

# Leopard Creek Times

Alfred Dunhill Championship Daily News

ROUND 1, THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER, 2023



## A gallery of stars at Leopard Creek

*South Africa's global stars have come home to Leopard Creek as the Alfred Dunhill Championship welcomes a strong field of Sunshine Tour and DP World Tour golfers chasing this sought-after title at one of the most unique venues in world golf.*

Dean Burmester tees off today's first round seeking a rare hat-trick of titles after dominating the last two co-sanctioned tournaments with his victories in the Joburg Open and the Investec South African Open.

"I'm very happy and blessed to be able to come to a place like this and enjoy it and do what I love," said Burmester.

"The only way you'll ever understand what Leopard Creek is, is by getting the opportunity to come here personally. We get to play golf on a perfectly manicured golf course and then every time I get to the 13<sup>th</sup> green here I almost always shed a tear," he said of the iconic green that overlooks the Kruger National Park.

Burmester's quest will face a stern test against a field including defending champion Ockie Strydom, double PGA Tour champion Erik van Rooyen, Major winners Louis Oosthuizen and Charl Schwartzel, former Alfred

Dunhill Championship winners Christiaan Bezuidenhout, Branden Grace and Brandon Stone, four-time DP World Tour champion Thruston Lawrence, European Ryder Cup vice-captain Edoardo Molinari, the in-form Matteo Manassero, and a selection of GolfRSA's finest amateurs led by world number one Christo Lamprecht.

"It feels great to be back here. This is a special place. We arrived and went straight on a safari. It's unique. I just love being out here and all you hear when you're on the golf course is nature," said Manassero, who finished tied fifth in last week's Investec South African Open. "It was fun to be in contention last week. It definitely helps for this week to tee it up with a bit of momentum."







Scott Jamieson



# The true Nature of Golf

From the splendour of the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship in Scotland to the wild African bush and the Alfred Dunhill Championship, these are two weeks in the year unlike any other where the nature of golf is truly celebrated. The contrast between the wild links of Scotland and the wild fairways of Africa are what DP World Tour professional Scott Jamieson loves about both of these events.

“That marriage between being here at Leopard Creek in nature versus the history and the natural links environment we get at the Old Course, Carnoustie and Kingsbarns is quite the contrast but also at the same time a nice marriage,” he says.

Jamieson’s appreciation for Leopard Creek was nowhere more evident than when he shot a course record 63 in last year’s Alfred Dunhill Championship.

“This is an unbelievably unique place and it’s such a privilege to be able to come and play here. We’re in nature’s back yard here,” he says.

“I always feel so relaxed when I’m here. I’m fortunate to be able to stay on the golf course and I get up in the morning, look at the river and watch a bit of wildlife. This course is such a hard test of golf that it’s nice to be able to relax away from the golf course like that.”

**“That marriage between being here at Leopard Creek in nature versus the history and the natural links environment we get at the Old Course, Carnoustie and Kingsbarns is quite the contrast but also at the same time a nice marriage.”**

