



# Press Release

## **United Kingdom's Martin Williams to compete in fourth Canon South African Disabled Golf Open**

**Johannesburg, South Africa. February 2017** - United Kingdom based golfer, Martin Williams has confirmed that he will compete in the prestigious 2017 Canon South African Disabled Golf Open, which takes place in May. His participation in this year's tournament will be his fourth.

Williams, originally from Wales, is well known on the disabled golf circuit in the United Kingdom and in South Africa. At the South African Disabled Golf Open in 2016, he achieved his highest finish yet; 7th place in the Leg Division and 6th place overall in what turned out to be a rare golfing appearance during the year. Due to a combination of an injury, his commitment to cricket and a new business, his time on the course was heavily restricted. In fact in 2016, Williams played more golf at Zwartkop Country Club during the South African Disabled Golf Open week than he did in the UK for the rest of the year.

The Canon South African Disabled Golf Open, will take place from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of May in Cape Town. Hosted annually by the South African Disabled Golf Association (SADGA), the South African Disabled Golf Open incorporates the world's top golfers with disabilities. In 2016, 30% of the field boasted single figure handicaps and more than half of the competitors have handicaps of 18 or lower. Canon South Africa, which has been a proud sponsor of the South African Disabled Golf Association (SADGA) for many years, has proudly taken the reigns as the official sponsor of the South African Disabled Golf Open for 2017.

Reinard Schuhknecht, Brand Ambassador for SADGA, says: "We are delighted to confirm that Martin Williams will be part of the field of international and South African golfers competing in this year's tournament. We look forward to a stellar performance from him again this year."

Williams started playing golf at the age of 12 and enjoyed membership at Stoke By Nayland GC, West Sussex GC and Worthing GC where a handicap low of 5 was achieved in 2001.

A lengthy sabbatical from golf followed with the arrival of his sons Thomas (14) and Ben (11), with Williams managing limited rounds of social golf only. Following an accident at home, which led to the amputation of his lower right leg, Williams was set a challenge by his son Ben; to play in a competition to prove that “everything would be ok”.

Having searched the internet and made contact with Lily Reich at the South African Disabled Golf Association (SADGA), he entered the 2014 South African Disabled Golf Open at Zebula Golf Estate. This was his first competitive golf for almost 13 years. In 2015 Martin came 13th in the Overall and 9th in the Leg Division at the tournament. He also played in the DBO British Open, finishing runner up to James Hourigan, and in the Welsh Open at The Vale finishing runner up to Andrew Gardiner. That same year, he played in the Swedish Invitational at Bokskogen GC finishing eleventh in an event featuring the likes of Daniel Slabbert, Christo De Jager, Igin Grobbelar, Conrad Stolz, Reinard Schuhknecht and Manuel de Los Santos.

He is a keen supporter of SADGA, promoting the work of the First Swing Programme, a development programme for children with disabilities, in the UK and helping to raise awareness of and funds for the programme.

In addition to golf, Williams plays cricket for Hampshire County Disability and enjoys travelling, particularly to South Africa for Safari at Garonga Camp in Limpopo Province.

Like Martin Williams on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/martin.williams.547?fref=ts>

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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.