ISSUE 4, April 2025

GOOD TIMES

THE MONTHLY NEWS OF ROYAL JOHANNESBURG



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A NEW CLASS OF DRIVERS

Titleist

TABLE

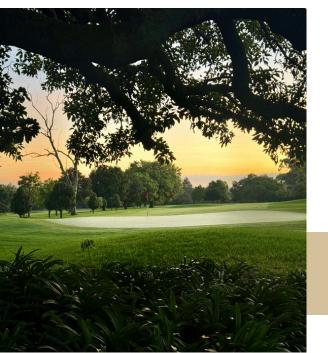


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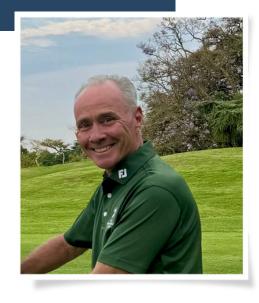
AIMPOINT

#THEROYALEXPERIENCE



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By Dean Harding | Chairman of the Board



Oh! What a month it's been!

April has certainly kept us on our toes with persistent rainfall—and plenty of it. While the weather has brought its share of challenges, it's also been a powerful reminder of nature's ability to refresh and renew. Thanks to the downpours, the courses look exceptionally lush and vibrant, and we owe a massive debt of gratitude to our dedicated grounds team. Despite the wet and muddy conditions, they've worked tirelessly to maintain playability and to ensure we can continue enjoying our beautiful Club despite the courses being closed for a few days this week.



To all our members, thank you for your patience and understanding. Your support goes a long way in helping us manage unpredictable conditions. With some luck, clearer skies are on the horizon, and we can all look forward to more time out on the course under the sun.

On a very positive note, we are delighted to welcome our new CEO, Paul Leishman, who officially joins Royal Johannesburg on the 2nd of May. Paul comes to us with a strong track record, having spent 14 years at Bryanston Country Club, where he made a significant impact. He brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership experience that will greatly benefit our Club.

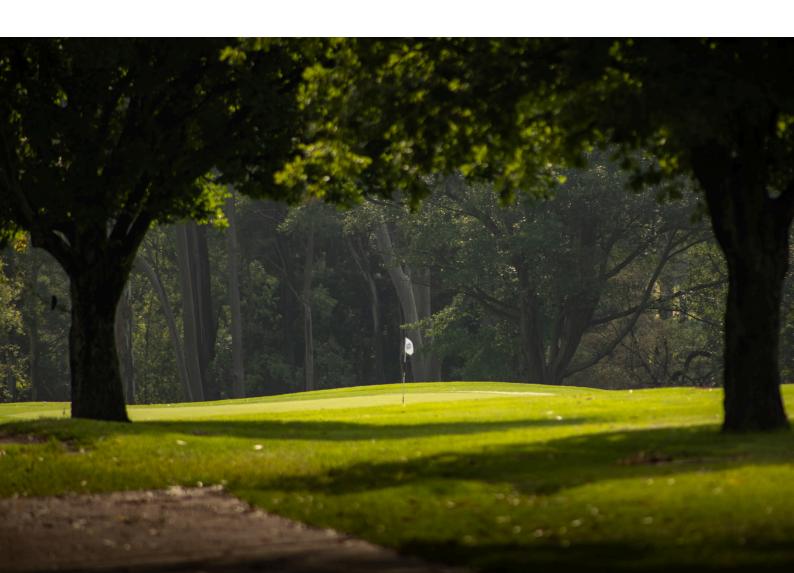
In his early days with us, Paul will spend time listening and learning, meeting staff and engaging with members to understand the heartbeat of Royal Johannesburg. We will be hosting a few informal "Meet the CEO" sessions, and I encourage all of you to attend if you can. These gatherings will be great opportunities to share your thoughts, ask questions, and help Paul feel welcome. If you can't participate, please take a moment to say hello when you see him around the Club

Lastly, Club Champs is just around the corner – the highlight of our golfing calendar and a celebration of everything we love about the game. I hope you've entered and are preparing to enjoy some spirited competition. It is another memorable event, whether you're playing to win or participating.

Thank you once again for your continued support and passion for our Club.

Here's to drier days and exciting times ahead.

