

# The Victorian



26 February 2026  
6th Edition

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Book your Round Here

*Victoria Country Club*  
**Wednesday**  
SCHOOL

4 March 2026

**THIRSTI™**

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*Victoria Country  
Club*



Book your Round Here

*Victoria Country  
Club*  
**Wednesday**  
SCHOOL

4 March 2026

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It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Gordon, my husband and best friend for 62 years.

We invite you to celebrate his life on Friday, 27 February 2026 at 2.00 pm. All Saints Church, 73 Montgomery Drive, Athlone, Pietermaritzburg. For those that can't attend in person, a link will be sent out before the service.

We invite those who knew Gordon to join us as we honour and remember him.

**In Loving Memory of**  
*Gordon North*  
**HONORARY LIFE MEMBER**

Victoria Country Club mourns the passing of Gordon North, a true gentleman and devoted supporter of our Club.

As an Honorary Life Member, Gordon gave generously of his time, energy, and heart to VCC. His contributions over the years helped shape the spirit and strength of our community. He will be remembered for his unwavering dedication, his kindness, and the warm smile that so often greeted us.

Our thoughts and deepest condolences are with his family and loved ones.

*Forever part of the VCC story*



*Victoria Country Club*

—ESTABLISHED IN 1859—

# GOLF NEWS

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## A Beautiful Farewell and a New Beginning



Tuesday, 24 February

Some days on the golfing calendar carry a little more meaning — and this Tuesday, was one of them.

The *Captain's Cup* marked the final round played under the captaincy of Kelly Bekker, closing off two memorable years of leadership. The day was filled with spirited golf, shared laughter, and the kind of camaraderie that defines Victoria Country Club Ladies' Golf.

Following the round, the ladies gathered for their *Annual General Meeting* — a beautifully attended afternoon of reflection and celebration. In a heartfelt address, Kelly spoke about the journey of the past two years: the growth of the section, the friendships strengthened, and the unwavering support of her committee and fellow golfers. Her gratitude was sincere, her pride unmistakable.

But what truly sets this group apart goes far beyond the fairways.

Under Kelly's leadership, the ladies continued to show that while golf may traditionally be seen as a men's sport, the warmth, compassion and strength of women shine brightly within it. This year alone, the Ladies' section raised over R10 000 for breast cancer awareness at Greys Hospital — a powerful reminder that their impact extends well beyond competition.

It is this blend of sport and sisterhood, competitiveness and compassion, that makes the VCC Ladies so special.

As Kelly officially handed over the captaincy to Sue Tatham, who will lead for the next two years, the room was filled with applause and anticipation. One era concluded with gratitude; another begins with excitement and strong foundations.

Victoria Country Club Ladies' Golf is not just about trophies and titles. It is about community, generosity, resilience and heart.

Here's to the close of a meaningful chapter — and to the bright, purposeful journey ahead.



# GOLF NEWS

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## A Beautiful Farewell and *a New Beginning*



# GOLF NEWS

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## the Gowrie Challenge 2026

### A Draw Worth Celebrating

21 February 2026



Sixteen Victoria Country Club members packed their golf bags (and just a little competitive fire) and headed up to Nottingham Road for the inaugural Gowrie Challenge 2026 — a friendly showdown against Gowrie Farms that proved one thing very clearly: when two premium clubs meet, nobody gives an inch... but everyone leaves smiling.

Hosted at the beautiful Gowrie Farms, the format was a lively mix of four-ball alliance and match play — the perfect recipe for strategy, teamwork, and the occasional “that was definitely your putt” moment. After a day of quality golf, great shots, and just enough friendly chirping to keep things interesting, the final score settled at a perfectly balanced 4–4 draw. And honestly? That felt just right.

It was competitive. It was spirited. It was played in exactly the way golf should be — with respect, good humour, and a shared appreciation for the game. Both Victoria Country Club and Gowrie Farms showcased why they are regarded as premier golfing destinations in the region.

