

CHRONICLE SPORT

St Francis golf courses rise in rankings

St Francis Bay's golf courses moved up in the Golf Digest Top 100 courses for 2016 rankings.

St Francis Links moved past three great courses in rising to its best-ever position at no 7 in 1995!

St Francis Bay moved up three places from 99 to 96. These higher placings are significant, according to Jeff Clause, CEO of St Francis Links, five-star golf estate, because 9 new courses entered the Top 100 this year. Joining the Top 100 from the Eastern Cape were neighbours, Wedgewood, NEW at No 88 and PE Golf Club, re-entering the Top 100 at No 95.

St Francis Links, the Jack Nicklaus signature design, moved past Arabella and Pearl Valley, both former Top-5 courses, and Blair Athol, which fell from No 4 to No 14 after some internal problems on the estate. Glendower was the big mover in the ratings this year as it moved from the second 10 to the Top-5.

After hosting three National Opens on the trot, the parkland received its proper recognition. Durban CC moved back to the top-5 as their renovations over the past years have helped the course return to greatness.

"We are in good company with this year's Golf Digest SA Top 10 and Top 100," Clause says, "laure."

Other movers on the list were Ernie Els Highland Gate near Dullstroom and Humewood Links in Port Elizabeth. Highland Gate is located on a beautiful piece of land that offers superb shot-making and great conditioning with an amazing mountainous backdrop. Humewood with its greens renovation by Sean Quinn has pushed its way back up the rankings to No 11.

Clause notes that International golf

tourism is the best it has been in years with all courses from Cape Town through the Garden Route reporting record-breaking years. Both local courses have been buoyed by a single group of golfers coming from Sweden.

The Sun Birdies are based at Cape St Francis Resort. These golfers, most of whom, arrived as couples, have played hundreds of rounds over the past two seasons.

The word is that they have secured rooms and golf for next year. This boost to the golfing scene can also be felt in all of the area's businesses.

International Squash tourno 2016 - the best ever



tournament brought top squash players from all over the country, including Alex Fuller SA no 3 World no 71, Karen Schultz SA no 19, Michael Wood Mixed Doubles National SA Champion, Paul Atkinson Mixed Doubles National SA Champion and Craig Wapnick former SA no 1.

This was excellent and intense squash - though there was some fun too with events off-court. DJ Johnny Dyssell provided some excellent music, Benno supplied the food and the nights were enjoyed eating drinking and dancing.

The winners were: Handicap: Jason Le Roux & Murray Commins; Over 50 B's: Theo vd Lingen & Garyn Fouché; Mixed B: Ryal Stadel & Stephanie Bester; Open: Janet Byrnes & Alison Andrews; Over 50 A: Dave Jacques & Pierr Roodt; Mixed A: Paul Atkinson & Catherine Atkinson.

A huge thank you was extended to everyone who helped in the planning of the tournament, whether in the foreground or background. Thanks were also expressed to the staff for cleaning up early mornings and late nights, to the locals for their support, to sponsors Greg Darke from Kotha Energy, Richard Arden from Pam Golding and BOS Ice Tea and to the club's FB page.

South African Squash champions Craig Wapnick and Steve Nicholson were the winners of the recent Open A division after an intense nail-biting finish Squash Invitational at St Francis Bay's courts.

This internationally recognised 14th annual St Francis Bay event was the best and biggest St Francis has had, organisers say, with 80 pairings, 7 sections, 91 individuals and 147 matches, plus a packed clubhouse of supporters. The two and a half day

Janine is Ladies' Champ



After a great 78th first day at the St Francis Bay Golf Club Ladies Championships, Janine van der Merwe says her 84th the next day was good enough to win by one shot. All the prize winners for recent Ladies Champs golf event at

Back: Carol Boonzaier; Middler: Dale Ball, Heather Kruger, Jean Fynn. Front: Dot Masterson and Janine van der Merwe, the Champ, with Claire Milson.

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