

# NEWS



## Ascension CHARITY CLASSIC



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## Reigning Charles Schwab Cup champion Steve Stricker joins money leader Ernie Els and fellow major championship winners Darren Clarke, Steven Alker and K.J. Choi plus fan favorite John Daly to highlight latest commitments at the Ascension Charity Classic

**ST. LOUIS (August 27, 2024)** – Tournament officials announced today that the Ascension Charity Classic has accepted the commitments of reigning Charles Schwab Cup champion Steve Stricker and the PGA TOUR Champions current money leader Ernie Els. Joining Stricker and Els are fellow major championship winners Darren Clarke, Steven Alker and K.J. Choi, plus fan favorite John Daly for the fourth edition of the official PGA TOUR Champions stop September 3-8 at Norwood Hills Country Club.

Tickets for the 2024 Ascension Charity Classic are on sale. The tournament is open to spectators from Thursday (September 5) to Sunday (September 8) and ticket prices start at \$20. Children ages 16 and under are admitted free with a ticketed adult. For a complete listing of ticket options please visit the tournament website at [ascensioncharityclassic.com](http://ascensioncharityclassic.com).

**Stricker**, 57, enjoyed a career PGA TOUR Champions season in 2023. In addition to winning three majors and finishing second in a fourth, Stricker added three other victories and five runner-ups among his 16 starts last season. Only once did he finish worse than T8, when he tied for 15th at the Constellation FURYK & FRIENDS, and he clinched the Charles Schwab Cup before the Championship. The Wisconsin native has now won 17 PGA TOUR Champions events, including six majors, since joining the senior TOUR in 2017. Stricker is also the holder of 14 runner-up finishes and 63 top 10s over his 73 tournaments played. Stricker is currently ranked No. 6 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings with nine top 10 finishes in 10 starts, including a runner-up at the American Family Insurance Championship. This will be Stricker's second appearance at the Ascension Charity Classic. His 12-under-par score in 2022 was good for solo third place and included rounds of 67-65-69, two strokes behind winner Padraig Harrington.

**Els**, 54, made his PGA TOUR Champions debut in January of 2020 with a T2 finish at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. He grabbed his first senior victory two starts later at the Hoag Classic. A win at the 2020 SAS Championship gave Els two titles in his first 10 starts. The top-ranked South African is off to a banner start in 2024 that includes nine top 10 finishes and three victories, bringing his PGA TOUR Champions win total to six. He claimed his first senior major title in July by winning the Kaulig Companies Championship. Els is the owner of 47 international victories and 19 PGA TOUR titles, including four major championships—two U.S. Open wins in 1994 and 1997, along with two The Open Championship titles in 2002 and 2012. In 2015 the "Big Easy" was named the recipient of the Payne Stewart Award by the PGA TOUR in recognition of character, sportsmanship, and dedication to charitable giving. Els is making his fourth appearance at the Ascension Charity Classic. He has recorded one top 10 finish at Norwood Hills, a T5 result in 2022. His tournament scoring average is 69.00 and he has \$105,533 in earnings.

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**Clarke**, 55, 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 in back-to-back fashion at the 2020 TimberTech Championship and 2021 Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. He collected a third win in 2021 at the Sanford International. Clarke, a member of five Ryder Cup teams himself, served as European Captain in 2016. The Northern Irishman has 28 top 10 finishes in his 121 PGA TOUR Champions starts and is currently ranked No. 16 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings on strength of six top 10 finishes. Clarke will make his fourth start at the Ascension Charity Classic next week where his best finish was a T24 effort in 2022. His tournament earnings total \$30,160 and he holds a scoring average of 71.00. During his time on the PGA TOUR, Clarke collected three wins, most notably the 2011 Open.

**Alker**, 53, burst onto the PGA TOUR Champions scene in August of 2021 and has captured eight titles in 67 starts, including the 2022 Charles Schwab Cup title. The New Zealand native has recorded a win each season since claiming his first victory at the 2021 TimberTech Championship. Alker won four times during his Schwab Cup title campaign in 2022, including his first senior major at the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship. He is currently ranked No. 3 on the Charles Schwab Cup Money list on strength of 11 top 10 finishes, including a victory at the season opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai and four runner-up efforts. This will be Alker's third start at the Ascension Charity Classic. He has earned two top 10 finishes, with his best outing a T5 in 2022 at 10-under-par. His tournament scoring average is 68.33 with earnings of \$118,457.

**Choi**, 54, is making his fourth start at this year's Ascension Charity Classic. His best finish was a T23 effort last year and his tournament scoring average is 69.89 with earnings of \$41,600. The South Korean is on pace for a career PGA TOUR Champions season, with six top 10 finishes through 19 starts, including his second senior title and first major championship victory at The Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex last month in Scotland at Carnoustie Golf Links. He is currently ranked No. 5 on the Charles Schwab Cup Money list. Choi has claimed eight PGA TOUR wins and nine international victories during his more than 30-year professional career.

**Daly**, a two-time major champion, recorded musician and one of the most recognizable figures in golf, will make his fourth start at Ascension Charity Classic. While on the PGA TOUR, Daly won five times, highlighted by the 1991 PGA Championship and the 1995 Open Championship. Daly had a breakthrough season in only his second year on PGA TOUR Champions in 2017 with three top 10 finishes and his first senior victory at the Insuperity Invitational, the same tournament where he made his debut in May of 2016. The 58-year-old California native's best Ascension Charity Classic finish was T29 in 2022 and he holds a scoring average of 70.57 at Norwood Hills.

The Ascension Charity Classic has established a legacy of giving in St. Louis and beyond. The tournament has generated more than \$2.6 million in giving for charitable organizations since its inception in 2020.

The Ascension Charity Classic will be one of the premier Regular Season events on the PGA TOUR Champions in 2024, 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, including volunteer opportunities, Pro-Am and hospitality availability, visit the Ascension Charity Classic website at [ascensioncharityclassic.com](https://ascensioncharityclassic.com). For the latest news and updates on social media, follow the tournament on Twitter at [@ascensioncgc](https://twitter.com/ascensioncgc), on Facebook at [facebook.com/ascensioncharityclassic](https://facebook.com/ascensioncharityclassic) and Instagram at [@ascensioncharityclassic](https://instagram.com/ascensioncharityclassic).

**About Ascension Charity Classic**

The Ascension Charity Classic 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 78 PGA TOUR Champions professionals competing for a \$2.1 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 Golf Channel. For more information, visit [ascensioncharityclassic.com](http://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 GOLFTV. Follow PGA TOUR Champions online at [PGATOUR.com](http://PGATOUR.com), at [facebook.com/PGATOURChampions](https://facebook.com/PGATOURChampions), on Twitter @ChampionsTour and on Instagram @pgatourchampions.

**About HNS Sports Group**

HNS Sports Group is a Dublin, Ohio-based LLC founded in 2000. The company offers over 125-plus years of collective experience and is committed to providing professional, efficient and effective client representation in the categories of sponsorship consultation, event management, hospitality management, sales representation and tournament operations within the golf market. To learn more about HNS Sports Group, visit [www.hnssports.com](http://www.hnssports.com).

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