**- Scott Jamieson**

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ALFRED DUNHILL CHAMPIONSHIP - DRAW FOR ROUND 1 & 2

Game	Time	Tee	Game	Time	Tee	Name	Country	Attachment
1	06:20	1	40	11:20	10	Hunter EPSON Musiwalo NETHUNZWI Thabang SIMON	USA RSA RSA	Hacienda GC Soweto CC Soweto CC
2	06:30	1	41	11:30	10	Espen KOFSTAD Nikhil RAMA Jayden SCHAPER	NOR RSA RSA	Oslo GC Bryanston CC Ebotse Golf Estate
3	06:40	1	42	11:40	10	Dylan FRITTELLI Matthias SCHWAB Angel HIDALGO	RSA AUT ESP	UT GC Schladming GC RCG Las Brisas
4	06:50	1	43	11:50	10	Albert VENTER MJ VILJOEN Kristian Krogh JOHANNESSEN	RSA RSA NOR	Silver Lakes CC Serengeti golf estate Drammen GK
5	07:00	1	44	12:00	10	Alejandro DEL REY Jack DAVIDSON Hennie O'KENNEDY	ESP WAL RSA	RCG La Moraleja The Caversham Stellenbosch GC
6	07:10	1	45	12:10	10	Lorenzo SCALISE Jaco PRINSLOO Trevor FISHER JNR	ITA RSA RSA	Golf Club Brianza Serengeti Golf & Wildlife Estate Royal Jhb. & Kensington GC
7	07:20	1	46	12:20	10	Benjamin RUSCH Alexander KNAPPE Anton KARLSSON	SUI GER SWE	GC Lipperswil Upsala GC
8	07:30	1	47	12:30	10	Jacques BLAAUW Marco PENG Heinrich BRUINERS	RSA ENG RSA	The Els Club, Copperleaf The Caversham Fancourt
9	07:40	1	48	12:40	10	Joakim LAGERGREN Anthony MICHAEL Tristen STRYDOM	SWE RSA RSA	Randpark GC Pretoria GC
10	07:50	1	49	12:50	10	Rupert KAMINSKI Stuart MANLEY Matthis BESARD	RSA WAL BEL	Parkview GC Mountain Ash GC Waregem GC
11	08:00	1	50	13:00	10	Francesco LAPORTA Samuel JONES Rourke VAN DER SPUY	ITA NZL RSA	San Domenico Golf Manala GC Durban CC
12	08:10	1	51	13:10	10	Jovan REBULA Mateusz GRADECKI David LAW	RSA POL SCO	George GC Gradi GC Paul Lawrie Golf Centre
13	08:20	1	52	13:20	10	Jason ROETS Ruan CONRADIE Jacquin HESS	RSA RSA RSA	Wingate Park CC Excelsior Wine Estate
14	06:20	10	27	11:20	1	Brandon STONE Matteo MANASSERO Ross FISHER	RSA ITA ENG	Mount Edgecombe GC Gardagolf CC
15	06:30	10	28	11:30	1	Nick BACHEM Oliver BEKKER Wilco NIENABER	GER RSA RSA	Marienburger GC Stellenbosch GC Costaterra G&OC
16	06:40	10	29	11:40	1	Dean BURMESTER Guido MIGLIOZZI Thriston LAWRENCE	RSA ITA RSA	Stinger GC Pretoria CC
17	06:50	10	30	11:50	1	Dan BRADBURY Louis OOSTHUIZEN Renato PARATORE	ENG RSA ITA	Wakefield GC Stinger GC
18	07:00	10	31	12:00	1	Charl SCHWARTZEL Erik VAN ROOYEN Dale WHITNELL	RSA RSA ENG	Maccauiel GC Crondon Park
19	07:10	10	32	12:10	1	Daniel VAN TONDER Matthew SOUTHGATE Zander LOMBARD	RSA ENG RSA	Serengeti Golf & Wildlife Estate Thorpe Hall GC Pearl Valley GC
20	07:20	10	33	12:20	1	Shaun NORRIS Jeff WINTHER Dylan MOSTERT	RSA DEN RSA	Silver Lakes CC Royal Johannesburg
21	07:30	10	34	12:30	1	Martin VORSTER Jesper SVENSSON Sebastian GARCIA	RSA SWE ESP	Mossel Bay GC Upsala GC El Robledal Golf
22	07:40	10	35	12:40	1	Santiago TARRIO Louis ALBERTSE Darius VAN DRIEL	ESP RSA NED	Val de Rois Dundee GC
23	07:50	10	36	12:50	1	Manuel ELVIRA Robin WILLIAMS Keagan THOMAS	ESP RSA RSA	R.S.H.E. Club de Campo Peterborough Milton GC Pearl Valley Val de Vie
24	08:00	10	37	13:00	1	Stefan WEARS-TAYLOR Adam BLOMME Casey JARVIS	RSA SWE RSA	Phelan Golf Academy AIK GC State Mines CC
25	08:10	10	38	13:10	1	Gerhard PEPLER Wynand DINGLE James MORRISON	RSA RSA ENG	Silver Lakes CC St Georges Hill
26	08:20	10	39	13:20	1	Dylan NAIDOO Wade JACOBS Doug MCGUIGAN	RSA RSA SCO	The Club at Steyn City Klerksdorp GC Fancourt G&CC

