



# Press Release

## **16 Year Old Enrique van Wyk is ready to compete at the 2017 Canon South Africa Disabled Golf Open**

**Johannesburg, South Africa. March 2017-** 16 Year old Enrique van Wyk from Bloemfontein is one of the youngest competitors to participate in the prestigious 2017 Canon South Africa Disabled Golf Open in May 2017. This will be the fourth time that young Van Wyk will be participating in the tournament which attracts the world's best golfers with disabilities.

Organised annually by the South African Disabled Golf Association (SADGA), the Canon South Africa Disabled Golf Open has at its heart the goal to inspire and unite players, as well as acknowledge their achievements. The event, now sponsored by Canon South Africa, takes place in Cape Town from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2017.

Many talented local and international golfers have confirmed their participation in the 2017 Canon South Africa Disabled Golf Open. Amongst these are Bob MacDermott (Canada); Martin Williams (United Kingdom); Shaun Bakker (United Kingdom); George Mecs (France) and Cian Arthurs (United Kingdom). South Africans have historically dominated the tournament, with Ben van Zyl winning the event from 1998 to 2003; Pieter Jansen in 2004; Nico Wentzel in 2008; Igin Grobbelaar in 2009 and 2010; and Daniel Slabbert from 2011 to 2013, and again in 2015.

In 2016, 30% of the field boasted single figure handicaps and more than half of the competitors have handicaps of 18 or lower. Van Wyk plays off a handicap of 27.

He started playing golf at the age of nine when he joined SADGA's First Swing Programme, a developmental programme that exposes children with disabilities to the game of golf. The primary focus of the programme is on rehabilitation and psychological development of disabled children. The programme is operational in 35 schools across the country, with some 750 children benefitting every week. It has tremendous benefits, increasing self-esteem, confidence, respect, responsibility, honesty, integrity and perseverance.

Van Wyk, who was born with a condition, Les Autres, which caused the left side of his body to be partly paralysed, is one of the emerging young stars on the disabled golf circuit. He won three divisions in 2015 at the Nedbank SA Disabled Golf Open for Juniors Les Autres and

C division. In 2016 achieved two third places. He has also fared well in able-bodied competitions, winning the Glazier by Sanlam Junior tournament C division in 2014, achieving second place in 2015 and third place in 2016.

He describes golf as “his life” and is excited to be participating in the 2017 Canon South Africa Disabled Golf Open.

“This tournament gives me the opportunity to compete at my own level, forget about disability and have fun. It is my week to be spoiled,” he says,

According to Reinard Schuhknecht, Brand Ambassador for SADGA and the 2017 Canon South African Disabled Golf Open, the 2017 event boasts one of the best and most diverse fields in the history of the tournament.

“Competition will indeed be fierce at the 2017 Canon South Africa Disabled Golf Open, with over 80 talented golfers in the field.”

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About Canon Europe

Canon Europe is the regional sales and marketing operation for Canon Inc., represented in 116 countries and employing 17,000 people across Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA).

Founded in 1937 with the specific goal of making the best quality camera available to customers, Canon's tireless passion for the Power of Image has since extended its technology into many other markets and has established it as a world leader in both consumer and business imaging solutions. Its solutions comprise products, ranging from digital compact and SLR cameras, through broadcast lenses and portable X-ray machines, to multi-function and production printers, all supported by a range of value added services.

Canon invests heavily in R&D to deliver the richest and most innovative products and services to satisfy customers' creative needs. From amateur photographers to professional print companies, Canon enables each customer to realise their own passion for image.

Canon's corporate philosophy is [Kyosei](#) – 'living and working together for the common good'. In EMEA, Canon Europe pursues sustainable business growth, focusing on reducing its own environmental impact and supporting customers to reduce theirs using Canon's products, solutions and services. Canon has achieved global certification to ISO 14001, demonstrating a world-class environmental management standard.

Further information about Canon Europe is available at: [www.canon-europe.com](http://www.canon-europe.com)

#### About Canon South Africa

Canon South Africa (Pty) Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Canon Europe, came into being on January 4, 2000. Canon Europe is the regional sales and marketing operation for Canon Inc., represented in 120 countries and employing over 11,000 people across Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA). Canon Europe invested in South Africa with a view to growing and expanding its market share in the country.

In South Africa, the Canon brand is today synonymous with consistency, driven by the company's passion, imagination, knowledge and importantly, loyalty to its customers. Canon SA offers a wide range of consumer imaging products and business solutions as well as a variety of large format printers.

Canon technologies are durable, innovative, intuitive, and feature smart and environmentally sustainable designs. Canon invests heavily in R & D and will continue to deliver new and technologically advanced products that cater for a variety of requirements.

In South Africa Canon will continue to support environmental sustainability by operating responsibly, minimizing the impact of its business on the environment and also encouraging a culture of environmental awareness and accountability amongst their staff, business associates and partners. Canon has also maintained its ISO 14001 environmental accreditation since 2007.