Beyond the fairways, the day served as something equally important: connection. The Challenge wasn't just about scorecards; it was about strengthening relationships, building camaraderie between clubs, and growing the game of golf across the KZN Midlands. New friendships were formed, stories were exchanged, and future fixtures were no doubt quietly being negotiated over refreshments.

A special thank you goes to Yes Please Shuttle Services for getting our team there and back safely and seamlessly — no missed tee times, no GPS dramas, just smooth sailing all the way.

If this inaugural Challenge is anything to go by, this friendly rivalry is set to become a much-anticipated fixture on both calendars. Competitive enough to matter. Friendly enough to feel like family.

**A draw on paper. A win for Midlands golf.**



# GOLF NEWS

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## the KZN CLOSED CHAMPS 2026

### KZN Closed Championships Thrill at VCC

The 2026 KZN Closed Championships landed at Victoria Country Club on 21 February, bringing a remarkable field of 54 golfers to compete over three demanding rounds of golf — 18 holes on Saturday and 36 holes on Sunday in true championship style.

Despite overnight rain on Saturday, the course stood up beautifully. Members of the KZN Golf Union — including Tournament Administrator Mr Colin Burger — praised Victoria's course setup and condition, commending our greens, fairways and overall presentation as being in pristine condition throughout the weekend. Special recognition was given to Course Superintendent Kriben Gounder and the maintenance team for their dedication to championship standards under challenging conditions.

The hospitality and warm welcome provided by VCC also earned enthusiastic thanks from the Union and participants alike.

When the dust settled after 54 holes, it was *Harry Clayton* of Simbithi Country Club who emerged as 2026 KZN Closed Champion. Harry is one of KwaZulu-Natal's rising young talents, previously having joined the province's High Performance Programme at a young age and enjoying success in junior competition, including standout performances in junior championships.

Over the weekend, players faced a true test of skill and endurance, navigating a beautifully prepared Victoria Country Club course that challenged strategy as much as shot-making. For many, this was not just a competition, but a celebration of amateur golf at its best in our province.

Congratulations to Harry on a superb victory, and sincere thanks to the KZN Golf Union and all participants for making the 2026 KZN Closed Championships a memorable and successful event at Victoria Country Club.



 Simbithi  
Country Club

# GOLF NEWS

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**Good Luck  
you got  
this!**

2026/03/01

Cotswold Downs  
Golf Estate

COTA

Victoria Country  
Club

VCC A

Amanzimtoti

07:28



2026/03/29

Victoria Country  
Club

VCC AL

Maidstone Golf  
Club

MAID AL

Central Durban  
Golf Club

07:56

**Tour**

**SNIPPETS**



TEAM ROUND 4 LEADERBOARD		
1	RIPPER GC	-55
2	LEBION XIII	-53
3	VACES GC	-52
4	SOUTHERN GUARDS GC	-49
5	TORQUE GC	-48
	RANBEBOATS GC	-48
7	SMASH GC	-41
8	KOREAN GC	-28
9	CLEEK'S GC	-27
10	CRUSHERS GC	-25
11	HUFFLYERS GC	-22
12	FIREBALLS GC	-19
13	MAJESTICKS GC	-10



SUPER EIGHT V WEST INDIES | 26 FEB | 11:30 SAST

**NEXT  
MATCH**

*Reggie's Bar*



# GOLF NEWS



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**HANDICAPS  
NETWORK  
AFRICA**

## **UPDATE: NEW APP ENHANCEMENTS & EASY TUTORIALS**

24 February 2026

### **Dear Golfer**

Over the past week, we have been closely monitoring your feedback. We want you to know that we are listening, and we have been working around the clock with our partners at DotGolf to tailor the app experience specifically for our golfers.

Based on your input, we have already implemented several User Interface (UI) changes to make the system more intuitive and user-friendly.