Warm regards, Dean Harding Chairman

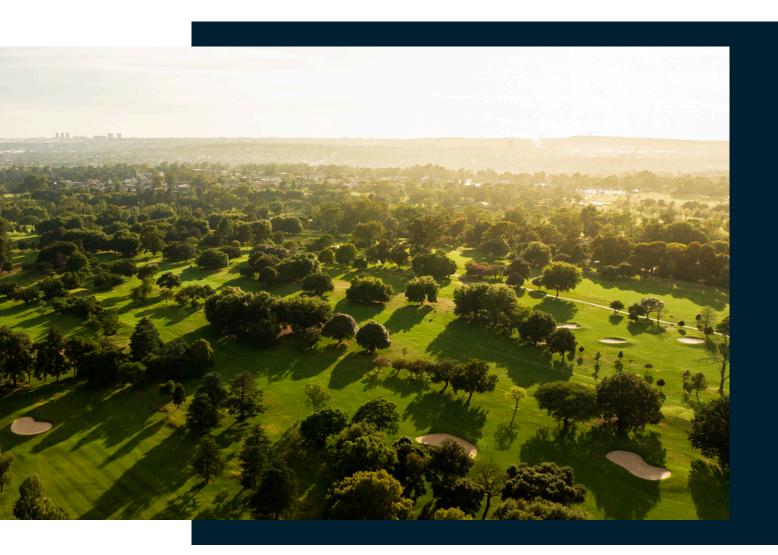




CLICK HERE TO VIEW

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

1 JULY 2025 - 30 JUNE 2026



HAPPY GOLFING

By Robert Larsen | Golf Director



With Club Championships on the horizon this coming weekend, this year's tournament holds extra significance as we proudly celebrate 135 years of Royal Johannesburg — a milestone that reflects a legacy of excellence, camaraderie, and rich tradition.

Our 135th Club Championship promises to be an unforgettable event, honouring the generations of members who have shaped our Club's incredible journey. We look forward to crowning our champions in a year that already holds such special meaning for all Royals.

As the courses move to low growth season, we urge the members to care for the course in repairing their divots and pitch marks on the greens. Some extra handy information that can help assist the course looking great all year round are listed below.





Going the Extra Mile

Beyond the basics, here are a few other things you can do during your next round to leave the golf course better than you found it.

- Pick up broken tees and discard them in waste containers to keep them from cluttering the course and damaging mowers.
- If a dustbin is full, hold on to your trash rather than piling it high for wind and birds to disperse across the course.
- Do not leave cigars or cigarette butts on playing surfaces and keep those sunflower seeds off the greens!
- Ropes and stakes are there for a reason, so walk through designated openings and not over or on top of the rope, which will loosen and pull the stakes over.

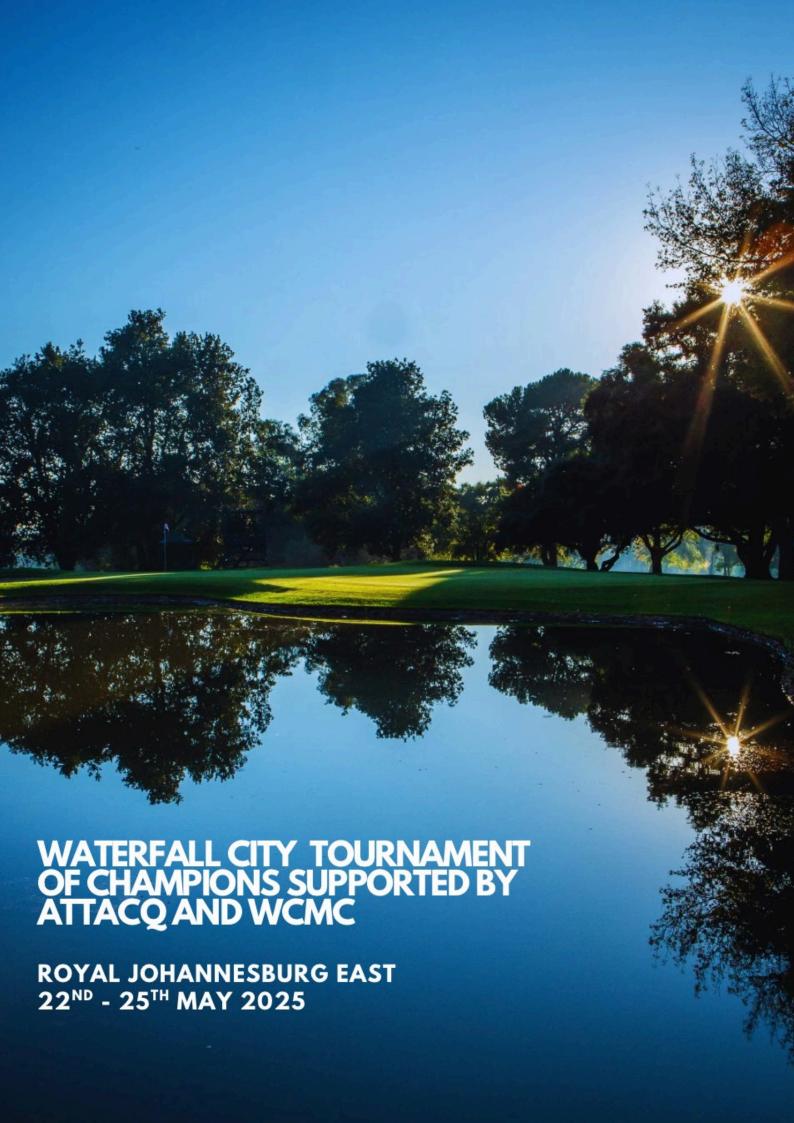
It is the maintenance staff's job to care for the course, but golfers need to do their part as well. During your next round, set a good example by using the tips above and encourage others to make the effort as well. No matter how long you have been playing or what your handicap is, taking care of the course makes you a great golfer!

