

ddily NEWS

IN HONOUR OF GARY PLAYER

ROUND 1 | THURSDAY 04-12-2025



The stage is set for the 43rd edition of the Nedbank Golf Challenge in honour of Gary Player, and the Gary Player Country Club already has the respect of one of this year's biggest stars.



THE MASTER OF A CRAFT





NOT FOR PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18.

uropean Ryder Cup star Viktor Hovland had his first look of the famed golf course that hosts this DP World Tour event and declared, "It's probably the hardest resort course I've ever played. It's really challenging. It's long. It's pretty narrow. It has really small greens and there will be some tough pin locations. But I'm looking forward to it."

Hovland is making his debut in the Sun City showpiece, and forms part of an impressive field of professionals from the DP World Tour, PGA TOUR and Sunshine Tour. PGA TOUR champion Will Zalatoris makes his comeback from back surgery in this event, while Marco Penge is looking to continue his excellent form after finishing second on last season's Race to Dubai Rankings. Of the 66 players in the field, 58 have won on the DP World Tour.

American Johannes Veerman is looking to become only the eighth player in history to successfully defend this title, and the memories of his 2024 triumph came flooding back to him.

"I was walking on the ninth hole pathway with the names of all the past champions, and that one hit pretty good. The first time I played this golf course many years ago I remember seeing all the names of the players that have won here. To walk down the ninth and see my name as part of that – it hit me pretty hard."

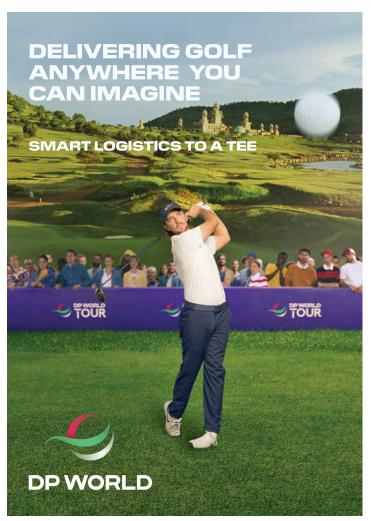
The South African challenge is also a strong one, with six of the country's golfers making their debut in this event. Aldrich Potgieter is also back as he seeks to go one better than his runner-up finish on debut last year. And they will experience a golf course that has a few changes from last year.

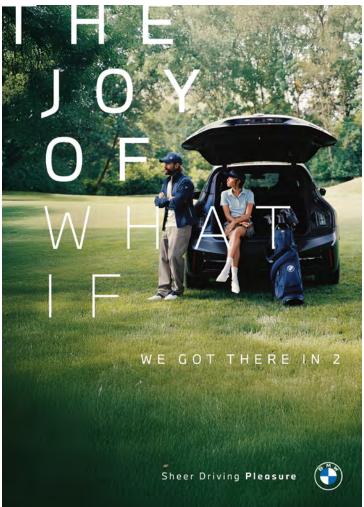
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- Johannes Veerman

Gary Player has personally overseen key strategic and aesthetic changes to the layout. Bush has been cleared from the right side of the par-three fourth hole, showcasing more of the green and water hazard from the tee. The par-three seventh has a new tee complex, with the professional tee pushed back 25 metres. The right fairway bunker on the par-five ninth has been removed to entice the players to be more aggressive on this feature hole. And the par-five 14th has also had bush cleared down the right-hand side in preparation of a new tee here in the future.







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Dream pro-am experience for Nedbank Junior Challenge star

resh off a career-defining season, Schalk van Ettinger added another unforgettable chapter to his Sun City success story when he teed it up in the official pro-am of the Nedbank Golf Challenge in honour of Gary Player.

The 15-year-old from Ruimsig Country Club earned this honour when he captured the 2025 Nedbank Junior Challenge, winning by two shots with a dominant wire-to-wire triumph at the Gary Player Country Club in July.

