

SA DISABLED GOLF HANDOVER

MEDIA RELEASE –

20TH OCTOBER IN PORT ELIZABETH

This year the South African Disabled Golf Association received a donation of R 250K from the funds raised at the The Sports Trust Golf Challenge. Nedbank and Sun International are the founding Trustees of The Sports Trust and also the main sponsors of the Nedbank Golf Challenge, which is one of the premier international golfing tournaments that is hosted annually at Sun City. The Sports Trust Golf Challenge is hosted the day after NGC, and raises R 1 million annually for sport development. This tournament provides amateur golfers with the opportunity to play the Gary Player Golf Course exactly as the professionals played it on the final day of the NGC tournament.

The donation has assisted with the First Swing Programme (FSP) in Port Elizabeth, as the region consists of : Cheshire Homes for the Disabled (adult) , Reubin Birin School (Deaf School) , Lonwabo School (Severly Disabled children) and Cape Receife School (Severly disabled children). Coach Graeme Whales and his two assistant coaches go weekly to the schools and homes to teach them golf.

“Sun International welcomes the growth of SADGA’s First Swing Programme as it seeks to use golf to empower people with disabilities,” said Alastair Roper, Sun International’s Tournament Director for the Nedbank Golf Challenge.

Eugene Voster, CEO of SADGA says “The mandate of SADGA is to make golf accessible to all disabled South Africans. With the generous assistance of The Sports Trust, an empty hall has been transformed into a purpose built golf facility where disabled children can enjoy golf in a modified environment.”

Reuben Birin is a deaf school, and the coaches have identified 3 players to take the next level. They will receive golfing lessons until they attend the FSP Deaf Inter Schools competition in December in Cape Town. Lonwabo School caters for the severely disabled children who are mostly in wheelchairs.

The benefits of this programme is to provide golf coaching to disabled children, and participate in various golf events. Those children with severe disabilities that would never be able to play on a regulated golf course, are taught the basics of golf in order to enhance muscle movement. This programme provides rehabilitation and therapeutic modified golf for these disabled children.

Nedbank also provide assistance and sponsor the Nedbank SA Disabled Golf Open, and have done so for the past 10 years, and gives these disabled golfers an opportunity to play on the big stage. This year in May, the 17 year old, Charl Theron from the Western Province, lived up to his star billing with a 5th place finish in the Overall Stroke Play Championship.

“As a founding trustee of The Sports Trust we are committed to ensure that our support of golf has an impact beyond the week of the Nedbank Golf Challenge tournament, and that through this game we help to make a difference in the communities and projects supported by The Sports Trust and its beneficiaries,” says Tobie Badenhorst, Head of Cause Marketing at Nedbank.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

SA DISABLED GOLF

The South African Disabled Golf Association has introduced “The First Swing Programme” which is a series of clinics provided to participating schools across South Africa for disabled children. This programme has given them exposure to the game of golf as well as exposure to golf related industries, and helping them with their life skills. It is designed around using SNAG equipment, LTAD (Long Term Athlete Development) and is also golf specific. It assists students with eye / ball co-ordination, body movement skills that are golf specific, and creates a competitive environment for the children to gain confidence, providing a fun and structured sporting experience. Through this programme, children with severe disabilities are now able to take part in sport for the first time, and this is so crucial to them and their overall development. SADGA provides 3 Levels (1, 2 and 3) covering therapeutic modified golf for the disabled, as well as two more levels (4, 5) for the more advanced golfers. Each level consists of either or both = Sensory (Blind and Deaf) as well as Physically Disabled, including both adults and juniors.

About The Sports Trust

The Sports Trust is an independent organization established jointly by the private and public sectors in 1994, and is a registered Section 21 company, Public Benefit Organisation and operates as an NPO, although carries the name “Trust” to reflect the relationship between donors’ funding and the organisation. We provide sporting kit, equipment and build or upgrade sports facilities in disadvantaged rural communities in South Africa, and act as an implementation partner to Corporates. www.thesportstrust.co.za

Nedbank

Nedbank is a founding Trustee of The Sports Trust and provide support via their Nedbank Sport Affinity programme. When you use any of the Sport Affinity accounts, Nedbank donates money to The Sports Trust for the funding of sport development projects. Funded projects include building active communities by providing all South Africans with opportunities to play sport. The programme provides sporting equipment and upgrades sporting facilities in outlying or previously disadvantaged communities; advances sport in South Africa; helps to identify young sporting talent; and offers coaching and training programmes.

The programme is an innovative way to fund the development of sport in South Africa so that The Sports Trust projects have a continuous source of income for years to come.

Furthermore, The Sports Trust has since its inception been a catalyst for meaningful change in sport and recreation.

Sun International

Sun International is a leading player in the gaming, hospitality and entertainment industry in southern Africa. Sun International’s unique local and international properties offer guests a variety of business, sporting, relaxation and cultural adventures. We strive to provide our guests with superior service, memorable moments and unforgettable experiences. Sun International recognises its ethical, environmental and social impact on the communities where it does business and its social investment activities are based on the principle of creating shared value where both parties benefit. The company commits funds to socioeconomic development through its investment in education, health and welfare, sports, arts and culture, and other community development initiatives.

In recognising the need for sports development, Sun International was a founding member of the Sports Trust. Since 1981, Sun International has played host and organizer to the Nedbank Golf Challenge at Sun City Resort, its flagship property. In association with Nedbank, the Sports Trust Golf Challenge was started in 1994. This annual event which brings together business leaders has over a 20 year period raised in excess of R20 million for sports development.