame
- 55 PGA TOUR winners with 330 total career victories
- 51 PGA TOUR Champions winners with 235 total career victories
- 21 players with a PGA TOUR Champions major victory; 15 with a PGA TOUR major

O'Meara Makes His Mark in California

Mark O'Meara's family moved to Mission Viejo Country Club in Orange County, California when he was 12 years old. After playing on the Mission Viejo High golf team, the World Golf Hall of Fame member went on to earn a scholarship at Long Beach State.

Last week at the Cologuard Classic, O'Meara ended an eight-year winning drought when he closed with a 7-under 66 for a four-shot victory. At 8 years, 4 months and 21 days, it was the second-longest gap between victories on Tour. The 62-year-old became the fourth-oldest winner in PGA TOUR Champions history.

O'Meara will make his 12th start at the Hoag Classic. He has never finished outside the top 40, with his best finish coming in 2009 when he finished runner-up by one stroke to Eduardo Romero. In 33 rounds at Newport Beach Country Club, he has only recorded three rounds over par.

Press conference: *Thursday, March 7 following his Pro-Am round (media center)*

Boom Boom is Back

Newport Beach resident **Fred Couples** will make his seventh start at the Hoag Classic. He owns two victories (2010, 2014), a runner-up finish (2013) and three other finishes in the top 10 (T5, 2011, 2015; T8, 2012). In 18 rounds at Newport Beach Country Club, Couples holds a 66.67 scoring average and has only recorded one round over par (2012, third round).

By playing this week, Couples will play four of the season's first five tournaments for just the third time in his career. He opened his career in 2010 with finishes of 2nd-1st-1st-1st, and in 2017 his first four starts were 2nd-T6-1st -T4. This year, Couples posted a T5 finish at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai, a T8 finish at the Oasis Championship and a T20 finish last week at the Cologuard Classic. This year he also played in the Genesis Open, where he missed the cut after rounds of 73-72.

Press conference: *Thursday, March 7 at 12:30 p.m. PT (on the range)*

Goydos Going Home

Paul Goydos, who resides in Coto de Caza, California, will make his fourth appearance at the Hoag Classic. He finished T4 in his first appearance in 2014, but since posted finishes of T31 (2016) and T33 (2018). Goydos has a 68.33 scoring average across nine rounds at Newport Beach Country Club.

Last year, Goydos posted two runner-up finishes (Insperity Invitational, Invesco QQQ Championship), and seven finishes in the top 10. In 2019, he has two top-25 finishes in four starts this season.

Press conference: *Wednesday, March 6 at 11:00 a.m. (media center)*

Early Major Moments

For the first time in PGA TOUR Champions history, four different senior major champions have won the year's first four tournaments. Additionally, three of the four winners are among the top-30 on the Tour's all-time money list, and the champions' average age is 59.25. The oldest average age of a champion for a season was 54.67 in 2017, when Bernhard Langer won four times at 59 and three times at 60. The all-time average age of a champion is 53.02.

Player (age)	Starts	Wins	Senior Majors	Top-10s	Career Money	Money Rank
Tom Lehman (59)	183	12	3	82	\$12,099,098	15th
Bernhard Langer (61)	236	39	10	166	\$27,324,504	1st
Miguel Angel Jimenez (55)	65	7	2	38	\$6,263,780	67th
Mark O'Meara (62)	222	3	1	62	\$9,444,943	28th
TOTAL	706	61	16	348	\$55,132,325	

This is the fifth season tournaments have been won by at least two different players age 60 or older. The 1996 season is the only year tournaments were won by three different players age 60 or older.

- 2019: **Bernhard Langer** – Oasis Championship, **Mark O'Meara** – Cologuard Classic
- 2011: **Tom Watson** – KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship, **Bob Gilder** – Principal Charity Classic
- 2007: **Gil Morgan** – PURE Insurance Championship, **Hale Irwin** – Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai
- 2000: **George Archer** – MasterCard Championship, **Lee Trevino** – Cadillac NFL Golf Classic
- 1996: **Bob Charles** – Hyatt Regency Maui Kaanapali Classic, **Jimmy Powell** – Brickyard Crossing Championship, **Dale Douglass** – Bell Atlantic Classic

Past Champions in the Field

With his win in 2016, **Jay Haas** became the tournament's third repeat champion, joining **Fred Couples** and **Hale Irwin**. Haas was 62-years-old when he won the Hoag Classic in 2016, sticking to this year's trend of the first four champions

average age of 59.25. Haas' win also marked the fifth playoff in tournament history and first since Bernhard Langer won in 2008. In all, this year's 78-player field includes four past champions: Haas (2016, 2007), **Duffy Waldorf** (2015), **Couples** (2014, 2010), and **David Frost** (2013).

Fresh Faces

Leading the field of first-timers at Newport Beach Country Club is **Darren Clarke**, who is fresh off a T2 finish at the Cologuard Classic, his second top-10 finish in three starts in 2019. Clarke moved to No. 19 in the Charles Schwab Cup, a career best. Also making their tournament debut will be **Bob Estes**, **Gibby Gilbert III**, **Tom Gillis**, **Greg Kraft**, **Cliff Kresge** and **Chris DiMarco**.

How Low Can You Go?

