



# Press Release

## **Port Elizabeth born Shaun Bakker back in SA in May for the 2017 Canon South African Disabled Golf Open**

**Johannesburg, South Africa. February 2017** - Port Elizabeth-born and raised amputee, Shaun Bakker will return home to South Africa from the United Kingdom to compete in the prestigious 2017 Canon South African Disabled Golf Open, which takes place in Cape Town in May. He has confirmed his participation in the event which will see some of the top local and international disabled golfers compete in the 19<sup>th</sup> annual edition of the international tournament which is hosted annually by the South African Disabled Golf Association (SADGA). 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 SADGA for many years, has proudly taken the reigns as the official sponsor of the South African Disabled Golf Open for 2017. "I am thrilled to be coming home to South Africa for the tournament. I can't thank SADGA enough for hosting such an amazing tournament and giving me my hunger for competitive sport back again. The camaraderie experienced among the players combined with the competitive nature of the talented golfers make for an inspiring experience that lives long in the hearts of everyone who takes part," says Bakker.

Bakker started playing golf at the age of 12 and was a member of the Port Elizabeth Golf Club. He lost his leg at the age of 21 due to the damage caused by a cancerous tumour in his tibia. He was an avid sportsman until that point playing cricket, rugby and water sports. "I thought my days of competitive sport were behind me until I entered my first South African Disabled Open at the White River Country Club in Mpumalunga over 12 years ago," he recalls.

He was so inspired by the experience that he began assisting with coordinating regional events for SADGA in Port Elizabeth as well as arranging a large annual fundraising golf day enabling funds to be raised for local amputees in Port Elizabeth.

In May 2005 he relocated to England and began working in the golf Industry. There he has enjoyed many great opportunities to compete in tournaments in England and all over Europe. His participation in the 2017 Canon South African Disabled Golf Open will be his third.

Some of his notable achievements include finishing third place in the Scottish Disabled Open – Westerwood Golf Course in 2005; representing Team Great Britain in the Handigolf Team Championships in 2011 in Malmo Sweden; taking the runner up position in the 2011 BALASA Championships, as well as various top ten finishes in tournaments around Europe including the Algarve Open, French Open and Swedish Invitational.

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. 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; Iglin Grobler in 2009 and 2010; and Daniel Slabbert from 2011 to 2013, and again in 2015.

“We are excited to have Shaun Bakker back on home soil to compete in the 2017 Canon South African Disabled Golf Open. We have some very inspiring and talented players in this year’s field,” says Reinard Schuhknecht, Brand Ambassador for SADGA.

Like Shaun Bakker OR shaun.bakker.3 on Facebook and follow him on Twitter using @ShaunBakker.

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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.