### **ACTION REQUIRED: Update Your App**

To see these improvements and ensure the system functions correctly, it is essential that you are running the latest version of the HNA Handicaps App.

Please go to the Apple App Store or Google Play Store now, search for HNA Handicaps and click "Update". If you do not see an update and instead see "Open" then you are already running the latest version.

### **Quick Guide: How to Use the New Features**

#### **1. How to Open a Round**

Clubs should usually do this for you automatically when you pay for a round using their third-party management software. However, we are aware that at certain clubs, software suppliers had decided to wait until after we had launched to finalise their integrations which we believe is imminent.

In the case that you need to open your own round:

1. Select "Scores" (Golf ball) icon on the lower menu bar.
2. Tap the "+ Create scorecard" option under the "Scorecards" section.
3. Follow the screens to confirm your score intention, then select the Course and the Tee you are playing from.
4. Click the "Create" button.

You may now continue with hole-by-hole scoring (including entering stats like Fairways Hit and Number of Putts) or you can select the "Cancel" button on the top left. This will keep the round "Open" so you can enter your score at a later stage.

[Click here for the full Step-by-Step Tutorial](#)

#### **2. How to Enter a Score**

You have three ways to submit your scores:

Option A: Hole-by-Hole with Statistics (Live Scorecard)

Once your round is open (either by your club or as described above), tap on the round under Scorecards - included under "Scores" (golf ball icon) in the bottom menu and select "Start Round". The first hole will appear to enter your score for the first hole. Swipe left as you progress through the round loading your hole by hole scores. You can also toggle to the Stats tab (on the upper middle of the screen) should you wish to include details such as number of putts or fairways hit.



## Option B: Adjusted Gross Score (Post-Round)

If you tapped "Cancel" after opening a round or your club has already opened a round on your behalf:

- Tap the "More" tab (Far right of the bottom menu bar).
- Select "Enter a Score" from the menu
- Check the fields are correct as you scroll down. The "Mode:" field has now been default set to "Adjusted Gross" hence you can simply scroll to the bottom and enter your total before clicking 'save scorecard'. Note you can select the drop down to change to hole-by-hole scoring.

Option C: Historical Rounds (Not previously opened)

- Select "More" on the bottom menu (far right)
- Select "Enter a Score" from the drop down menu and choose the Date.
- Select Course and Tee, then choose "Adjusted Gross" or "Hole by Hole" and then enter your score/s below.

[Click here for the full Score Entry Tutorial](#)

## 3. How to Lookup a Golfer or Friend

To lookup another handicapped Golfer:

1. Tap the 'Golfer' icon on the lower menu and then you can search by Golfer Name. Note: You can also use the 'search in' filter to help narrow searches for example by selecting the "Away Clubs" or "My Clubs" filter in the dropdown.

2. The Golfers section on the home tab allows you to easily follow your selected friends and other golfers that you have chosen to follow. You can view their current Handicap Index and by selecting them you can view their historical scores,

3. Add more friends to the friends section by selecting View All and then Add Golfer followed by Add Friend. This will send them a friend request notification which they will need to accept first. Alternately you can choose Follow golfers which does not notify them however you will only be able to leave comments on friends scores.

## Understanding Our Scoring System

Unlike most other countries, we and the USA allow golfers to enter all valid scores into the system without mandatory verification from a scorer. This system relies on Peer Review and the oversight of your Club Handicap Committee to maintain the integrity of the golfers Handicap Index

A Note on Adjusted Gross vs. Hole-by-Hole:

While most countries now strictly require hole-by-hole scores, we still allow for Adjusted Gross entries. Please be aware that the World Handicap System Committee is likely to phase out this relaxation in the future.

The new App is built to encourage Hole-by-Hole scoring and we are sure you will find it relatively simple and quick to add hole by hole scores This also allows you to capture valuable playing statistics. However, based on your feedback, we have adjusted the UI to ensure that entering an Adjusted Gross score remains a quick and easy option for now (described in Option B + C above).