Game	Time	Tee	Game	Time	Tee	Name	Country	Attachment
27	11:20	1	14	06:20	10	Sebastian FRIEDRICHSEN Edoardo MOLINARI Hennie OTTO	DEN ITA RSA	The Scandinavian Edoardo Molinari Golf Academy Pearl Valley Val de Vie
28	11:30	1	15	06:30	10	JC RITCHIE Scott JAMIESON Hennie DU PLESSIS	RSA SCO RSA	Serengeti Estates Sesambos GC
29	11:40	1	16	06:40	10	Antoine ROZNER Neil SCHIETEKAT Christo LAMPRECHT (AM)	FRA RSA RSA	RCF la Boulie Royal Jhb. & Kensington GC
30	11:50	1	17	06:50	10	Christiaan BEZUIDENHOUT Ewen FERGUSON Branden GRACE	RSA SCO RSA	Serengeti Wildlife & Golf Estate Bearsden GC Fancourt G&CC
31	12:00	1	18	07:00	10	Darren FICHARDT Ryan VAN VELZEN Matthew BALDWIN	RSA RSA ENG	Centurion CC Benoni CC The Royal Birkdale GC
32	12:10	1	19	07:10	10	Ockie STRYDOM Ashun WU Louis DE JAGER	RSA CHN RSA	South Africa VEA Group
33	12:20	1	20	07:20	10	Matti SCHMID JJ SENEKAL Benjamin FOLLETT-SMITH	GER RSA ZIM	GC Herzogenaurach Stellenbosch GC Royal Harare GC
34	12:30	1	21	07:30	10	Joachim B HANSEN Aaron COCKERILL Thomas AIKEN	DEN CAN RSA	The Scandinavian The Els Club Dubai The Abaco Club
35	12:40	1	22	07:40	10	Tom VAILLANT Andy SULLIVAN Pieter MOOLMAN	FRA ENG RSA	Golf de Cannes-Mougins Stratford-on-Avon GC Benoni Lake GC
36	12:50	1	23	07:50	10	Peter KARMIS Lyle ROWE Jaco VAN ZYL	GRE RSA RSA	Clovelly CC Humewood GC Benoni CC
37	13:00	1	24	08:00	10	Andrea PAVAN John AXELSEN Deon GERMISHUYS	ITA DEN RSA	TPC Craig Ranch Smoerum GK Serengeti Estates
38	13:10	1	25	08:10	10	Combrinck SMIT Robson CHINHOI Willi ENEFER	RSA ZIM ENG	Eshowe Hills Golf Estate Zimbabwe Trinifold Sports
39	13:20	1	26	08:20	10	Omar SANDYS Makhetha MAZIBUKO Jacques P DE VILLIERS	RSA RSA RSA	Bloemfontein GC Schoeman Park GC
40	11:20	10	1	06:20	1	Alphus KELAPILE Slenda SITHEBE Conner MACKENZIE	RSA RSA RSA	Leopard Creek GC
41	11:30	10	2	06:30	1	Christian MAAS (AM) Martin ROHWER David RAVETTO	RSA RSA FRA	Pretoria CC Kloof CC RCF la Boulie
42	11:40	10	3	06:40	1	Daniel BENNETT (AM) Freddy SCHOTT Jean HUGO	RSA GER RSA	Dusseldorf GC
43	11:50	10	4	06:50	1	Kyle BARKER Jamie DONALDSON Joshua BERRY	RSA WAL ENG	Serengeti Golf & Wildlife Estate Doncaster GC
44	12:00	10	5	07:00	1	Mike LORENZO-VERA Filippo CELLI Sam BAIRSTOW	FRA ITA ENG	Golf International du Cap d'Agde Oligiata GC Hallowes GC
45	12:10	10	6	07:10	1	Luca FIUCCI Paul WARING Alexander LEVY	RSA ENG FRA	Milnerton GC Bromborough GC
46	12:20	10	7	07:20	1	Yurav PREMLALL Joel GIRRBACH Andrew JOHNSTON	RSA SUI ENG	Glendower GC Lipperswil GC
47	12:30	10	8	07:30	1	Søren KJELDSEN Johannes VEERMAN Jeong weon KO	DEN USA FRA	The Scandinavian
48	12:40	10	9	07:40	1	Ugo COUSSAUD Jonathan BROOMHEAD Keenan DAVIDSE	FRA RSA RSA	Golf de Arcangues Stellenbosch GC
49	12:50	10	10	07:50	1	Clément SORDET Malcolm MITCHELL Maximilian ROTTLUFF	FRA RSA GER	Heritage GC Kloof CC GC Hubbelrath
50	13:00	10	11	08:00	1	Gavin GREEN Merrick BREMNER Ruan KORB	MAS RSA RSA	Silver Lakes CC / Betway_za Silver Lakes CC
51	13:10	10	12	08:10	1	Ivan CANTERO Chase HANNA Adrien SADDIER	ESP USA FRA	La Cuesta GC Wolf Creek GC Esery GC
52	13:20	10	13	08:20	1	Toto THIMBA JNR Quintin WILSNACH Ross MCGOWAN	RSA RSA ENG	Silverlakes Golf Estate Magalies Park GC Al Hamra GC