League Update

As the league season is now in full swing, the scratch league teams have started their respective campaigns. The A side, got off to a great start with a 7-1 home win over Maccauvlei, and unfortunately, the B side, narrowly missed out with a 5-3 loss away to Modderfontein. The current standings are below.

- Scratch League A 1st in the A Division
- Scratch League B Tie 5th in the B Division
- Mid AM A Currently in 3^{rd} Position in the A Division
- Mid AM B Currently in 3rd Position in the C Division
- West BB League Tie leaders in the D Division
- East BB League Tie 6th in the A Division





GOLF RULE OF THE MONTH: LOST BALL AND PROVISIONAL BALL

If you think your ball might be lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds, you are allowed — and encouraged — to hit a provisional ball under Rule 18.3.

Key points:

- Announce clearly that you are playing a provisional ball (simply saying "I'm hitting another" is not enough — use the word "provisional").
- If you find your original ball inbounds within three minutes of starting your search, you must continue with it.
- If you play the provisional ball before finding the original but then find the original in bounds and in play — you can abandon the provisional without penalty.

Important: If the original ball is found in a penalty area, the provisional ball must be abandoned, and you proceed under the penalty area options.

Did You Know?

The longest recorded drive in professional golf history was 515 yards, achieved by Mike Austin in 1974 at the U.S. National Seniors Open. What's even more impressive? He was 64 years old at the time! His unique swing technique, now known as the "Mike Austin Swing," is still studied by golf enthusiasts today.

Yours in Golf, The Golf Operations Team Rob & Tiaan



THE HUNDRED & THIRTY FIFTH

CLUB Championships



3 & 4 MAY

Mens | Ladies | Seniors | Juniors

CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

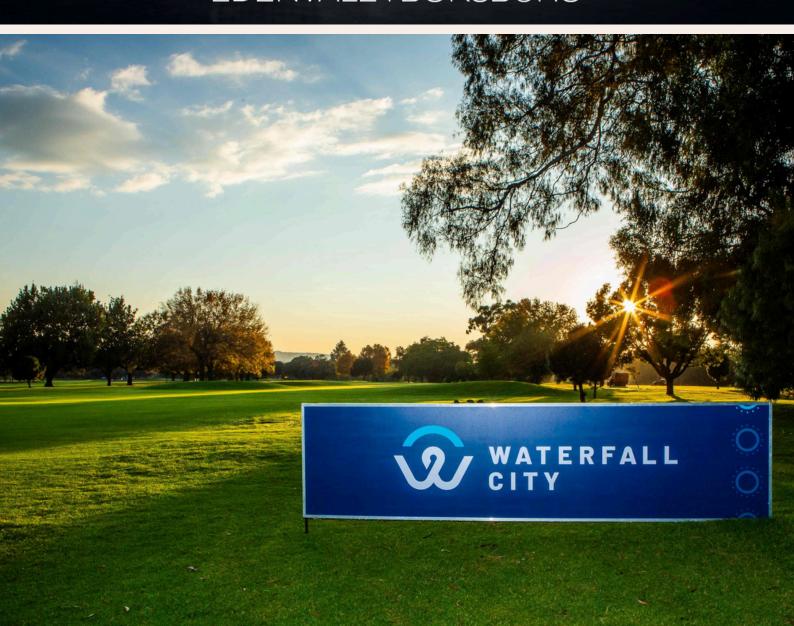
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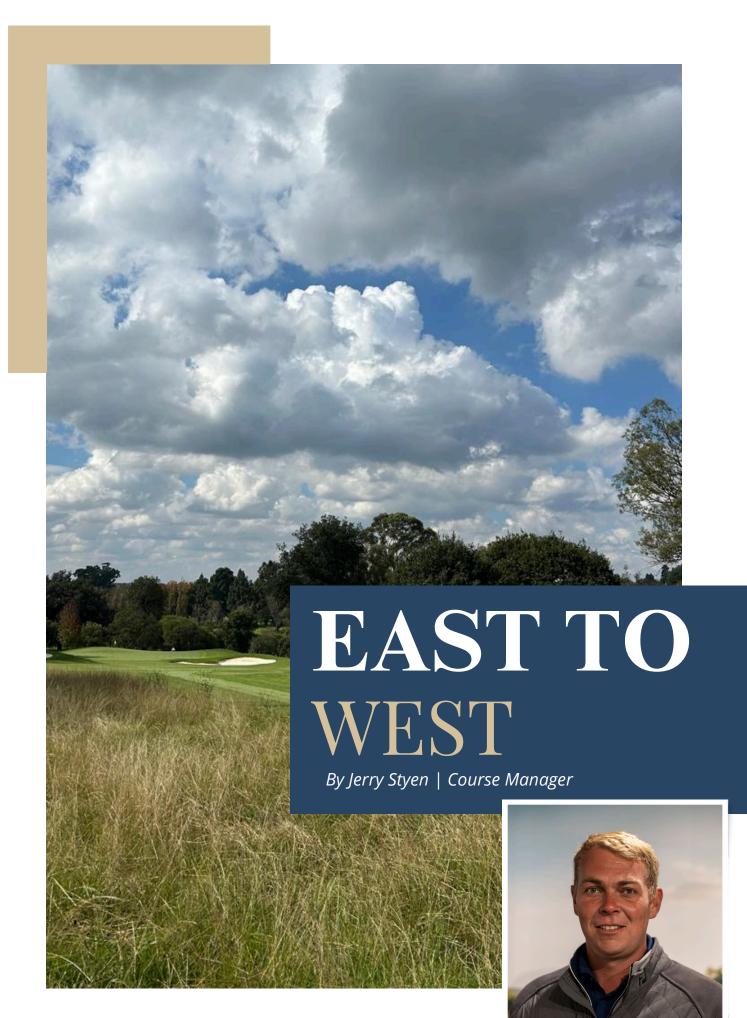
THE ALL NEW X70 PLUS



