

# ALFRED DUNHILL CHAMPIONSHIP

# Leopard Creek Times

ROUND 4

SUNDAY 16 DECEMBER 2018

## Jamieson Leads Chase for Alfred Dunhill Championship Glory



*Photo Credit: Stuart Franklin/Getty Images*

Scott Jamieson admits that the majority of his career earnings have come from his love for playing golf in South Africa, and now the Scot is hoping he can add to that as he takes a one-stroke lead into the final round of the Alfred Dunhill Championship at Leopard Creek.

By Michael Vlismas.



Jamieson survived a mental as well as physical test in the intense lowveld heat and signed for a third-round 68 to lead the field on 11 under par. His nearest challenger one shot back is American David Lipsky, who carded a third round of 70. Leading the South African challenge on eight under par are defending champion Brandon Stone and Zander Lombard. Jamieson certainly has an affinity for South Africa, having won here before in the 2012 Nelson Mandela Championship. But he's also proving that he's just as much in love with the new look Leopard Creek as he was with the old. Jamieson has a great record in the Alfred Dunhill Championship, having finished tied third here in 2012 and tied fourth in 2016. "It's easily one of the greatest golf courses in the world, and then you've got one of the natural wonders of the world in the Kruger Park right on its doorstep," he said. "Any experience of winning helps. I've done well in South Africa, but also on this golf course before. It's an awful long way to go still, but hopefully it will be a good final round." Jamieson said the heat was certainly a factor in the third round. "Adrenalin can keep you going out there, but the minute you walk off the golf course you feel it and it just drains out of you. Mentally it's hard to stay focused during the round, and to make sure you make the correct decisions when it's that hot." Behind him, second-round leader Lipsky kept his challenge track and had no real concerns about the heat. "I was drinking about a bottle of water on every hole, but I'm from Las Vegas and it can get pretty hot there as well," he said. As one of the leading South Africans, Stone is looking to add his name to the history books on the final day. A victory for him would make him only the third player in the Championship's history to win back-to-back Alfred Dunhill Championship titles, joining Spain's Pablo Martin and Charl Schwartzel. ■



Scott Jamieson.  
Photo Credit: Stuart Franklin/Getty Images



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Brandon Stone.  
Photo Credit: Stuart Franklin/Getty Images



David Lipsky.  
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# Bezuidenhout puts low-round problems behind him

by Ken Borland



Christiaan Bezuidenhout plays a bunker shot on the 17<sup>th</sup> hole during the third round of the Alfred Dunhill Championship. Photo Credit: Stuart Franklin/Getty Images.

Former amateur star Christiaan Bezuidenhout has been playing solid golf on his first full year on the European Tour but has been having problems kicking on to that really low round that would put him in contention to win. Which is why his 66 on the third day of the Alfred Dunhill Championship at Leopard Creek on Saturday might just be the breakthrough the 24-year-old has been looking

for, putting him in the top-10 at the end of his round. Bezuidenhout, runner-up in the 2016 SA Open, played 26 events on the European Tour in their 2018 season and made the cut in 20 of them, proving his consistency as he retained his card. But the fact that he only finished 105<sup>th</sup> on the order of merit, with a stroke average of 70.74, showed that he was just lacking those big finishes, being without a top-10 all

year. "It's been a solid year, but with lots of opportunity to do better. The whole year I felt I was close, I was right there, but I just couldn't put together a low score. Which is why it was so nice to get a 66 on a Saturday. I made a couple of silly mistakes last week at the SA Open, so I spoke to myself and I've been really focused this week on just minimising the damage when I'm out of position.



Photo Credit: Stuart Franklin/Getty Images

"I grew up in golf terms with guys like Brandon Stone and Haydn Porteous but they turned pro before me, I had to finish school first, so they're at least a couple of years ahead of me. But now we're all in the same field, even though they are both great golfers, I feel like they've just had a couple of years extra experience on tour," Bezuidenhout, who ended the third round two shots behind defending champion Stone and still in contention for the famous Leopard Creek trophy, said.

The Delmas product has begun working with highly-rated coach Grant Veenstra and Bezuidenhout said he is now striking the ball with much more consistency, which he believes will reward him with that elusive win some time soon.

"Previously I didn't have consistent ball-striking through rounds but I'm much better now than I was a year ago. The ball comes out much more consistently and I can control the flight of the ball, which is key. I've always hit a lot of greens, but now I'm 15 feet from the hole instead of 30 and that gives me the chance for more birdies. "It started with my new coach Grant Veenstra and I'm hitting the ball the best I have for a long time. I'm playing with those little swing changes now and it's nice to see them paying off. I know I missed the cut at the SA Open, but my putter was ice-cold and I had like 67 putts in two rounds which is never going to be good enough. But the ball-striking is there," Bezuidenhout said. ■