*The awe inspiring Leopard Creek golf course.*



The City of Johannesburg's Director of Events, Bongi Mokaba, with her daughter Zami at the official Welcome Dinner.



Springbok rugby legend Morné du Plessis was one of the pro-am guests.



There's nowhere that Charl Schwartzel feels more relaxed than Leopard Creek.



Sunshine Tour Commissioner Thomas Abt brought his best game to the pro-am.



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(From left to right) Zander Lombard, Selwyn Nathan (Executive Director of the Sunshine Tour), Ken Payet (Tournament Director of the Nedbank Golf Challenge) and Daniel Gibhard (CEO of the SDC Group) enjoying the pro-am.

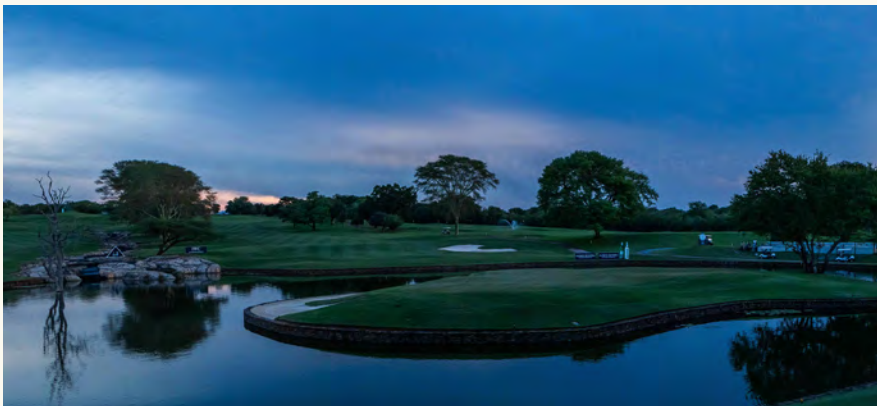


The pro-am prizegiving dinner set the tone for a week of magic at Leopard Creek.

The SAGDB clinic is an annual favourite with golfers and children alike.



The hippos in the Crocodile River are already trying to get the best view of the golf.