EDENVALE I BOKSBURG







We are halfway through autumn already - the leaves are starting to fall and the rain is not stopping. We have had yet another very wet month, it's been a huge build-up since January with 638,4mm and a total of 131.3mm for April. It has been frustrating for us as this is the time of year where the courses flourish and are at their best, but unfortunately the wet areas are making it hard to accomplish this, as some areas are where we cannot get to mow as well as send in our sweepers to collect the leaves. What has been satisfying for us is the fact that our East course is much drier than the West as this shows that the uncovering of the old Irrigation lines and clearing these out has been a major help in getting the excess water off the fairways. Each summer we get a better understanding of where drainage needs to be installed crucially and where improvements need to take place. Unfortunately, with the clay soils, the ground gets saturated quickly at the end of the season.

We have planned our winter annual leave for the staff and our first group will start their leave in May following Club Champs, and continue each month until August. Our winter maintenance and servicing plan for our machines are also set, as well as some winter on courses projects. We plan to start with some of these projects following Club Champs. We will start with the cleaning of our wetlands on the East course in June following the Tournament of Champions along with levelling of a few tee's on East. The tee's on our plan are the 2nd East second last tee, middle tee on the 5th East, the tee's on the 11th East and the back tee on the 12th East. We also have more plans to install additional drainage on the holes 4, 6 & 7 East to assist in getting the courses drier quicker. Although we would like to install drainage everywhere at once, this cost becomes immensely high and will be doing them as we go on to ensure we do them in the most crucial and correct areas. On West, we will be installing drainage on the 11th and 12 fairways following Club Champs as these are two crucial areas and in play currently.

From the course maintenance department, we wish all the members the best of luck in the upcoming Club Champs. We will be doing our utmost best to ensure we can deliver the best possible playing conditions in the next week.



LADIES GOLF

By Wendy Huddy | Ladies Golf Manager



We can look forward to welcoming our new C.E.O., Paul Leishman, to Royal on the 2nd May.As most of you know, Paul is a well-known and highly respected past general manager of both Glendower Golf Club and most recently Bryanston Country Club, where he was at the helm for 14 years.I'm sure many of you know him already but for those who don't, Paul brings with him a wealth of golfing knowledge and I look forward to introducing him to all our ladies during his first few weeks at Royal.

Royal Johannesburg Ambassador, Casandra Alexander, has just finished a most impressive 2025 Sunshine Ladies Tour! In eight starts on the tour, Casandra never finished lower than fifth in any of the tournaments and finished her season by winning the 2025 Investec Order of Merit. Congratulations to Casandra and good luck to her as she competes at home on the East course in the Waterfall City Tournament of Champions in May and then when she travels overseas to compete on the LET Tour.

Ash Buhai continues to perform well on the LPGA tour but recently aggravated an old knee injury so let's hope this doesn't set her back too much. In the T-Mobile Match play event played early in April, Ash lost her round of 16 match to Celine Boutier on the 28th hole – a record number of holes played for this event. Quite a marathon!

It would come as no surprise to many of you to hear that our annual Ladies Masters Open Day was postponed due to bad weather again!! This is the third successive year that this Open Day has been called off but we will have the day on Tuesday 10 June and can only hope for a wonderful day then. Our annual Masters Par 3 competition was cancelled because of the weather, which was so disappointing as this is one of the members favourite competitions and this year was fully booked.

Our three ladies league teams have had mixed fortunes this month. Our weekday 1 team, recorded a wonderful 3 – o win over champions Kyalami, at home on the East Course and on the same day our weekday 2 team went down 1 – 2 to Bryanston, also on the East Course, with two of the matches being decided on the last hole. Our Sunday team earned a great win against Wanderers on the East Course, winning that match 2 – 1 so very well played to all our league players. After three matches in the season, all three teams are well placed on the logs of their respective divisions: A Division Weekday – Royal 1 in a tie for 2nd position, C Division Weekday – Royal 2 in 4th position and A Division Sunday – Royal in a tie for 1st position.

