

THE ACE GROUP



CLASSIC

HOSTED BY

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Contact: **Jason Camp**, Tournament Director, Octagon  
239.593.3900 ext. 225 or [jason.camp@octagon.com](mailto:jason.camp@octagon.com)  
**Mark Francois**, Marketing and Communications Director, Octagon  
919.531.0338 or [mark.francois@octagon.com](mailto:mark.francois@octagon.com)  
**Tim Erensen**, Executive Vice President, Peter Jacobsen Sports  
203.216.5829 or [tim.erenen@peterjacobsensports.com](mailto:tim.erenen@peterjacobsensports.com)

## **EIGHT FORMER CHAMPIONS RETURN TO THE ACE GROUP CLASSIC HOSTED BY PETER JACOBSEN**

**Naples, FL** – The ACE Group Classic hosted by Peter Jacobsen is only a month away from its debut on TPC Treviso Bay and eight past champions have committed to play. Bobby Wadkins (2007), Loren Roberts (2006), Craig Stadler (2004), Gil Morgan (1998 & 2002) and Hale Irwin (1997 & 2001) join defending champion Scott Hoch for the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Naples Champions Tour event. Inaugural champion Gary Player (1988) and Bob Murphy (1995) will also return. The ACE Group Classic will take place February 20 – 22.

“The ACE Group Classic has such a great tradition in Naples and on the Champions Tour, and it is exciting to relive a lot of great memories when these former champions return,” said Tournament Director Jason Camp. “Fans can take a stroll down memory lane when they enter TPC Treviso Bay and are met with our Wachovia Walk of Champions.”

Wadkins made a birdie on the final hole of the 2007 ACE Group Classic to secure an unlikely comeback from two strokes down with three holes to play.

In 2006, Roberts was tied with Hale Irwin coming down the stretch until Irwin hit his second shot in the water at the 18th, resulting in double bogey. Roberts finished his bogey-free round with a par and one-stroke victory over R.W. Eaks and Brad Bryant. Roberts played his final 35 holes without a bogey.

2004 champion Stadler, known affectionately around the world as “the Walrus,” is the owner of 13 PGA TOUR and eight Champions Tour titles. His win in Naples was not without drama, as he drained a 27-foot birdie putt to win on the first hole of a playoff with Tom Watson and Gary Koch.

Two-time champion Morgan is well-remembered around Naples for coming back from a five-stroke deficit to capture the 1998 title. In 2001, he held the top spot on the leader board after Saturday and cruised to a two-stroke victory over Dana Quigley.

Irwin captured the 1997 and 2002 ACE Group Classic titles. His first victory came when he used a seven-under-par 65 in the final round to overcome a one-stroke deficit and defeat Bob Murphy. In 2002, Irwin took the lead over Tom Watson with two holes left to win his second title.



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Murphy went wire-to-wire to win the 1995 Tournament that was shortened to two rounds due to inclement weather. It is becoming a rare sight to see Murphy play competitively, but he continues to play the game with the rare enthusiasm that has made him a fan favorite for four decades.

Tickets and information can be found by calling 1-800-566-3470 or visiting [www.acegroupclassic.com](http://www.acegroupclassic.com).

#### **About The ACE Group of Companies**

The ACE Group of Companies is a global leader in insurance and reinsurance serving a diverse group of clients. Headed by ACE Limited, the ACE Group of Companies conducts its business on a worldwide basis with operating subsidiaries in more than 50 countries. Additional information can be found at: [www.ancelimited.com](http://www.ancelimited.com).

#### **About Treviso Bay**

Located 10 minutes from Naples' vibrant downtown district, Treviso Bay is Naples' newest luxury golf and lifestyle master planned community. When complete, the community will feature 1,200 architecturally diverse residences in a variety of distinctive neighborhoods designed by a collection of preferred builders, each with its own character and charm. Complementing the residences and TPC Treviso Bay will be an outstanding array of lifestyle and recreational amenities including the 33,000 square-foot European style Buona Vita Club & Spa, scheduled for completion in 2010; and the Odyssey Treviso Bay Marina Club, providing limited dry dock storage for the community's residents, as well as lounge facilities and concierge launch service. Treviso Bay is bordered on the south by the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Reserve, one of the few remaining undisturbed mangrove estuaries in North America.

#### **About V.K. Development Corporation**

V.K. Development Corporation (VK) and its affiliated companies were founded in 1978 by Chairman and CEO Dr. Vincent Kuttemperoor and are owned by the Kuttemperoor family. VK's corporate headquarters is in Brookfield, Wisconsin. VK operates in Wisconsin, Florida and North Carolina. VK's Florida operations are managed by Sanjay Kuttemperoor (President) and VK's Wisconsin operations are managed by Ajay Kuttemperoor (President). The company focuses on developing commercial and mixed use development, master planned communities, hotels and senior housing. VK's master planned communities offer enhanced lifestyle options for the residents who live there and the businesses that locate there. High quality construction and responsible development serve as the cornerstones of the organization. In addition to Treviso Bay, V.K. Development communities currently under various stages of development include Tillery Coves, a golf community in North Carolina, Prairie Ridge in Pleasant Prairie, WI, and Port Vincent, a lakefront golf community just north of Milwaukee in Port Washington, WI.

#### **About the Champions Tour**

The Champions Tour is a tax-exempt membership organization of professional golfers age 50 and older. Conceived in 1980 as the Senior PGA Tour, it started with just four events and purses totaling \$475,000. In 2008 the Champions Tour featured 29 official events offering \$55.5 million in prize money and an average purse of \$1.92 million. The Champions Tour operates under the umbrella of the PGA TOUR, which includes the PGA TOUR, Champions Tour and Nationwide Tour. The Champions Tour's primary purpose as an entity of the PGA TOUR is to provide significant competitive and earnings opportunities for players age 50 and older; to protect the integrity of the game; and to help grow the reach of the game in the U.S. and around the world. In addition to providing competitive opportunities for its membership, Champions Tour events also generate significant sums of money for charity. The commissioner of the PGA TOUR is Tim Finchem. Mike Stevens is president of the Champions Tour. The PGA TOUR is headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

#### **About Peter Jacobsen Sports**

Founded in 1988, Peter Jacobsen Sports ([www.peterjacobsensports.com](http://www.peterjacobsensports.com)) is a full-service sports and entertainment marketing firm that specializes in event sales, management and operations, sponsorship consulting and player/talent relations. The company is independently owned and has offices nationwide, including Portland, Ore., Bonita Springs, Fla., New York, N.Y. and Providence, R.I. The company also jointly owns and operates Style Villa Sports entertainment properties with BDR Marketing Group. PJS clients include Lexus, Ketel One Vodka, CVS Caremark, JELD-WEN, Save Mart Supermarkets and Amway Corporation.





**About Octagon**

Octagon is the world's largest sports and entertainment representation and marketing agency, with global expertise in consulting, athletes & personalities, event management, property representation, marketing solutions, licensing and merchandising and talent procurement. As part of The Interpublic Group (NYSE:IPG), one of the world's leading organizations of advertising agencies and marketing services, Octagon employs more than 1,000 people in 60 offices around the world. Octagon's Golf Division manages two Champions Tour events, two LPGA Tour events and one Nationwide Tour event. Additionally, Octagon's Golf Division represents many of golf's top professionals including Christina Kim and Beth Daniel, and has the marketing rights to brothers Bobby and Lanny Wadkins.