## Coming Soon to Your App

We are continuously refining the app to include features specifically requested by our local golfers:

- Competition Allowances: We are adding these calculations so you can see your Playing Handicap (for various competition formats) directly on the App, rather than relying solely on club systems.
- No Return (N/R) Option: We will soon add a dedicated N/R button. Please note that, as in the past, these will be reported to your club for verification to ensure handicap integrity.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we build a world-class handicap system that truly serves the South African golfing community. *Swing easy, The HNA Team, [www.handicaps.co.za](http://www.handicaps.co.za)*

# FROM THE FAIRWAYS

## COURSE & GREENS

# Weather or Whether? THAT IS THE QUESTION.

At Victoria Country Club lately, it's been less "four seasons in a year" and more "four seasons in a day." One minute we're basking in sunshine, the next we're dodging rain showers and humidity thick enough to chew.

And whether we like it or not... the weather decides how your course plays.

### **Sunshine vs. Shade**

Grass is a living thing. It reacts. Strong sun encourages growth but also stresses the plant. Extended heat means the turf needs protection — which sometimes means raising mowing heights ever so slightly. If your greens are sitting at 3mm instead of 2mm, it's not random — it's protection. Cutting too low during heat stress can weaken the plant, slow recovery, and ultimately affect surface quality.

### **Rain Changes Everything**

After heavy rainfall, greens may feel softer underfoot and putts won't run quite as quickly. The soil profile holds moisture, the turf absorbs it, and the ball simply doesn't release the same way. Fairways may lose a little rollout. Drives don't bounce and chase — they plug and sit politely. Then give us a few dry, windy days and suddenly the course firms up. Putts get quicker. Approach shots release more. The same green can feel completely different within 48 hours.

### **Humidity & Growth Spurts**

Warm, wet conditions are like an energy drink for grass. Growth rates spike. That means more mowing, more monitoring, and sometimes slightly higher heights of cut to maintain plant health. The difference between 2mm and 3mm sounds tiny — but in turf management, it's enormous.

### **Why It Matters**

Our course team doesn't just cut grass — they manage a living surface that responds daily to temperature, rainfall, wind and sunlight. Every decision — from mowing height to rolling frequency — is influenced by what the sky is doing.

So next time your putt runs a touch slower... or a drive doesn't get that expected bounce... ask yourself: ***Is it your swing? Or is it the weather?***

Chances are, it's a little bit of both.

And that's the beauty of outdoor golf — no two days at Victoria Country Club are ever exactly the same.

# GOLF NEWS

# CLUB CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Ladies Golf 	4 Wednesday School Rhode Island 4 BBBS	5	6  15h00: Chicken Run	7 TakeAlot.com Monthly Mug & 4 BA 1st Round Mengi PQ 
8  ROYAL DURBAN GC	9	10 Ladies Golf 	11 Wednesday School Acushnet 4 BBBS <i>Titleist</i>	12	13	14 Valentine's Day 4 BA 
15 PM: Family Par 3 	16	17 Ladies Golf 	18 Wednesday School Lexus Uhmilanga 4 BA SMG LEXUS	19	20	21 <b>GOWRIE</b> <i>Challenge</i> 2026 KZN CLOSED
22 KZN CLOSED	23	24 Ladies Golf 	25 Wednesday School 4 BA 	26	27  Chicken Run	28 Club Competition: 4 BBS

## MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 League 	2	3 Ladies Golf 	4 Wednesday School 	5	6  Chicken Run	7 Takealot.com Monthly Mug & 4 BA 2nd Round Mengi PQ
8	9	10 	11 Wednesday School 	12	13	14 Tim Jackson Memorial Trophy 4 Ball Alliance
15 Autumn Treatment	16 Autumn Treatment	17 Autumn Treatment 	18 Wednesday School SMG LEXUS	19	20	21 <b>Human Rights Day</b>
22	23	24 	25 Wednesday School 	26 COMMUNITY CHES 	27 School Holidays	28 School Holidays
29 League  Allerton League	30 School Holidays	31 Ladies Golf 				