Although the ladies entries for the 2025 Club Championships is small, I have no doubt that those ladies participating will have a great weekend. Thank you all for playing and wishing each one of you much luck this weekend and may all your personal goals on the course, be reached.

Happy golfing to you all!





EMPLOYEE

OF THE MONTH

April 2025

Front of house

Mangaliso Innocent Maduna

Back of house

Hlayisani Baloyi





MORE THAN A FITTING

By Greg Jacobs | Club Professional

As we move into winter all our warm weather clothing is arriving. FJ and UA gear has already arrived. Several articles are with the embroiderers and should be on our shelves by the end of the week.

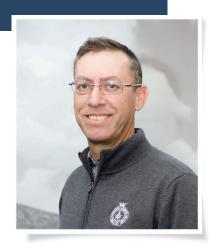
The new Titleist 280 mini drivers have arrived. The stock I ordered has already sold out, just crazy. I have more arriving imminently. If you battle off the tee, then this driver is definitely an option for you.

We still have Titleist ProVIX (2023) on special. R750 per dozen oppose to R1040 per dozen!

Callaway's new Elyte range is doing well. I gave Grant Kaindl a fitting during the week and on Saturday he shot a net 66 around the West. Great golf Grant!

The Golf Shop's golf day will take place on the **second Wednesday in May**. All players will receive a sleeve of Titleist ProV1 golf balls and great prizes will be on offer. Don't miss out!

To all the competitors playing in Club Championships, we wish you the best of luck!









Unlock Exclusive Benefits All Year Round!

For just an annual fee of R10,500.00, become a valued member of our Loyalty Rewards Program and enjoy the privilege of purchasing any golf-related products at cost price throughout the entire calendar year. It's not just a sale - it's a year-long opportunity you won't want to miss!

What's Included:

Access to cost price on all golf products - No exclusions - shop directly from top brands like Titleist, Callaway, Srixon, and lots more.

Terms and Conditions:

* Easy payment via EFT: R10,500.00 annual fee * Purchase all your favorite items at cost price directly from the brand agents * Payment methods: EFT or cash (no credit card payments) * Payment must be made before 28th February * Exclusive promotion valid for the Loyalty Rewards member only (strictly non-transferable) * Golf shop credit can be applied toward purchases * Your exclusive purchasing power is valid from 1st January to 31st December 2025.



Join our Loyalty Rewards Program today and elevate your golfing experience.





















TIP OF THE MONTH

By Martin Briedé | Teaching Professional



It's Club Championship season, Royal Johannesburg's own major. Good luck to all participants. Here are a few hints and tips to help you get through Club Champs or any big event you play in.

Dr Bob Rotella is undoubtedly the leading golf psychologist. Bob Rotella's clients have won over 75 major championships in men's and women's golf and include Rory McIlroy, Padraig Harrington, Darren Clarke, Ernie Els, Nick Price and Henrik Stenson amongst others.

During Club Champs we all tend to be a little nervous and try "steer" the ball around the course. Dr Bob has a wonderful concept to try counter this called, "Conservative strategy, cocky swing."

Play each hole in such a way that you are confident you can execute each shot you attempt, then swing aggressively and with trust. This strategy might mean choosing large landing areas away from trouble or hitting a 3 wood instead of a driver off the tee but making sure you have a free aggressive swing.

Dr Bob also suggests that we put all swing thoughts aside, it's time to trust your swing not work on your swing. Thinking about swing mechanics is not the best thing to do during Champs. Dr Bob suggests instead you should pick out the smallest possible target and make sure the mind is locked onto that target. Dr Bob gives us a lovely example in his book Golf is not a game of perfect. When Ben Hogan arrived at the tee, he asked his caddy for a target. "Aim for the palm trees, Mr Hogan," the caddy replied. To which Hogan answered, "which palm tree?" Choose a very specific target and fix your mind on that and swing as freely as you can.

Another tip to get the most out of Club Champs, is to warm up before you go play. Watch the video below where Gavan Levinson gives you some tips on how to warm up before the round.

Hope to see you at the range good luck to you all in your own personal "Major."

Four Time Major winner Bobby Locke practicing in front of the Royal Johannesburg Clubhouse more or less where the Old Oak Restaurant stands today.





Gavan Levenson 082 990 7186

Ricki Dembo 071 381 8715

Martin Briedé 084 503 5477





As the soft glow of autumn embraces our days, a season of gratitude and celebration unfolds. May invites us to pause, reflect, and honour those whose nurturing spirit has shaped our journey. It is with this spirit that we welcome the celebration of Mother's Day at Royal Johannesburg — a heartfelt occasion where love, laughter, and exquisite flavours unite.

