

CHRONICLE SPORT

Top Golf Events in St Francis this September

Calamari Classic Golf

St Francis Bay Golf Course staff, caterers and caddies are getting ready for the premier event, the 18th Calamari Classic from 24-26 September.

Players from all over South Africa will be here to enjoy this wonderful event. The 1st prize on each of the 3 days will be **Double Return Tickets from Airlink Airlines** to any of the airline's destinations.

St Francis Bay Golf Club thanks the Calamari organising committee for their tireless effort to make this year's event such a huge success in these difficult times. A special word of thanks must go out to our main sponsors, Henry Taylor and Ries, Golfers Club PE and Citizen/Gabriel's Jewellers. Without them this event would not be possible.

This is also the club's 40th anniversary year which makes the event even more special.

We have an added bonus this year in that we have a hole-in-one sponsor on the

Rest Assured and on the 17th sponsored by Mecco Engineering.

Our Course staff, under the watchful eye of Gordon Dennett, our course superintendent, will be on duty as early as 4 am every morning to ensure the greens, fairways and tees have been cut and bunkers raked before the first tee-off time at 6:15 am.

The clubhouse will be open from 5:30 am every day to assist all golfers getting ready for the day's play. Food and refreshments will be on sale throughout the day. Family and friends can look forward to three days of good golf, fun, food and entertainment.

Each day will be concluded with an individual prize giving ceremony at 7pm and the main prize giving will be on Saturday evening at 7:15 pm.

Entertainment and supper starts after prize giving and people can boogie until the early hours of the morning.

Vodacom Origins of Golf

Celebrating Oosthuizen's achievements @ Vodacom Origins

(Top SA Golf writer, Michael Vilmas writes for St Francis Chronicle)



Gillian qualifies for Champions event

Gillian Hammond fired her best ever competitive round 94-28=66 Nett in the fourth and final qualifying round to secure her place in the team of four who will be representing The St Francis Links in the prestigious Nicklaus Signature Course Champion of Champions to be played later this year at the Links.

This tournament, the sixth in a series that has been played on South Africa's Nicklaus courses, Pearl Valley, Pecanwood, Simola, Serengeti and Houghton, took place at St Francis for the first time. The Links won the event at Pearl Valley and came second to the golfers from Houghton, by a single point, at Pecanwood. The home team will be strong with Ernest Muller, Norman Pretorius, Linda Muller and Gillian leading the way for the host Club. Gillian's 66 Nett is the best-ever qualifying score in the 6-year history!



Eight riders comprising two teams of 4 cyclists from St Francis Bay and Jeffrey's Bay cycled the 230km Trans Baviaans 24 Hour Mountain Bike race last weekend under the colours of the St Francis Bay Cycling Club.

All local team riders finished the race and despite protestations from several riders that they would never do it again, plans are already afoot to enter next year's race.

The race is quoted as being the toughest single day Mountain Bike Race in the World due to the distance involved and the terrain covered. But it still attracts riders from all over the country and is considered a bucket list event for any South African MTB Rider.

Teams and Placings:
Team 3 Moer en 1 Boer
Arthur Joubert 4th Finish

Trevor Elliott 1st Finish
Johnny Paarmham 1st Finish
Team: Boere
Jean Hupp
Juan Joubert
Willem Coetzee
Piet de Vos 1st Finish

The race started in Willowmore at 10 am on the Saturday morning to ensure that all riders spent some time riding in the dark and the route travelled through the beautiful Baviaanskloof finishing at Fountains Mall in Jeffrey's Bay 230 km later. While the first 100km is for the most part downhill, the course from that point involves a great deal of climbing and descending the rather rough roads of the Baviaanskloof with a total ascent of 2,800 meters.

The remarkable rise of Oosthuizen in world golf will be celebrated with a Sunshine Tour event in his honour at St Francis Links. His career is the theme for the R650 000 Vodacom Origins of Golf presented by Samsung tournament, which includes a VIP pre-event.

The Sunshine Tour returns to St Francis Links, the 5-Star Golf Estate in St Francis Bay at the end of the month from 28 September to 3 October. Huge crowds are expected to descend on St Francis to capture all the action and the top guns.

The tournament celebrates Oosthuizen's status as one of the "Young Guns" of South African golf who cut his teeth on this series, which is now in its 11th year as the biggest series of tournaments on the local circuit.

Louis Oosthuizen remembers one moment well. It was a phone call after he won the Open in 2010. It was from Greg Norman.

"He told me I was the first player to ever get him to watch a full 18 holes of live golf on television, something he never does," Oosthuizen says.

That's the kind of effect Oosthuizen's golf has on people. And it's a similar sense of inspiration that he will bring to the Vodacom Origins of Golf presented by Samsung on the Sunshine Tour this year.

Vodacom Origins is a series that has helped to launch the careers of some of South Africa's greatest young stars, including Branden Grace, George Coetzee, Charl Schwartzel and Thomas Aiken. Oosthuizen has also benefited from this and won his first title on the Vodacom Origins of Golf presented by Samsung series at Arabella in 2004.

In 2007 he won the Dimension Data Pro-Am, Telkom PGA Championship and Platinum Classic on the Sunshine Tour.

Then in 2010 he won his first European Tour title at the Andalucia Open with a brilliant final round 64. And four months later he lifted the famous Claret Jug at St Andrews. But he has always remained down-to-earth, saying, "Golf is definitely not everything to me. I've got my goals and I know exactly what I want to achieve."

The Vodacom Origins of Golf presented by Samsung includes a pro-am on the Tuesday and Wednesday followed by the 54-hole professional tournament which tees off on Thursday with a field of 120 Sunshine Tour professionals all hoping to emulate Oosthuizen's rise in world golf.

And there is a strong charity component as well, with birdies made by the golfers contributing towards money being raised in the battle to combat violence against women and children.

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