

South African Blind Golf Association (SABGA)

ISPS Handa SA Open – 2019

The 2019 ISPS Handa SA Blind Golf Open was staged at the challenging Glendower Golf Club in Johannesburg in late September. We enjoyed the good weather typical in Gauteng at this time of the year, although relatively strong winds added to the challenge.



Glendower Golf Club is an exquisitely designed, highly ranked parkland golf course in Gauteng. Currently ranked #2 in South Africa and #1 in Gauteng. The course boasts lovely kikuyu fairways with 64 bunkers, 27 on the front nine and 37 on the back nine and water hazards on 11 of the 18 holes. Glendower's par 72 layout truly offers a challenge, with accuracy being the key to success.

The large undulating greens were in excellent condition. The exceptionally fast greens made it very challenging for players who left their ball above the hole.

Glendower has hosted many prestigious events in its history, including 5 of the last 6 South African Open championships.



Although not the largest, it was potentially the strongest, field we have had in the SA Open. In addition to the 5 South Africans who have Protea Colours, Garrett Slattery (defending B2 champion), Ernst Conradie (defending B3 champion), Morne Els, Leon Strydom and Johan Kotze, we had Charlene Pienaar (our top ranked woman golfer) as well as overseas players in the form of Ronald Boef (a totally blind player from the Netherlands) and Peter Osborne (from England).

Battling the challenging course, and the other golfers, the following players emerged as the SA Champion golfers for the year (with total gross scores for the two rounds shown in brackets):

B1: Ronal Boef (272)

B2: Garrett Slattery (194)

B3: Peter Osborne (196)

Ladies: Charlene Pienaar (223)

The net competition was won by Manie Blom (on a net score of 146), followed by Garrett Slattery (148), peter Osborne (150) and Charlene Pienaar (151).

In the Development division 16 year old Jontey Kotze produced two excellent rounds of golf to become the youngest winner of this coveted category, ahead of the 2017 winner HP Lensley.

Thanks

The SA Blind Golf Association would like to express our sincere thanks to all of those people and organisations who provided financial and other support which made this event possible.

Thanks too to Sandy Burnard (GM, Glendower Golf Club), and her fantastic team from management, the pro shop, catering, waiters and the invaluable caddies. We were made to feel extremely welcome throughout the event.

Last, but by no means least, the players would like to thank the dedicated group of guides and caddies who helped us navigate our way around the course. A special mention must go to Jurie Mare as our longest-serving, and seemingly tireless, guide.

