



## **SPORTS – GOLF**

April 25, 2019

Houston, Texas

Champions Golf Club

### **Texas Teams Leads After First Round of 52nd Champions Cup Invitational**

The Texas team of Matt Cordell and Bryant Lach combined for a sizzling six under par 65 to claim first round leadership of the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual Champions Cup Invitational, held on the difficult 7,450-yard, par 71 Cypress Creek Course at Champions Golf Club, Houston, Texas. Their seven birdie, one bogey round, played in a beautiful South Texas day, earned this duo a one-shot lead over three teams.

2014 British Senior Amateur Champion Brady Exber and partner Kevin March (NV) posted five birdies and no bogeys, Ben Blundell & Jordan Cook (OK) birdied the last five holes, and Chad Brandt & Clay Fullick (TX) carded one eagle, one bogey and 4 birdies on their different ways to their five-under par 66's to trail by a mere shot going into Friday's second round.

Fifty-Six two-man mid-am (players must be over 25 years of age) teams, from 27 states, and the countries of Japan, Canada and Scotland are competing in prestigious national 4-ball event. The field is loaded with top mid-amateur golfing talent that included over 800 appearances by the competitors in various USGA national championships. Average handicaps of the 112 players is +2.7 strokes per round.

Average team score for day one was 71.32, just slightly over the par 71 Cypress Creek course.

Jack Burke, owner of Champions advised that the Cypress Creek course is an extremely difficult test of golf and is truly testing all the players to their golf course management skills. "Once the wind kicks up and starts swirling around the golf course, the golfers are really going to have to be precise with their shots or face severe consequences. And the large greens put a real premium on solid putting" said the 1956 Masters and PGA Champion.

This 52nd annual event is being held Champions Cypress Creek Course, which has hosted multiple USGA, Sectional and Texas events over the years. Included on that list include the Ryder Cup, US Open, Five Tour Championships, US Amateur, and will play host to the 2020 USGA Women's Open.

Round Two is scheduled for Friday, and the tournament is scheduled to complete on Sunday afternoon.