



2016

England's Paul Broadhurst made his first visit to Pebble Beach a victorious one. The journeyman European Tour professional handled Pebble Beach Golf Links like someone who had been playing there all his life, capturing the PURE Insurance Championship at Pebble Beach with a birdie on the most famous 18th hole in golf.

Broadhurst's total of 204, 11-under par, was one shot ahead of Northern California native Kevin Sutherland – who actually has been playing Pebble Beach most of his life – and Bernhard Langer, the dominator of the senior circuit, who crept up the leaderboard with a closing 66 and tie for second. Joe Durant, whose Sunday charge gave him sole possession of the lead temporarily with a birdie on the 14th hole, finished fourth at 206.

A member of the European Ryder Cup team in 1991 – the famed “War on the Shore” at Kiawah Island – Broadhurst has rarely competed in the United States, making only five appearances stateside in a career that began in 1988. He won six times on the European Tour and earlier in 2016 won a major, the Senior British Open Championship, which earned him a spot with the PGA TOUR Champions – and a ticket to Pebble Beach.

Broadhurst – who is still renowned in the British media for his 2-0 Ryder Cup record – was considering a switch to golf instruction five years ago. “But I decided I wanted to carry on playing,” he said.

Broadhurst's first look at Pebble Beach Golf Links came in a Thursday practice round, and then he came back the next day with a smooth 66, 6-under par, in his first competitive round at Pebble, for a two-shot lead. He followed that with a 70 Saturday at Poppy Hills Golf Course, for a two-day total of 7-under, leaving him one shot behind Sutherland.

Sutherland, a Sacramento golf legend and former Fresno State all-American, has competed at Pebble Beach since he was a teenager in amateur championships. He won the 2000 Pebble Beach Invitational, a non-tour event and in 2016 was competing in a PGA TOUR event at Pebble Beach for the 22nd consecutive year – 19 straight at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (1995-2013) and three more in The First Tee Open.

After Sutherland took the lead with a 68 Saturday at Pebble Beach, to go 8-under, made 11 straight pars to open the final round. Steady, but not spectacular, Sutherland slipped back to second, then third. It wasn't until a birdie on the par-3 17th that he had one last chance to win. One shot behind Broadhurst, Sutherland made the birdie he needed at the 18th – burning the edge of the hole with his eagle chip from in front of the green – but it was not enough.

“One thing about Pebble, I didn't get the first seven holes,” Sutherland said. “I didn't make any birdies on those holes, so it kind of puts you behind a little bit. I played the back side solid, but it's a little disappointing coming up one short.”

Broadhurst, who also was on the front edge of the par-5 18th green in two, putted from 30 feet to inside four feet and calmly dropped the putt for the victory.

"I was well aware of what was going on and knew I needed to birdie the last to avoid a playoff," Broadhurst said. "Probably hit two of the best shots I've ever hit up 18. Perfect tee shot and a really good utility into the green just on the front edge. I managed to two-putt from 30 feet, so yeah, (I am) absolutely delighted."

The Pro-Junior competition went to a scorecard tiebreaker, when two teams finished at 197, 18-under-par. The team of pro Michael Allen and Patrick Fernandez, 16, of Phoenix, were determined the winners, over pro Billy Andrade and Ross Funderburke, 15, of Roanoke, Va. Both teams shot 64 in the closing

The amateur team competition produced "local champions." Joe Huston, Executive Director of the NorCal Golf Association – whose headquarters is at Poppy Hills Golf course – and David Baker, a board member of the NCGA's Youth On Course program, led wire-to-wire, finishing at 178, 37-under-par.

The amateur field included a variety of luminaries, including "regulars" like longtime 49ers star lineman Harris Barton and former baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth. This year actor Alfonso Ribeiro and former major league pitcher Mark Mulder competed, as did Golf Channel's Matt Ginella, who made the cut.

Sunday's action started early, with 18 groups returning to Poppy Hills to complete their second round. Fog delayed Saturday's start of play at Poppy Hills 1 hour, 21 minutes.

Also on Sunday a new sponsor for 2017 was announced – the Privilege Underwriters Reciprocal Exchange (PURE), a New York-based insurance company, with a four-year agreement in place through 2020.

LEADERS: First Round – Paul Broadhurst -6 (66 PB), Kevin Sutherland -4 (67 PH), Jay Don Blake -4 (68 PB), Craig Parry -4 (68), Tom Pernice Jr. -4 (67 PH). Second Round – Kevin Sutherland -8 (135/68 PB), Paul Broadhurst -7 (136/70 PH), Greg Kraft -5 (138/68 PB), -5 Woody Austin (138/ 69PH), five players tied at -4.

CUT: All 81 pros remaining in the field advanced, along with the limit of 23 pro-junior teams at -6 (137) and lower. Six of the nine teams tied at 137 were eliminated through the tiebreaker.

WEATHER: Friday – Mostly sunny, temperature in mid 60s to low 70s, winds 6-12 mph. and Saturday – Morning fog, then mostly sunny, temperature in mid 60s to low 70s, winds 8-15 mph. Sunday – Areas of smoke, otherwise mostly sunny, temperature in the mid-70s, winds 6-12 mph.

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