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**2019 QBE Challenge Tournament Notes**

**Dates:** December 13-15, 2019

**Where:** Tiburon Golf Club (Naples, Fla.)

**Par/Yards:** 72/7,382 yards

**Field:** 24 players (12 two-person teams)

**2018 champions:** Patton Kizzire/Brian Harman

**2019 purse:** \$3.5 million (\$870,000/winning team)

**Format:** Scramble (Friday), Modified Alternate Shot (Saturday), Better Ball (Sunday)

**A look back to the 2018 QBE Shootout**

Following opening rounds of 59-66, the first-time team of Patton Kizzire and Brian Harman posted nine birdies and an eagle in the final round en route to an 11-under 61 and 1-stroke victory over Emiliano Grillo and Graeme McDowell at 30-under 186.

**2019 Teams**

Kevin Chappell/Chez Reavie	Charley Hoffman/Kevin Kisner
Patton Kizzire/Brian Harman	Ryan Palmer/Harold Varner III
Billy Horschel/Brendon Todd	Rory Sabbatini/Kevin Tway
Charles Howell III/Bubba Watson	Corey Connors/Andrew Putnam ( <i>both are first-time players</i> )
Graeme McDowell/Ian Poulter	Viktor Hovland/Matthew Wolff ( <i>both are first-time players</i> )
Sean O'Hair/Lexi Thompson	Jason Kokrak/J.T. Poston ( <i>both are first-time players</i> )

**Tournament Notes**

- Founded by World Golf Hall of Fame Member Greg Norman in 1989, this week's QBE Shootout marks the 31<sup>st</sup> edition of the event.
- Tiburon Golf Club at The Ritz-Carlton Resort in Naples, Fla. hosts the 24-player event for a 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.
- Criteria for the 24-person field: Defending champions (playing as a team), top 12 players available from the 2018-19 FedExCup points list through the TOUR Championship, 10 special exemptions (a minimum of four to be selected from the top 40 on the PGA TOUR career money list).
- Competitors in the 2019 QBE Shootout have combined for 74 PGA TOUR and LPGA victories and 13 since the start of the 2018-19 TOUR season, highlighted by Brendon Todd's back-to-back wins at the Bermuda Championship and OHL Classic at Mayakoba. Bubba Watson leads the field with most respective Tour victories (12). Lexi Thompson trails with 11.
- Nine players will be making their first start in the QBE Shootout this week: Corey Connors, Viktor Hovland, Jason Kokrak, J.T. Poston, Chez Reavie, Andrew Putnam, Kevin Tway, Brendon Todd and Matthew Wolff.
- The only occasion on which a team comprised of two first-time players won the QBE Shootout was in 2011 (Keegan Bradley and Brendan Steele).

- A total of 12 players have been a part of a winning team in their first QBE Shootout, most recently Patton Kizzire last year (Brian Harman).
- With a win this week, defending champions Harman and Patton would become the third team to successfully defend their QBE Shootout title; Brad Faxon/Scott McCarron (2000, 2001) and Jeff Sluman/Hank Kuehne (2003, 2004).
- Paired this year with Sean O'Hair, Lexi Thompson is just the second woman to compete in the QBE Shootout. Annika Sorenstam teamed with Fred Couples in 2006. In 2018, Thompson claimed her 10<sup>th</sup> LPGA title, by four strokes, at the CME Group Tour Championship at Tiburon Golf Club (Gold Course). Thompson will be making her fifth start in the event and fourth consecutive.
- The distinction for most individual top-5 finishes in the QBE Shootout (nine) is a three-way tie between tournament founder Greg Norman, Kenny Perry and Mark O'Meara.
- The team with the most top-five finishes in tournament history is Mark O'Meara and Curtis Strange. The pair collected five such finishes between 1989 and 1996, including a victory in the inaugural Shootout of 1989.
- Charles Howell III, competing this year with Bubba Watson, will be making his 11<sup>th</sup> start in the QBE Shootout, more than any other player (Rory Sabbatini will be making his 10<sup>th</sup> start).