

St Francis Links moves to No 6 spot in SA for 'Best Conditioned Course'

From p1
St Francis Links Golf Estate moved up from No 7 to No 6 in this year's Golf Digest ratings for golf courses in South Africa.

St Francis Bay Golf Club moved up six spots to 90. Humewood stays in the top 15 and Wedgewood makes a good move from 88 to 76.

The ratings come out every other year and many travellers use them in planning their golfing holidays, according to CEO and PGA Director of Golf of St Francis Links, Jeff Clause.

The Links course in St Francis Bay, he says, was voted Best New Course in South Africa in 2007 and has been in the Top-10 this year it was eligible. "St Francis Links rates highly for shot-making and shot values (a course requires and rewards a variety of golf shots)."

During the past 12 years, much has been done to improve playability by widening the landing areas, removing the heavier grasses around the bunkers and opening areas around the greens, Clause elaborates. The course, under the

guidance of Superintendent, Charl Blaauw, is also rated the 3rd best conditioned course in South Africa, moving up in that category as well.

"Our rounds have increased steadily over the past few years partially due to the quality of the course and the golfing experience. At the International Travel Market in Cannes, France, in December, we met with more than 30 international Tour owners and operators to grow our region event more. The quality of the courses around us and the outdoor activities on offer are now attracting more and more international friends"

Clause also points out that last month the Links experienced its best February in 12 years with internationals from no less than 22 countries around the world visiting the Links. "That keeps us all

striving to be even better going forward".

He adds that St Francis Links will be hosting the National Senior Men's IPT in April with top golfers coming from all over SA. Plus the Links and the Bay course will team up to host more than 200 women golfers from all around SA in May.

Stephanie Ersten, chairman of St Francis Tourism, says both golf courses, the St Francis Links and St Francis Bay Golf Course, are major tourist magnets for the St Francis area. All St Francis business benefit from golfers and their accompanying families.

"Congratulations to the St Francis Links for being awarded #6 of Golf Digest's top 100 South African Golf courses." "Another well-deserved feather in the caps of Lizej and Jeff Clause and their amazing team," she says.

Emergency Repairs to the Spit



Dredging sand onto the most vulnerable areas of the 'Spit' dune, which separates St Francis Bay's canals from the sea.

The St Francis Property Owners Association (SFPO for St Francis Bay village and canals) (SFPO) has been given permission by the Department of Environment and Tourism (DEAT) to make emergency repairs to the protective dune on the Spit, which is close to being breached and washed away completely.

This was a man-made dune constructed when the canals were developed. The emergency work entails dredging as much sand as possible into the most vulnerable areas of the spit dune. A partial build back of the dune will also begin with the purchase of large sand bags that will

be placed and filled along a line surveyed on the Spit.

The sand bags will form a buttress behind which the dune will be built back with both dredging sand from the canals and trucking in sand from approved sources. This needs to be done in the next few months before the winter storms hit the Spit. The SFPO, Riparians and the Kouga Municipality will contribute resources to this project. This work is necessary as part of the long term solution, so hopefully it will also represent a meaningful start to the long term solution, the SFPO says.



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Emergency Numbers

Try Our Word Puzzle

See how many words you can make from the letters. No words of less than four letters. Every word has to contain the middle, bold letter. The goal is to also find the nine letter word(s). No plural nouns, capital letters, slang, or foreign language words (unless accepted in the Oxford English dictionary). This month's goal: 21 words essential, 40 words good, 30 words fun. Note: Words ending in 's' like 'yours' has been allowed. The correct solution is on p14.

Word Puzzle compiled by Bev Mortimer

A	O	D
N	D	T
R	O	E

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CONTACT ST FRANCIS CHRONICLE

Address: PO Box 343 St Francis Bay 6312.
Tel: 0836095835

Email: stc@stfrancis.co.za
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