

PRESS RELEASE

Disabled golf champion returns to South Africa to defend title

Johannesburg, South Africa. February 2019. The top contender in the 2019 Canon South Africa Disabled Golf Open taking place from 13 to 16 May 2019 at the Magalies Park Golf Club is last year's champion, Mike Browne. The army veteran and scratch golfer ventured to South Africa from the United Kingdom to compete in the tournament for the first time last year and trumped golfers from South Africa, the United States and Denmark with a 12 shot victory.

This prestigious tournament has been organised by the South African Disabled Golf Association (SADGA) for 21 years and attracts some of the world's best golfers with disabilities. 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; Iglin Grobler in 2009 and 2010; and Daniel Slabbert from 2011 to 2013, and again in 2015. In 2017, American Chad Pfeifer broke the South Africans' winning streak.

Browne was selected to represent the On Course Foundation at the 2018 Canon South Africa Open after winning his first professional golf competition at Ashridge Golf Club where he shot a 66. The Foundation supports the rehabilitation of veterans through programmes to develop golf skills and offer career opportunities. This victory was a stark contrast to pre 2013 when the army vet was undergoing rehabilitation following an injury suffered during his time as a serviceman. Browne got his first handicap of 28 in the summer of 2014. Within three months he was down to 15 and after a year he was playing off four. He turned pro in 2017.

"We are pleased to welcome back our 2018 champ, Mike Browne for the 21st edition of the Canon South Africa Disabled Golf Open. A very talented player who is undoubtedly a tremendous inspiration to anyone rebuilding their lives following a serious injury, Browne is a tough contender. We wish him all the best as he defends his title in May," says Dana Eitzen, Corporate and Marketing Communications Executive from Canon SA, which has a proud legacy of support for South African sport.

The company is a primary sponsor of SADGA's First Swing program which encourages young children with disabilities to live beyond their physical limitations and play golf. Canon is also associated with the Sunshine Ladies Tour as a sponsor of the season opening event for the past two years. This year, Canon SA is sponsoring *The Player's Fund Project Hero*, through which the stories of four fallen rugby heroes are being told to offer hope to former rugby players whose lives have been forever changed by serious injuries on the field.

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Canon Europe is the EMEA strategic headquarters of Canon Inc., a global provider of imaging technologies and services. Canon Europe has operations in roughly 120 countries, with approximately 18,000 employees and contributes to around a quarter of Canon's global revenues annually.

Founded in 1937, the desire to continuously innovate has kept Canon at the forefront of imaging excellence throughout its 80-year history and has commitments to invest in the right areas and capture growth opportunities. From cameras to commercial printers, and business consultancy to healthcare technologies, Canon enriches lives and businesses through imaging innovation.

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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.

Further information about Canon Europe is available at: 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.