The essence of Mother's Day lies in more than the simple gesture of a gift; it is an experience of warmth and shared memories. In celebration of this, our culinary team has carefully crafted a menu that speaks directly to the heart, inspired by the season's gentle abundance.

We invite you to join us at **The Old Oak Restaurant** or **St George's**, where an exclusive Mother's Day menu will be a selection of curated dishes to compliment every special moment.

Mother's Day reminds us that food is not only about sustenance; it is about storytelling. It's the comfort of a lovingly prepared meal, the joy of shared laughter over a glass of wine, and the deep connection that lingers beyond the meal itself. At Royal Johannesburg, we embrace this opportunity to create an atmosphere where every mother is celebrated as the queen she is.

Our team is proud to produce a celebration that not only honours the flavours of the season but also reflects the spirit of gratitude and joy. We hope you will join us for this special day, where every plate, every glass, and every smile is a tribute to the remarkable women we are privileged to celebrate.

In honour of the many stories, lessons, and quiet acts of love that have shaped our paths — this Mother's Day, we say thank you.





THE ROYAL

BUZZ

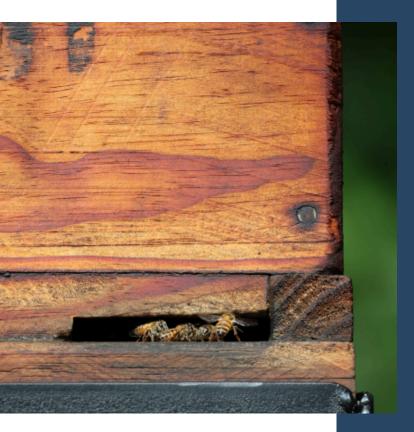
By Clinton Duncan | Royal Bee Guy



Hive protection during wet months Nature, the perfect weather prediction Bees, rain and flowers. Bees seal cracks in their hive with propolis to keep water out. The hive design itself (especially in natural settings like hollow trees) helps protect against water damage. We have left any honey stores on the hives over this period to make sure the bees don't starve promoting our pledge to sustainable and ethical beekeeping practices.

Nature, the perfect weather prediction

Bees seem to sense approaching rain—they'll often work harder before a storm to stock up, and may become more aggressive or defensive. You would notice a lot of bees flying into dustbins during this wet months due to a lack of foraging plants. Always check your soft drinks before consuming it as you might find a beekeeper who snuck in for a quick drink.



Bees, rain and flowers.

Bees avoid flying in the rain. Their wings are delicate, and rain can weigh them down or cause them to crash. Wet weather also makes pollen and nectar harder to collect, so they usually stay in the hive during rain. Rain helps plants grow and produce more nectar, so after the rain, there's often a boom in foraging as flowers bloom but with continuous rainfall, this washes away precious nectar from the flowers causing a major shortage of food for the bees.



Your Core: The Hidden Power Source for Better Golf and Better Health

When you hear the word "core," most people think of six-packs and crunches. But in golf — and in life — the real magic of your core has a lot more to do with stability than it does with looks.

A strong, stable core is the engine room of an efficient golf swing. It helps you transfer energy from the ground, through your legs and hips, and into the club — without wasting power or putting unnecessary strain on your back and shoulders. In short: if your core isn't doing its job, the rest of your body has to compensate, and that's often where injuries creep in.

But here's the good news: training your core the right way doesn't mean endless sit-ups. In fact, the best core exercises for golfers often look simple — but they challenge your body to resist unwanted movement. Think about holding a plank, or pressing a cable sideways while keeping your torso still (known as a "Pallof press"). These kinds of exercises teach your core to brace and stabilize, just like it should during a powerful, controlled golf swing.

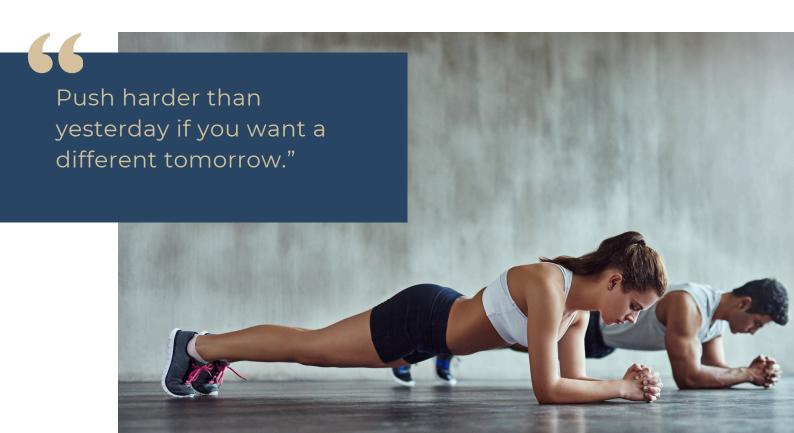
And the benefits go far beyond the golf course. A stronger core means better posture, fewer lower back niggles, improved balance, and better movement in everyday life. It's especially important as we get older — maintaining good core strength is one of the key ways to stay mobile, avoid falls, and keep doing the things we love for longer. If you're looking to add a few golf-smart core exercises into your routine, start simple:

- Front Plank: Focus on keeping your hips level and breathing normally.
- Dead Bug: Great for building stability while coordinating arm and leg movement.
- Pallof Press: Fantastic for resisting rotation and training real-world core strength.

