

COUNTDOWN – 5 WEEKS



UP NEXT ON THE CHAMPIONS TOUR:

After a weekend off, the Champions Tour kicks off the first of three straight weeks in Florida with this weekend's Allianz Championship in Boca Raton. The middle stop will be just outside of Tampa in Lutz, Fla., for the Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am February 12-18, followed by The ACE Group Classic in Naples, Fla., February 19-25. Last year's Allianz Championship was held in West Des Moines, Iowa, and was won by **Gil Morgan**, a former winner of the **AT&T Champions Classic** at Valencia Country Club in 2004.

MORE MORGAN:

Gil Morgan, also known as Dr. Gil Morgan as he holds a Doctor of Optometry degree, has two runner-up finishes at Valencia CC in addition to his '04 win. He finished second to last year's champion **Tom Kite** and second to **Tom Purtzer** in 2003. In the history of the Champions Tour event in Southern California, Morgan also has two other wins in the overall history of the event, 1996 and 1997 at Wilshire Country Club.

ONE TOUGH COURSE:

Valencia Country Club proved to be a tough test for the Champions Tour players in 2006. The classic layout measuring nearly 7,000 yards was statistically the fourth toughest on the tour last year, behind three of the tour's Major Championships: the U.S. Senior Open at Prairie Dunes Country Club (Hutchinson, Kan.), the Senior PGA Championship at Oak Tree Golf Club (Edmond, Okla.) and the Senior British Open at The Westin Turnberry Resort (Ayrshire, Scotland). Valencia CC played to an average score of 73.662 last year, an average of +1.662 over the par of 72. Here is how the Five Toughest Courses played last year:

Course	Par	Avg. Over Par
Prairie Dunes	70	3.968
Oak Tree	71	3.838
Turnberry	70	3.126
Valencia	72	1.662
Vista Vallarta	72	1.632

TOUGHEST HOLES:

Valencia Country Club had four of the most demanding 50 holes on the Champions Tour last year. The Par-4 17th hole ranked 20th. The 449-yard hole played to an average score of 4.346 or .346 over par. Valencia had three other holes ranked between 24th and 36th, all of which are on the front nine. The 400-yard, Par-4 2nd tied for 24th with an average score of 4.329 as this difficult hole with an uphill approach yielded just 17 birdies in 2006. Holes 6 and 7 came in ranked 35th and 36th, respectively, in the list. The 6th hole, with an average over par of .299, plays just over 420 yards with a difficult undulating green on this Par-4. The Par-3, 7th hole at 185 yards had an average score of 3.295 last year, with 46 bogeys and 18 double bogeys.

QUOTABLE:

Fred Funk, who won the second event of the season in Hawaii, recently was quoted in a PGATOUR.com article about how impressed he is with Champions Tour player interaction with sponsors and their Pro-Am playing partners. Funk was quoted in the article as saying, "It's a conscious thing they do out there to try and make sure the sponsors are happy. But everybody's willingness to do it has been – and the fun they're having while they're doing it – is really (noticed). I really enjoy that. (Champions Tour players) seem to see the big picture because they've been on Tour for so long and they know what the Tour is all about and they know how important it is to make everybody happy and not take for granted things that are given to us out on the Tour. I'm really pleased with the way the Champions Tour handles their sponsor relations and things like that." It is not uncommon to see several Champions Tour players making hospitality and sponsor visits during the **AT&T Champions Classic**. For hospitality and Pro-Am information call 661-260-1897.

TICKET SALES:

Tickets for this year's 54-hole stroke play event are available for purchase online at www.attchampionsclassic.com with a variety of ticket packages available. Tickets, which start as low as \$15, can also be purchased by calling 661-260-1897. A third option is to purchase a ticket through one of the Champions for Charity partners, including the Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, Special Olympics Southern California/Santa Clarita Chapter, Domestic Violence Center of Santa Clarita, Santa Clarita Committee on Aging, the Santa Clarita Food Pantry and the SCV Youth Project.