Three of the 15 lowest scores in PGA TOUR Champions history have been shot at the Hoag Classic. Tom Purtzer (2004), Nick Price (2011) and **Duffy Waldorf** (2015) shot an 11-under 60 at Newport Beach Country Club. All three players went on to win. Only two other tournaments stand in the 2019 schedule where the top-15 lowest scores have been shot. Others include, **Kevin Sutherland's** 12-under 60 at the 2018 Boeing Classic and Sutherland's 13-under 59 at the 2014 DICK'S Sporting Goods Open, the Tour's 18-hole scoring record.

Winning in the Golden State

Tom Kite owns 10 titles in California, which is the most of any active player on PGA TOUR Champions. Kite won six times on the PGA TOUR in California and has picked up four additional PGA TOUR Champions (2001 Gold Rush Classic; 2002 Napa Valley Championship; 2002, 2006 AT&T Classic) victories in the Golden State. **Mark O'Meara** won six times in California on the PGA TOUR. **Fred Couples** also owns six wins in the state as well as 10 unofficial victories.

California Connections

This year's field includes a number of players with Southern California ties. **Paul Goydos** and **Mark O'Meara** are both CSU Long Beach alums and Goydos resides in nearby Coto de Caza. **Scott McCarron**, **Corey Pavin**, **Tom Pernice, Jr.**, **Ken Tanigawa** and **Duffy Waldorf** all attended UCLA, while **Olin Browne** is a graduate of Occidental College in Los Angeles. In addition to Goydos, other players that call Orange County home include **Fred Couples** (Newport Beach), **John Cook** (Corona Del Mar) and **Esteban Toledo** (Irvine).

Doug Garwood was born in Van Nuys and now resides in Chatsworth. His late father, Kelton, was an actor in Hollywood and appeared in a number of TV shows, including *Gunsmoke* and *Rawhide* among others.

PGA TOUR Champions – 2019 Season Overview

Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs

The 2019 Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs will begin with 72 players at the Dominion Energy Charity Classic (Oct. 14-20). The top 54 will advance to the Invesco QQQ Championship (Oct. 28 - Nov. 3), and the season will conclude with the top 36 players at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship (Nov. 4-10), where they will compete for the Charles Schwab Cup.

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 Playoffs 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 Invesco 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.

The 2019 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 2019 with at least one PGA TOUR win include:

- Shaun Micheel (January 5, 1969)
- Retief Goosen (February 3, 1969)
- Frank Lickliter, II (July 28, 1969)
- Shigeki Maruyama (September 12, 1969)
- Angel Cabrera (September 12, 1969)
- Rod Pampling (September 23, 1969)

Upcoming rookie classes include:

- **2020** – Ernie Els (October 17, 1969), Tim Herron (February 6, 1970), Jim Furyk (May 12, 1970), Mike Weir (May 12, 1970), K.J. Choi (May 19, 1970), Phil Mickelson (June 16, 1970)
- **2021** – John Senden (April 20, 1971), Stuart Appleby (May 1, 1971), Robert Allenby (July 12, 1971), Padraig Harrington (August 31, 1971)
- **2022** – David Duval (November 9, 1971), Brian Gay (December 14, 1971), Y.E. Yang (January 15, 1972), Justin Leonard (June 15, 1972), Notah Begay II (September 14, 1972)

2019 Schedule

The 2019 schedule features 27 official tournaments in Canada, Japan, Scotland and 19 states, with prize money totaling nearly \$58 million. After the 24-event Regular Season, the fourth-annual Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs will determine the winner of the season-long race for the Charles Schwab Cup.

1. **Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai:** Tom Lehman closed with a 7-under 65 to erase a four-shot deficit and win the season-opener with a 17-under total. Lehman topped David Toms, who opened with rounds of 65-65 and led by four at the start of the final round. He maintained a three-shot cushion through 12 but was 1-over on his last six holes, including a three-putt bogey on No. 18, and fell one shot shy of Lehman's winning total.
2. **Oasis Championship:** Bernhard Langer became the tournament's first repeat champion, winning with a tournament-record score of 19-under 197. His five-stroke victory over Marco Dawson is the largest margin in the Oasis Championship's 13-year history. With the win, he surpassed Hale Irwin and became No. 1 on the Tour's all-time money list.
3. **Chubb Classic:** Miguel Angel Jimenez defeated Bernhard Langer and Olin Browne on the first playoff hole to secure his seventh career victory Sunday at the Chubb Classic. Jimenez posted the day's only bogey-free round, a 5-under 66, and played the last 39 holes (38 regulation, 1 playoff) of the tournament bogey free.
4. **Cologuard Classic:** World Golf Hall of Fame member Mark O'Meara ended an eight-year drought when he won the Cologuard Classic by closing with a 7-under 66 for a four-shot victory. At 8 years, 4 months and 21 days, it is the second-longest gap between victories on Tour. The 62-year-old became the fourth-oldest winner in PGA TOUR Champions history.
5. Hoag Classic
6. Rapiscan Systems Classic
7. Mitsubishi Electric Classic
8. Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge
9. Insperity Invitational
10. Regions Tradition
11. KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship
12. Principal Charity Classic
13. Mastercard Japan Championship
14. American Family Insurance Championship
15. U.S. Senior Open Championship

16. Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship
17. The Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex
18. DICK'S Sporting Goods Open
19. Boeing Classic
20. Shaw Charity Classic
21. The Ally Challenge
22. Sanford International
23. PURE Insurance Championship
24. SAS Championship
25. Dominion Energy Charity Classic
26. Invesco QQQ Championship
27. Charles Schwab Cup Championship