Van Ettinger not only became the second youngest winner in the tournament's five-year history but also etched his name into the history books at Sun City as the first junior to complete the GolfRSA 'Sun City Trifecta', having previously won the Sun City Under-13 Challenge in 2022 and Under-15 Challenge in 2023. "It's surreal," Van Ettinger said ahead of the pro-am. "To compete at Sun City is always special, but to be part of the Nedbank Golf Challenge week, playing alongside world-class players, is something I've dreamed of. I just want to enjoy it, take it all in, and learn as much

Van Ettinger has been a force across the GolfRSA circuit this year, collecting multiple top-10 finishes and establishing himself as one of the country's most exciting young talents.

Photo credit: GolfRSA

as I can."







Behind the scenes at the Nedbank Golf Challenge

The facts and figures that make up one of the biggest weeks in world golf.

The Food

Players and fans need to fuel their golf passion. And the favourite at Sun City is protein, protein, protein.

An estimated **7 tonnes** of ribs are consumed during tournament week.

Roughly 2 tonnes of fillet are also on the menu, as well as 2.1 tonnes of lamb.

You can also add 1.2 tonnes each of chicken breasts and thighs.

Also, don't forget the 36 000 eggs and 2 000 litres of milk.

And for good measure, throw in 2 700 portions of Brie cheese.

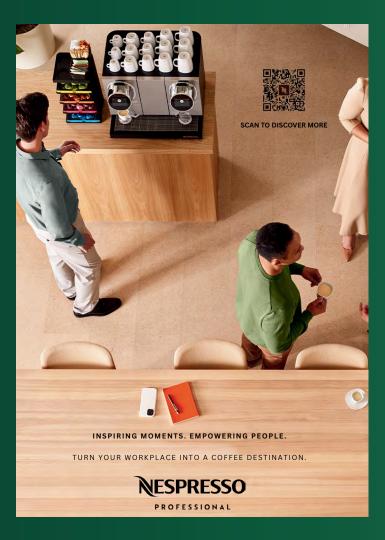
Keeping things cool in the Sun City heat requires **44 tonnes** of ice.

The Build

The scaffolding starts going up at the end of July, and the marquees start taking shape at the beginning of September.

The scaffolding alone is 1 400 tonnes worth.

And the green shade cloth is held together with 200 000 cable ties. Stretch all of that shade cloth out and you would cover 37 800 square metres.







DRAW FOR ROUND 1 - Thursday 4 December 2025

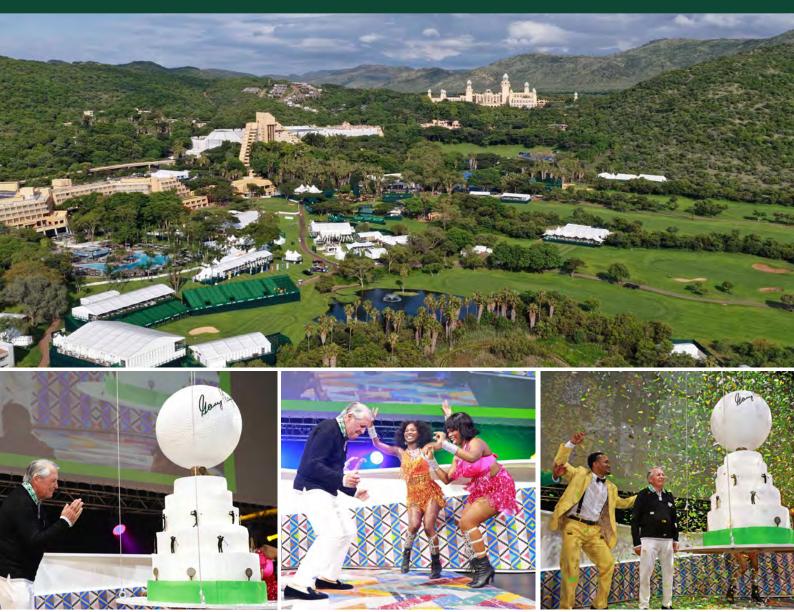
Draw for Round 1								
Game	Time	Tee	Name	Country	Attachment			
1	09:22	1	Daniel VAN TONDER Paul WARING Joost LUITEN	RSA ENG NED	Serengeti Golf & Wildlife Estate Jumeirah Golf Estates			
2	09:33	1	Andy SULLIVAN Christo LAMPRECHT Adrian MERONK	ENG RSA POL	Stratford-on-Avon GC			
3	09:44	1	Christiaan BEZUIDENHOUT Richard MANSELL Oliver LINDELL	RSA ENG FIN	Serengeti Wildlife & Golf Estate Virvik Golf			
4	09:55	1	Shaun NORRIS Thorbjørn OLESEN Francesco MOLINARI	RSA DEN ITA	Silver Lakes CC GC Torino			
5	10:06	1	Jacques KRUYSWIJK Joakim LAGERGREN Tom MCKIBBIN	RSA SWE NIR	Centurion CC Black Mountain GC Galgorm			
6	10:17	1	Jayden SCHAPER Thomas DETRY Angel AYORA	RSA BEL ESP	Ebotse Golf Estate Royal GC of Belgium La Hacienda GR			
7	10:28	1	Jordan SMITH Will ZALATORIS Martin COUVRA	ENG USA FRA	Bowood Dallas National GC			
8	10:39	1	Aldrich POTGIETER Haotong LI Nick TAYLOR	RSA CHN CAN	Pinnacle Point Golf Estate Ledgerview G&CC			
9	10:50	1	John PARRY Adrien SADDIER Garrick HIGGO	ENG FRA RSA	Harrogate GC Esery GC De Zalze GC			
10	11:01	1	Thriston LAWRENCE Laurie CANTER Kristoffer REITAN	RSA ENG NOR	Pretoria CC Cumberwell Park GC GC de Genéve			
11	11:12	1	Viktor HOVLAND Marco PENGE Johannes VEERMAN	NOR ENG USA	Winston Golf			

