

ALFRED DUNHILL CHAMPIONSHIP

Leopard Creek Times

DAILY NEWS

ROUND 3

SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER 2016



Stone leads as SA stars align at Leopard Creek

Brandon Stone eagled the 18th to edge out Charl Schwartzel at the top of the leaderboard going into the weekend of the Alfred Dunhill Championship at Leopard Creek.

After a great drive down 18, Stone took on the tough second shot into the island green and put his approach 15 feet from the hole, from where he made the putt for eagle to take the lead on 11 under with a 66.

He did so after a round in which he struggled with a sore back.

"I woke up with a sore back and it hurt on the range and throughout the round," he said. "But it was a successful day. I missed a few opportunities but I also made some good putts. I feel really comfortable on every hole here."

One shot behind him, Schwartzel signed for a 68 and England's Chris Hanson a 65.

"Hopefully we can have a good weekend of competition against each other," Stone said of his duel with Schwartzel.

And the former Masters champion is also feeling good about his game.

"I've had lots of chances and that's what I set out to do – to give myself chances. Everything feels good."

It's a strong South African leaderboard going into the weekend, with George Coetzee and Keith Horne well placed on nine under, and former champion Branden Grace in a group on eight under.

Q-School star Kimsey tees off career in SA

ALFRED DUNHILL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Alfred Dunhill Championship has been the start of some great careers on the European Tour, and European Tour Qualifying School winner Nathan Kimsey is hoping for the same. A fortnight ago Kimsey became only the second player in history to navigate through all 252 holes and three qualifying stages to win the Qualifying School Final Stage. And one of the first tasks is getting used to lining

up on the range with stars of the European Tour, and the practice facilities do not come any better than here at Leopard Creek with the new 55 hectare range and 9-hole par 3 course.

"This practice facility here is incredible. You could spend weeks here and not get bored. I saw Darren Clarke driving past in a buggy and sure during the week when I find myself next to some of the guys on the range it

will be a bit surreal first off. But I have to get used to that pretty quick as that will be happening every week this year. It's good fun to be part of these events.

"The course itself is unbelievable. Take it away from its setting and it would still be awesome but with its place on the edge of the park, some of the views on the back nine like the one on the 13th, it is just phenomenal."



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Alfred Dunhill Championship

Chip Shots

- The third round of the 2007 Alfred Dunhill Championship yielded two holes-in-one. Dutch professional Joost Luiten aced the par-three 12th hole, which was his first ace in a tournament. It was an incredible stroke of luck for Luiten, who made the halfway cut right on the mark of two over par thanks to this hole-in-one. And that same year English professional Oliver Wilson scored a hole-in-one on the par-three 16th, winning himself 190 cases of Terra Del Capo wine. Then in 2012 there were three holes-in-one. South African professional Keith Horne claimed two holes-in-one in successive days, acing the par-three 12th twice and using the same club – an eight iron. And in the final round that year, Magnus Carlsson aced the par-three 12th for the third ace in three days on this hole.
- In 2012, Charl Schwartzel produced the lowest ever tournament total of 24 under par to win by 12 strokes.
- Branden Grace is the only player to have won both the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship and the Alfred Dunhill Championship.
- Garth Mulroy's triumph in the 2011 Alfred Dunhill Championship at Leopard Creek made him the 100th South African to win in European Tour history.
- With his victories in 2009 and 2010, Spain's Pablo Martin became the first back-to-back winner of the Alfred Dunhill Championship.

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SAGDB's Malalane stars showcased at Leopard Creek

The South African Golf Development Board's (SAGDB) Malalane chapter joined a few of the professionals in this week's Alfred Dunhill Championship for a golf clinic at the new practice facility at Leopard

Creek on Friday. "These children are so grateful for this facility. It has made a big difference in their lives," said Samuel Lukhele, the development coach for the Malalane Chapter. The Malalane Chapter is one

of the real success stories in South African golf. "It all began here and the SAGDB now has many such chapters around the country with passionate coaches making sure we not only produce great golfers, but better

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people as well," said Grant Hepburn, the Managing Director of the SAGDB. It's a view echoed by Selwyn Nathan, the Executive Director of the Sunshine Tour. "The generous support of Mrs Rupert and her friends is why

this Malalane Chapter is such a success. From the Sunshine Tour's perspective, it's because we have such good people and great structures in our golf that we can keep producing such great champions."





Bezuidenhout brushes off Par 3 "hoodoo" talk

There's supposed to be a hoodoo against players who win the Masters Par-3 Contest from winning the Masters itself.

But Christiaan Bezuidenhout is not letting any Par 3 hoodoo bother him after he won the inaugural Par-3 Challenge at Leopard Creek.

A 67 on Friday has moved him to seven-under-par and within striking distance of the lead going into the weekend.

"I'm trying to break the hoodoo!" he laughed.

"It's the first time I've played in a Par-3 contest, so I don't think about it really. I'm just trying to put the lowest score possible on the board.

"I'm happy to be in this position going into the weekend, and I'd like to end the weekend strongly as well."



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Players pay tribute to Pedro

Pedro Ramseyer, former caddie for Seve Ballesteros among many others, sadly passed away in South Africa on the eve of the Alfred Dunhill Championship. Argentinian Ramseyer, 60, nicknamed "Pin High", caddied for the best including the legendary Ballesteros and was due to caddie for another Spaniard Carlos Pigem at Leopard Creek Country Club this week.

Players and caddies paid tribute with the wearing of black ribbons during Friday's second round while Pigem is paying his own personal tribute with a stellar performance at Leopard Creek that puts him at seven under and within sight of the leaders going into the weekend.

"I will try my best to have a good tournament and give him a victory or the best I can in this tournament. I can only say good things about him as he always had a smile on his face," said Pigem.

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