

South African Blind Golf Association (SABGA)

ISPS Handa SA Open – 2022

The 2022 ISPS Handa SA Blind Golf Open was staged at the picturesque Milnerton Golf Club in Cape Town at the end of March. Had it not been for the COVID-19 pandemic, this week would have seen blind golfers from all around the world joining us for the Open to be followed by the World Championships. Alas, that was not to be, although two golfers did join us from abroad.



Milnerton Golf Course is an 18-hole, par 71, challenging links course situated 10 minutes north of the city of Cape Town.

Nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Diep River lagoon, which border most holes, the course offers a unique golf experience. On most holes, the sound of the waves breaking on the shore just metres away can be heard. The spectacular view of Table Mountain from almost every hole is breathtaking.

The Open saw the players facing some challenging weather with a very windy first day followed by wind and rain on the final day. Nevertheless, the standard of the golf was very high.

Garrett Slattery led the field after an opening 87 (66 net). Several other players also put together good first rounds and were not far off the pace, including Wally Roode from Ireland (96, net 71), SA's top lady golfer Charlene Pienaar (103, net 71) and Owen Robinson from England (113, net 72).

In the rain of the second day two performances stood out. Wally, who perhaps felt most at home in the conditions improved by 4 shots from his first round scoring 92 (net 67) and Charlene who improved by 5 shots scoring 98 (net 66).

Although Garrett dropped to a 94 (net 73) it was enough to win the low gross. This was the 13th occasion on which Garrett has had the best gross score in the 17-year history of the SA Blind Golf Open since the formation of SABGA in 2006.

Johan Kotze forged ahead of Owen Robinson from England to finish as B2 runner-up behind Garrett. In the B3 category Wally was comfortably ahead, but Ernst Conradie fought off last year's champion, Morne Els, to finish as runner-up.

In the Development division newcomer Lambert Badenhorst held off former winner, HP Lensley, as well as another newcomer Ivan Levendal to win his first SABGA title.

The final results were as follows:

B2 Gross Champion:	Garrett Slattery – 181
B2 Gross Runner-up:	Johan Kotze – 219
B3 Gross Champion:	Wally Roode (Ireland) – 188
B3 Runner-up:	Ernst Conradie – 209
Ladies Gross Champion:	Charlene Pienaar – 201
Net winner:	Charlene Pienaar – 137
Net runner-up:	Wally Roode – 138
Net 3 rd place:	Garrett Slattery – 139
Development winner	Lambert Badenhorst (47 points)
Development runner-up	HP Lensley (42 points)
Development 3 rd place	Ivan Levendal (33 points)



View from the Lagoon Beach Hotel

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 the Milnerton Golf Club, and the fantastic team from management, the pro shop, catering, waiters and the invaluable caddies. We were made to feel extremely welcome throughout the event. We hope to be back at Milnerton in the near future.