Draw for Round 1								
Game	Time	Tee	Name	Country	Attachment			
12	09:22	10	Yurav PREMLALL	RSA	Glendower GC			
			Antoine ROZNER	FRA	RCF La Boulie			
			Ryggs JOHNSTON	USA	Cabinet View GC			
13	09:33	10	Nicolai VON DELLINGSHAUSEN	GER	GC Hubbelrath			
	03.00		Connor SYME	sco	Drumoig Golf Centre			
			Dan BRADBURY	ENG	Wakefield GC			
14	00:44	10	Dylan NAIDOO	RSA	The Club at Steyn City			
14	03.44	10	Marcus ARMITAGE	ENG	Howley Hall GC			
			Pablo LARRAZÁBAL	ESP	11:am Golf			
		_	In the Control of the	CME	Upsala GC			
15	09:55	10	Jesper SVENSSON	SWE	орѕана вс			
			Yuto KATSURAGAWA Nacho ELVIRA	JPN ESP				
16	10:06	10	Grant FORREST	SCO	The Renaissance Club			
			Alejandro DEL REY	ESP	RCG La Moraleja			
			Eugenio CHACARRA	ESP	Southern Hills G&CC			
17	10:17	10	Niklas NORGAARD	DEN	Kokkedal GC			
			Marcel SIEM	GER	Heritage Mauritius			
			Calum HILL	SCO	Gleneagles Hotel			
18	10:28	10	Guido MIGLIOZZI	ITA				
			Ewen FERGUSON	sco	Emirates GC			
			Frederic LACROIX	FRA	RCF La Boulie			
19	10:39	10	Junghwan LEE	KOR	Woori Financial Group			
			Darius VAN DRIEL	NED				
			Jacob Skov OLESEN	DEN	Næstved GC			
20	10:50	10	Angel HIDALGO	ESP	RCG Las Brisas			
			Julien GUERRIER	FRA	Golf de la prée La Rochelle			
			Matteo MANASSERO	ITA	GardaGolf CC			
21	11:01	10	Ockie STRYDOM	RSA	South Africa			
			Jorge CAMPILLO	ESP	Norba Club de Golf de Caceres			
			Rikuya HOSHINO	JPN				
22	11:12	10	Dylan FRITTELLI	RSA	UT GC			
			Daniel GAVINS	ENG	Howley Hall GC			
			David RAVETTO	FRA	RCF La Boulie			





න් Emirates



Celebrating the 90th birthday of the legendary Gary Player at the Nedbank Golf Challenge Champions' Dinner.