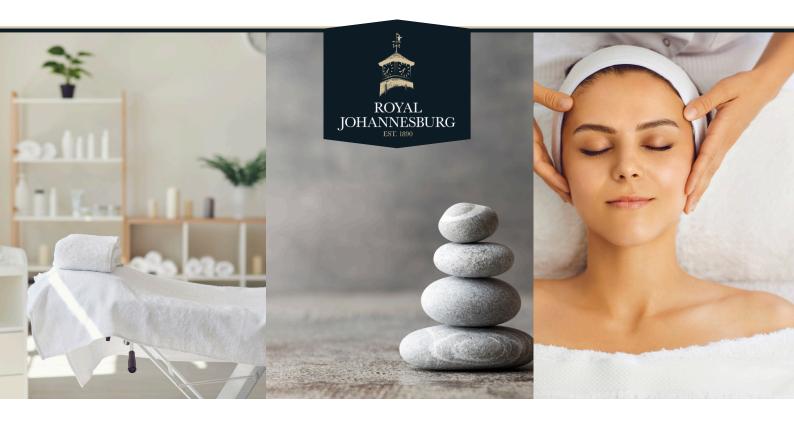
Remember, it's not about how many reps you can do — it's about how well you can control your body under tension. Quality beats quantity every time.

Next time you're working on your fitness, don't just think about how far you can hit it — think about how well you can control it. A strong, stable core is one of the best investments you can make in both your golf game and your overall health.

See you on the course







SPACE AVAILABLE FOR A WELLNESS PRACTITIONER

We are seeking a skilled and enthusiastic partner in the health and wellness area of expertise to become part of our bespoke facility. Join our established team which includes a Biokineticist, Personal Trainer, Chiropractor, Pilates and AIM Point Instructor.

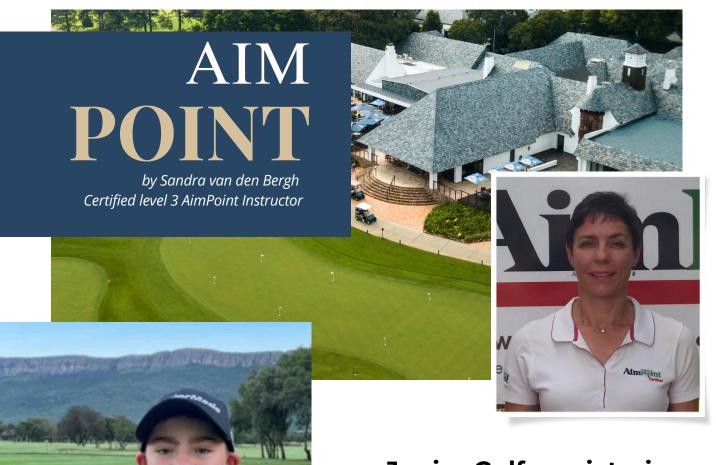
Royal Retreat Wellness & Fitness Club at Royal Johannesburg has an opportunity for a an individual within the wellness industry who wishes to grow their business in a welcoming and professional setting. You will have access to members, golfers, and patrons of our facility, which includes a gym, padel courts, residents, restaurants, and a chiropractic practice.

For further details, interested candidates can reach out to:

Sandra van den Bergh 083 291 1183 sandra@royalretreat.co.za Royal Johannesburg has a long and proud history and maintaining that heritage is our most important job.
Since 1890, we have consistently been seeking out only the best talent in every field.



For more information about the Club www.royaljhb.co.za



Junior Golfers victorious once again

Congratulations to AimPointer
Daniel Robinson, Boys under 11
winner US Kids Golf Big 5 South
African Open at Magaliespark. In a
play off, finishing with an eagle to
claim victory. So proud of this junior
golfer living in UAE. Daniel did his
AimPoint refresher session with me
a week before this event.

Congrats to AimPointer
Zane' Kleynhans, winner Junior
Championship Boland Open at the
end of April and 2nd in the Open.

Mark Sweeney founder of AimPoint – using technology to read greens

Charles Swab (official investment firm of the PGA Tour) is running a segment on AimPoint for its challenger series. A series about people who Question, Engage, Succeed. Here is the link



Don't wait, contact me for more information and making a booking. Say hallo to a full putting system of read, aim, speed.