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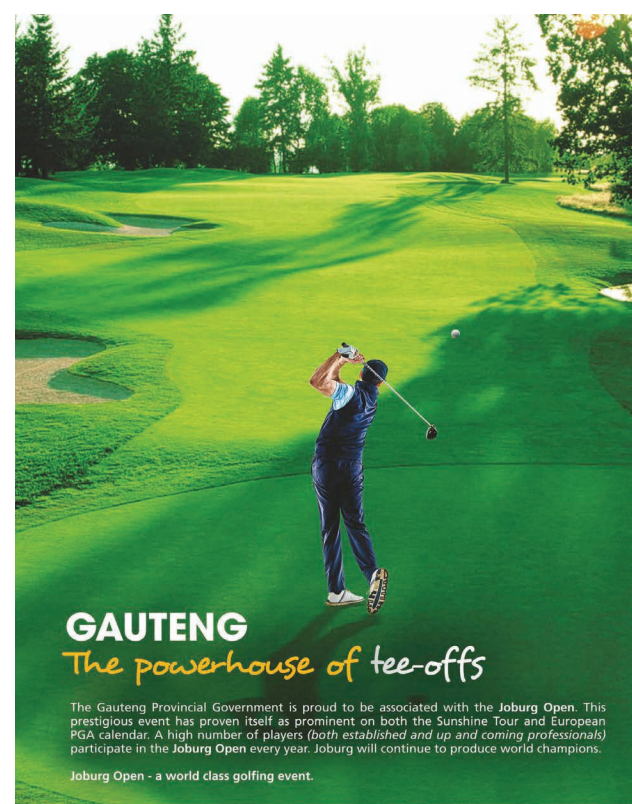
# Experience Keeps Jacquelin In Contention

Raphael Jacquelin.  
Photo Credit: Stuart Franklin/Getty Images)

Dropping six shots in the last six holes of his second round could've knocked the wind out of Raphael Jacquelin. But the experienced Frenchman responded with a wonderful third round of 66 to bring him right back into contention four shots off the lead. Jacquelin had reached seven-under-par and was one stroke off the lead when, having started his round on the 10<sup>th</sup>, he made successive bogeys on the fourth and fifth holes on Friday. Although he parred the sixth, he ended his round bogey-double bogey-bogey to plummet down the leaderboard. But he started his round on Saturday with successive birdies, and then four birdies on the back nine took him to a 66 and right back into contention for the title.

"Overall I was pretty steady today and I stayed focused on giving myself lots of chances at birdie. I was playing well yesterday as well, even at the end, but I was just unlucky to lose six shots on six holes, but there are some very tough pins so it can easily happen. And the greens are really firm and quite fast, they are not easy. "But I'm back at seven-under and right in contention, it was a good round today. If I keep striking the ball like that, keeping it in play, I will give myself birdie chances and then it is all about the putting. But what happened yesterday is part of the game, it's always disappointing but after all this time on tour I know the game and it can happen. It is tough the day after, low scores is what we are here for, but bogeys and double-bogeys do happen," Jacquelin said philosophically.

The 44-year-old will have to see off a few young power-hitters to claim the title, but he has the priceless experience of four previous European Tour wins to draw on in the final round. "I've been in contention so many times but I don't expect too much, I try and stick to what I know. It will probably be more difficult with the pin-placements, but then it's more difficult for everyone. If I play like I did today then I can win, definitely," Jacquelin said. ■



# Young Golfers Highlight SAGDB Success

The South African Golf Development Board's (SAGDB) Riverside Farm golfers showcased their skills alongside the professionals at the Alfred Dunhill Championship, many of whom couldn't believe the swings they saw from these young golfers.

The golfers, who form part of the Malelane Chapter of the South African Golf Development Board (SAGDB), gathered at the spectacular National Junior Development Centre at Leopard Creek for some personal instruction with the professionals, and then left to play the Par 3 Course with their pros.

"They all have really good hand-eye coordination, which is something you can't really teach. It's just so good to be a part of this because golf takes these kids away from their everyday struggles and gives them something fun to do," said Chase Koepka, one of the professionals who helped with the clinic.

And it showcased once again the important work done by the SAGDB in using golf to uplift children in disadvantaged communities throughout South Africa.

"This is our 20th year of the SAGDB and the Riverside Farm project is one of our flagship projects. We already have five or six of our children from this project playing provincial golf," said Grant Hepburn, the Managing Director of the SAGDB.



The SAGDB benefits directly from funding received through both the Alfred Dunhill Championship and the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship.

"We're blessed to have the support of those two tournaments. That funding sustains us, and as a result we've had over 30 000 golfers come through the SAGDB since its inception, and close to 300 of those have gone on to play provincial golf, while some have turned professional and are even playing in the Alfred Dunhill Championship. But while we try to create good golfers, the social benefit is also important. Being part of the SAGDB really uplifts the lives of these children and gives them hope."

Samuel Lukhele, the development coach for the SAGDB's Malelane Chapter, said the programme has made a difference not only in the lives of the children, but their entire community.

"It's uplifted our entire community and you can see the difference not just in the children, but in their parents as well. The SAGDB programme means so much to these kids," he said. ■



Professional Chase Koepka instructing one of the young SAGDB golfers. Photo Credit: Tyrone Winfield







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