

NEWS

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Ascension CHARITY CLASSIC

presented by **EMERSON**



CHAMPIONS

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Three major champions join 2023 Ascension Charity Classic field

WORLD-CLASS FIELD WELCOMES RETIEF GOOSSEN, ALEX CEJKA AND DARREN CLARKE

Six-time winner Stephen Ames and PGA TOUR Champions Rookie Tim O’Neal also commit

ST. LOUIS (August 17, 2023) – Tournament officials announced today that major championship winners Retief Goosen, Alex Cejka and Darren Clarke have joined the world-class field at the third annual Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson.

The Ascension Charity Classic has also accepted commitments from six-time winner Stephen Ames and PGA TOUR Champions rookie Tim O’Neal to compete in the official PGA TOUR Champions stop—September 5–10—at Norwood Hills Country Club in North St. Louis County.

Tickets for the 2023 Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson are on sale. The tournament is open to spectators from Thursday (September 7) to Sunday (September 10) and ticket prices start at \$20. For a complete listing of ticket options please visit the tournament website at ascensioncharityclassic.com.

Goosen, 54, will be making his second start at this year’s Ascension Charity Classic. The South African finished T54 in 2021 and his tournament scoring average is 71.67. The two-time U.S. Open Champion has collected two PGA TOUR Champions wins since joining the TOUR in 2019. He grabbed his first title and first senior major in just his 12th start at the SENIOR PLAYERS Championship. He picked up his second win last year at the Hoag Classic. This season, Goosen finished T3 in March at The Galleri Classic and T6 at the U.S. Senior Open Championship in July, in addition to three other top-10 finishes. Goosen is currently ranked No. 20 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings.

Cejka, 52, grew his collection of senior major titles at The Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex in July, bringing his PGA TOUR Champions win total to three. The German’s first two wins came in 2020 at the Regions Tradition, in a playoff over Steve Stricker, and at the 2020 Senior PGA Championship. This will be Cejka’s second start at the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson, who finished T23 in 2021. Cejka is currently No. 9 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings, has nine top-10 finishes this season and has totaled \$4,442,337 in career PGA TOUR Champions earnings. In addition to his PGA TOUR Champions accomplishments, Cejka earned one victory on the PGA TOUR in 2014 at the Puerto Rico Open.

Clarke, 54, has collected four PGA TOUR Champions wins, including his most recent at The Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex in 2022. Clarke’s first two senior titles came back-to-back at the 2020 TimberTech Championship and 2021 Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. Clarke, a member of five Ryder Cup teams himself, served as European Captain in 2016. The Northern Irishman has 20 top-10 finishes in his 96 PGA TOUR Champions starts and is currently ranked No. 19 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings on strength of five top-10 finishes. During his time on the PGA TOUR, Clarke collected three wins, most notably the 2011 Open

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Championship at Royal St. George's Golf Club. This year will be Clarke's third start at the Ascension Charity Classic, with his best finish being T24 in 2022. Clarke has a 71.55 scoring average at Norwood Hills Country Club and \$20,760 in tournament earnings.

Ames, 59, is in the midst of his most successful season of professional golf to date. After breaking his three-year win drought in February when he won the Trophy Hassan II, Ames has collected three more victories at the Mitsubishi Electric Classic in May, the Principal Charity Classic in June, and the Boeing Classic last week, bringing his 2023 victory count to four, one behind this season's win total leader Steve Stricker who has five. Ames is currently ranked No. 3 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. This will be the Canadian's third start at the Ascension Charity Classic, having finished T39 in 2021 and T41 in 2022. His scoring average at Norwood Hills is 70.67 and he has totaled \$17,400 in tournament earnings. In addition to his victories, Ames's PGA TOUR Champions resume includes three runner-up finishes, five third-place outings and 51 top-10 efforts across his 188 starts since joining the TOUR in 2014.

O'Neal, 50, made his PGA TOUR Champions debut at last year's Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson with a T33 finish. O'Neal's professional golf journey has included multiple tours over recent decades, racking up nine PGA TOUR starts, 75-plus Korn Ferry Tour starts and scores of titles, including three victories on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica. Nine of his championships came on the Advocates Professional Golf Association (APGA) Tour, the newly-prominent circuit that has become a force in driving greater diversity in the sport by providing opportunities to African Americans from HBCUs and other underrepresented golfers to compete and win at the highest level of professional golf, career development and mentoring sessions. The Georgia native earned his PGA TOUR Champions membership with a T-3 finish at the final stage of the 2023 PGA TOUR Champions Qualifying Tournament last December. Since then, O'Neal has earned five top-25 finishes, including his first top-10 outing at the Mitsubishi Electric Classic in May and his best PGA TOUR Champions finish last week where he finished T9 at the Boeing Classic. O'Neal is currently ranked No. 44 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings.

The Ascension Charity Classic will be one of the premier Regular Season events on the PGA TOUR Champions in 2023, which will give way to the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs, a season-ending, three-tournament series used to determine the TOUR's season-long champion.

For more information about the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson, including ticket, pro-am and hospitality availability, visit the Ascension Charity Classic website at ascensioncharityclassic.com. For the latest news and updates on social media, follow the tournament on Twitter at @ascensionccg, on Facebook at facebook.com/ascensioncharityclassic and Instagram at @ascensioncharityclassic.

About Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson

The Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson is an official event on the PGA TOUR Champions operated by Tournaments for Charity, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit entity. This 54-hole stroke play golf tournament features 81 PGA TOUR Champions professionals competing for a \$2 million purse at historic Norwood Hills Country Club in St. Louis, Missouri. The event is designed to showcase the best golf on the PGA TOUR Champions for the enjoyment of spectators and to benefit local charities in the North St. Louis County area and beyond. All three official rounds will be internationally televised on the Golf Channel. For more information, visit ascensioncharityclassic.com.

About PGA TOUR Champions

PGA TOUR Champions is a membership organization of professional golfers 50 and older, including 33 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. 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 170 countries and territories, reaching more than 340 million potential households, and distributed in 15+ markets via GOLF.TV. Follow PGA TOUR Champions online at PGATOUR.com, at facebook.com/PGATOURChampions, on Twitter @ChampionsTour and on Instagram @pgatourchampions.