Sandra van den Bergh Certified level 3 AimPoint Instructor The only certified AimPoint instructor in Africa E: sandra@royalretreat.co.za

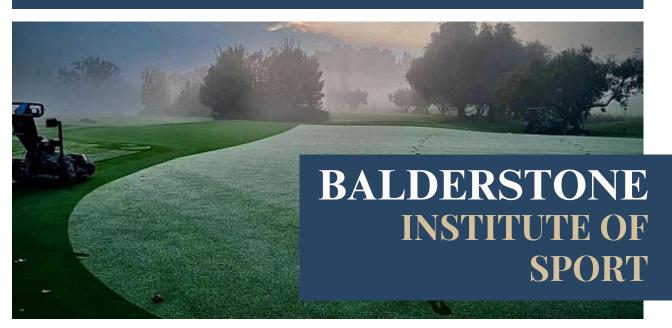
C: 0832911183

Twitter: @svdberghgolf

Facebook: Aimpointgolf South Africa Instagram: aimpointgolfsouthafrica







National Call-ups

Congratulations to Royal
Johannesburg members
Keisha Kagoro and Shaka
Kariisa, who were called up to
represent Uganda and Thomo
Mokgatle and Mowana Chokwe
on their selection to represent
Botswana in the 2025 All Africa
Junior Team Championship
played at The Residence Golf
Course in Tunisia from 24-26
April.







Delta Botswana Junior Championship *Gaborone Golf Club, Botswana*(26 & 27 April)
Boys U14: 1st – Legofi Mokgatle

BSI Premier Division Cycle 172-hole Championship

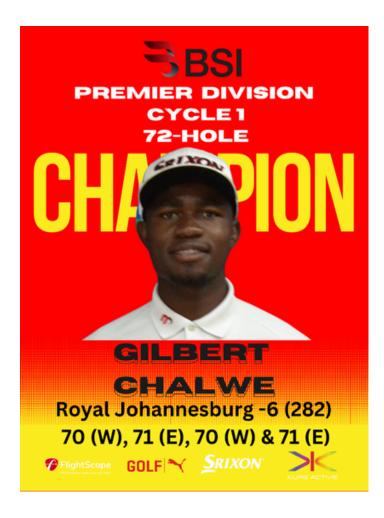
Huge Congratulations to Gilbert Chalwe, for his win in the BSI Premier Division end of Cycle 72-hole Championship which took place last week at Royal Johannesburg on both West and East Courses.

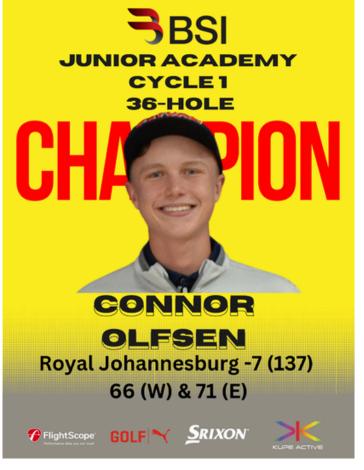
Gilbert went under par in all four rounds, shooting 6-under despite the miserable weather conditions for the week and carrying an injury from the 3rd round onwards. Thanks to the care and experience of our Sports Scientist, Renée Gomes da Silva after round 3, she had Gilbert back on course to complete the event. Great going Gilbert, it was awesome to see how you pulled yourself through your injury and competed to take home the win!

BSI Junior Academy Cycle 1 36-hole Championship

Well done to Connor Olfsen, on his win in the BSI Junior Academy Cycle 1 36-Hole medal, with fantastic golf for a 7-under par total over 2 rounds.

Played at Royal Johannesburg, Connor shot his all-time Personal Best score of 6-under par 66 in round 1 on Royal's West Course and followed that up the next day with a 1-under 71 on Royal East. These two rounds were played in extremely difficult conditions with so much rain falling. Well done again and continue to believe in yourself and the team around you.





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As our newsletter continues to evolve, we are looking to make it even more useful and interesting for our members.
We encourage you to share your thoughts with us.

















D Harding (Chairman), B Jaggard (Vice Chairman), C Schraibman (Club Captain), I Sanders (Lady Captain), R Stretch (Treasurer) C Blankers, N Watt-Pringle, A Msenti, W Huddy.

ROYAL JOHANNESBURG

Advertise in the monthly newsletter Email: marketing@royaljhb.co.za



DURING the next season, Aleak Seath and the thirty or new probaseonal politics pathered for the discussionality of Bellesia, across
that the largest driver in the world was filtered fit. Amounts, the
fracts Cheveland analysis. While at Bellesia is ready according to the 10th party of the 10th party across that one. He reached the solvent on the 10th, party of
these 331 years. These times he was in the trap on the 10th, part 352
years from the toe. All these drives were carefully marked and measured.

He is six for fear mobes tall and weight over 200 possets. But the great series of this deriving is the territor agend of his data band when it reaches the half. Abortion point about his driving is the photograph length of time that the half remains in the air. Several at Hazon's drives were timed in the way with stop works. He half was negated to the six at every of 180 yards—five and two-first seconds; while two of the half of trees by Augustus were to the air seven seconds.

ADDRESS:

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