



Gary Player
INVITATIONAL
PRESENTED BY
Coca-Cola

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Cricket great Pollock scores maiden win in Gary Player Invitational

(Zimbali Coastal Resort, South Africa) – Cricket great Shaun Pollock made a significant contribution to his already impressive trophy cabinet when he teamed up with businessman Wessel Witthuhn for a maiden victory in the prestigious Gary Player Invitational presented by Coca-Cola at the Zimbali golf course on Sunday.

The amateur duo claimed a runaway victory in the alliance competition of this charity pro-am, finishing the 36 holes on 40-under-par. Their nearest challengers were the team of former Springbok Breyton Paulse and businessman Ron Boon on 34-under.

Pollock and Witthuhn set the tone for their triumph with a score of 15-under in the windy Saturday conditions, and then added a score of 25-under in the far calmer conditions on the Sunday. They celebrated a double triumph as their professionals, Mark James and George Coetzee, won the betterball on a score of 19 under, with rounds of 64 and 61. Jaco van Zyl and Ian Woosnam took second place in the betterball on 15 under.

“I know my way around this course and it was great to play with the professionals, and also help Mr Player raise the money for charity. As professional sportsmen we have a great platform to help give something back,” said Pollock, who played as virtually a third professional in their fourball off his scratch handicap.

“I made five birdies and an eagle on Sunday, so it was nice to contribute,” he said.

Witthuhn was also delighted with his first victory in this event. “Everybody asked if I was nervous playing with three such good golfers,” said the 14 handicap. “But the nature of this tournament is that the people who play here are by their own nature also caring individuals who have time for an amateur like me.”

Professional Coetzee couldn’t have asked for a more timeous victory as he prepares for a big summer on the Sunshine Tour in South Africa over the next two weeks.

“I’ve got two big tournaments coming so this is good mental practice for me,” he said.

Coetzee was also full of praise for the work done by this event to raise money for disadvantaged children in South Africa.

“It’s been such a good tournament. What Gary Player does for us as golfers, and then also for charity and South Africa as a whole, is amazing. It’s an honour to be part of something like this. Obviously I hope that one day I can achieve some of the success he did on the golf course, but more importantly that I can achieve as much as he has off the course as well.”

Player thanked all the participants for their support. “I’ve never seen scoring in this event like we had at Zimbali this year. The course was fantastic. And Coca-Cola and all our sponsors have been amazing in their support of our drive to make a difference.”



Final Scores

Alliance

- 40 Wessel Witthuhn, Shaun Pollock.
- 34 Ron Boon, Breyton Paulse.
- 30 Alan Pearson, Thomas Msengana.
- 28 Greg Whittaker, Kapil Dev.
- 24 Alex Maditsi, Craig Joubert.
- 23 Dieter Schönfeld, Lucas Radebe.
- 21 Claudia Schönfeld, Paul Collingwood.
- 15 Kevin McNally, Pierre Spies.

Betterball

- 19 64 61 George Coetzee, Mark James.
- 15 64 65 Jaco van Zyl, Ian Woosnam.
- 13 67 64 Peter Hanson, Sally Little; 68 63 Carly Booth, David Russell.
- 10 69 65 Jesper Parnevik, Roger Wessels.
- 9 70 65 Diana Luna, Tony Johnstone.
- 8 69 67 Lee-Anne Pace, Vincent Tshabalala.
- 7 69 68 James Kamte, Gary Player.

- ENDS -

PHOTO CAPTION:

George Coetzee, Mark James, Shaun Pollock and Wessel Witthuhn won the Fourball Alliance Team Competition in this year's Gary Player Invitational presented by Coca-Cola at par-72 Zimbali course at the Zimbali Coastal Resort in KwaZulu-Natal with a winning score of 40 under par.

For further information, please contact:

Marc Tudhope, Managing Director, Black Knight International

E: marc@garyplayer.co.za or T: +27 21 671 5159

Debra Barnes, Client Service Director, Black Knight International

E: debbie@garyplayer.co.za or T: +27 21 671 5159

Notes to the Editors:

About the Gary Player Invitational Global Series

The Gary Player Invitational Series, with events in the United Kingdom, United States, China and South Africa, is aimed at raising money for non-profit charitable organisations, whose mission is to provide quality education for disadvantaged and underprivileged children and strengthen impoverished communities plagued by disease and crime.

For over a decade, top professionals, all-star sportsmen, celebrities, and businessmen have come together for the annual Gary Player Invitationals in support of underprivileged children. For more information about our charity series, please visit www.garyplayerinvitational.com .

About Black Knight International

Black Knight International, the global holding company for all divisions of The Player Group, maintains a strong presence in North and South America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Gary Player's penchant for wearing black attire on the golf course, coupled with his competitive style of play and courteous demeanour, earned him the name, "The Black Knight." The recognizable Black Knight logo identifies all the companies of The Player Group, including the Gary Player®, Player® and Black Knight® brands.

For Media Enquiries, please contact:

Michael Vlismas Media

Michael Vlismas

E: michaelv@iafrica.com or T: +27 72 242 8399

Lali Stander

E: media1@vlismasmedia.co.za or T: +27 82 990 7150

Splash PR

Kerry Seymour

E: kerry@splashpr.co.za or T: +27 21 2790 9911 / +27 82 926 47