The sun sets on the preparations, and now the 18<sup>th</sup> green awaits the professionals this week.





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DP World Tour professional Alex Levy marvels at the swing of a young SAGDB golfer.



# The SAGDB continues shaping South Africa's future through golf

The South African Golf Development Board's (SAGDB) Riverside Farm golfers showcased their incredible

potential during this week's Alfred Dunhill Championship as they took part in the annual golf clinic on the magnificent grounds of the

National Junior Development Centre at Leopard Creek.

The young golfers also took the opportunity to learn from Sunshine Tour and DP World Tour professionals Jacques Blaauw, Yurav Premllall, Nikhil Rama, Jovan Rebula, Keagan Thomas and Alex Levy, and the professionals were equally impressed with the talent on display

"These young kids have so much talent and it's amazing to see it and be a part of something like this. We can see South Africa has so many good players. It's nice to pass down experience to these young kids," said Levy.

For Edwin Compton, the SAGDB's Development Manager for Mpumalanga, the clinic was a perfect opportunity to showcase the decades long sustainability of the SAGDB programme and its ongoing impact on the lives of these young golfers.

"We started with 12 children on the Riverside Farm next door. Now, over a decade later, between the Riverside

programme and the Komatipoort programme we have over one hundred children."

The SAGDB is operational in all 14 golf unions across South Africa and enjoys the support and endorsement of the South African Department of Sports and Recreation, The R&A, GolfRSA, the Sunshine Tour, the Professional Golfers Association of South Africa, Remgro, and other official South African golf bodies and several long-term sponsors. It is also a proud beneficiary of The Alfred Dunhill Links Foundation.

"The success of the programme is that our children and our coaches are fully committed. The children start in the programme when they are young and they are committed to staying with it and are dedicated to improving themselves and their talent. We are also incredibly privileged to have full access to the National Junior Development Centre which is arguably the best practice facility in the world," said Compton.

"The SA Junior IPT is coming up in the next few weeks and in the eight-player team for the boys we have two players ranked in that team at number two and four on merit. Lucia Mhlabane is also the number two ranked junior girls' golfer in the province."

The young golfers are equally passionate about the opportunities the game has given them.

"If it's a dream, then I don't want to wake up," said Sakhile Makhathswa. "I am enjoying life and who I am becoming. It has impacted me in my community and my school and I am very thankful to the programme for dedicating itself to us."

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# Lawrence still living his Leopard Creek dream



Playing in the Alfred Dunhill Championship is a special moment for any professional, and even more so for a young golfer who grew up not far from Leopard Creek and dreamt of competing on these fairways.

Thriston Lawrence grew up in nearby Nelspruit and was still one of the country's top amateurs when he used to come and watch some of the biggest names in world golf compete at Leopard Creek. This week he is one of those stars himself as a four-time winner on the DP World Tour by the age of 27 and South Africa's second ranked golfer on the Official World Golf Ranking behind Dean Burmester in 84th place. "It's pretty surreal to be honest," said Lawrence, who comes into this year's championship in excellent form with two top-10s in his last two tournaments.

"I grew up in Nelspruit and remember watching this tournament live for the first time and seeing Ernie Els at his best here – he was top 10 in the world and really dominating the game. To now be a part of this tournament myself is a dream come true. I've played it maybe five or six times now and I'll always support this event until I can't walk a golf course anymore.

"To have watched this tournament as a youngster and to now be here is incredible. Growing up I never thought it would happen this soon in my career and it's just amazing every time I come back to Leopard Creek."

PETER MILLAR





A full-body photograph of a man with light brown hair and blue eyes, sitting on a dark wooden chair. He is wearing a grey herringbone double-breasted suit jacket over a white shirt and a dark turtleneck. His legs are crossed at the ankles, and he is wearing dark brown velvet loafers. The background is a plain, light grey wall. The lighting is soft, coming from the side, creating subtle shadows.

dunhill