

CREAM OF SA SENIOR PROFESSIONAL GOLFERS PRIMED FOR HUMEWOOD LINKS

A potent field of experienced Senior Professional golfers are poised to test themselves on the Humewood links layout when the third Nelson Mandela Bay Classic takes place in Gqeberha from May 10 to 12.

The R500,000 Senior Sunshine Tour event is one of the most lucrative on the circuit and defending champion Doug McGuigan will have a marker on his back when he joins his fellow professionals in vying for the top prize.

In 2022, McGuigan won the title by one stroke last year in a dramatic final round as he ultimately outduelled chief rival Keith Horne in difficult circumstances to finish on 13-under-par 203.

It was a poignant conclusion to the event as McGuigan had lost his 80-year-old mother the previous day and he showed character and resilience to land the trophy.

Both players will be back to tee it up on Wednesday and, while they will be hoping to figure among the title contenders, there will be an array of talented players in the field of 63 lining up to challenge them for the magnificent trophy.

Among them will be the inaugural winner of the tournament in 2021, Chris Williams, who was unable to defend his title in 2022 because of overseas commitments.

He will be joined by James Kingston, Adilson da Silva, Andre Cruse, Grant Muller, Kenneth Dube, Neil Cheetham and Bobby Lincoln as potential winners, though, in truth, it should be a wide-open race for the title.

After the 2022 event, Sunshine Senior Tour chief operations officer Neville Clarke said the NMB Classic had been another resounding success and expressed his appreciation at the support received from the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality.

“The people in charge of organising events at the municipality have worked very hard to make this a success and we feel it’s a great boost for the region,” he said.

“The tournament went off very well with great conditions and great weather at the Humewood links course.” Now, he said, they were looking forward to returning to Gqeberha for one of the tour’s prime events.

“It is fantastic for us to join the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality and the Humewood Golf Club in hosting this prestigious tournament at the iconic links course,” he said.

Clarke said that the format of the Pro-Am side of the event was to showcase and promote businesses and the city at the same time through various social media platforms. He said they were delighted to have some of the best Senior professional players in SA in the field for next week.

“There has been great competition for the NMB Classic title in the last two years and this should be another exciting tournament, for both players and spectators,” he said.

Image Caption:

Neil Cheetham will be one of the strong 67 players vying for the Senior Sunshine Tour title in the third edition of the Nelson Mandela Bay Classic at the Humewood Golf Club from May 10 to 12