# RESULTS



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**ASAD AMEEN & Co.**

Attorneys, Notaries, Conveyancers

## LADIES RESULTS

### Tuesday 24 February: CAPTAIN'S CUP - Betterball

1<sup>st</sup> : Simone Raymand, Bev Stewart - 38 Points

2<sup>nd</sup> : Annel Niebuhr, Brenda Maher - 37 oco

3<sup>rd</sup> : Marion Todd, Sally White - 37



## WEDNESDAY SCHOOL

### 25 February : 4B ALLIANCE - 2 Scores to Count

1<sup>st</sup>: Colin Everson, Chris Hadley Grave, Gavin Mason, Brian Parsonage - 90 Points

2<sup>nd</sup>: Wendy Carruthers, Bev Antonic, Tony Antonic, Mark Coetzee - 87

3<sup>rd</sup>: Lawrence Hoatson, Rob Morrison, Malcolm Anderson, Dave Frankish - 83





# RAQUET NEWS

## SQUASH SUMMER LEAGUE - STILL HEATING UP

Another week rolls around in the Summer League, and while we may not have every scorecard and dramatic match point collapse documented (we're looking at you, usual suspects 😏), one thing is certain — the intensity on court hasn't dipped.

With the league table tightening and pressure mounting, every game now carries weight. The rallies are longer, the boasts are bolder, and the debates about whether that ball was actually out are becoming increasingly theatrical. Standard league behaviour, really.

Daniel's Ducks continue to set the pace at the top, showing consistency across the board. That said, the chasing pack is lurking — and with byes still to play and fixtures to shuffle the standings, nothing is guaranteed. In this league, positions can change faster than a tight fifth-game tiebreak.

What makes this year's Summer League particularly special is the balance across teams. There are no easy matches. Every player, from seasoned campaigners to rising young stars, is contributing valuable points. Depth is proving to be the difference-maker.

And of course, no league night would be complete without the equally competitive "staying power points" in the pub afterwards. Hydration strategies vary — some more effective than others — but the camaraderie remains undefeated.

As we head into the next round of fixtures, expect more twists, more five-set thrillers, and possibly one or two heroic comebacks.

*See you courtside next week.*



**Click on the graphic above if you  
are looking for the  
Summer League Results**

THE  
CLUBHOUSE  
TABLE

SerVico



**ANY 2  
PIZZAS FOR  
R199**

# THE CLUBHOUSE TABLE

**Exciting News**  
**Egret Explorers is Open!**



Big news for our VCC families... Egret Explorers is officially open!

Our brand-new Kids Play Area has been created with imagination, adventure and just the right amount of happy chaos in mind. It's a bright, safe and joyful space where little explorers can play, discover and make new friends — while you sit back, sip something delicious and actually finish a conversation. (Yes, uninterrupted!)

Whether you're joining us for a relaxed family dinner, a quick catch-up with friends or a weekend treat, the kids now have a space that's completely their own. Think laughter, creativity and busy little hands — all just a few steps away from your table.

## Play Area Opening Hours:

- Fridays: 3:00 PM – 8:30 PM
- Saturdays & Sundays: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

So bring the family. Stay a little longer. Order that extra coffee.

At VCC, great dining now comes with even happier little smiles. ♥



# MEET OUR TEAM

*Pride in Every Detail*

TWO STORIES  
TWO DEPARTMENTS  
ONE CULTURE

## MEET OUR CHILD MINDER – NOLWAZI

There's something incredibly special about someone who genuinely loves working with children — and that's exactly what you'll find in Nolwazi.

Nolwazi has completed her Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications in Early Childhood Development and is already working towards her Level 4. I love that about her — she's not just here to “do the job,” she's here to grow, learn and keep getting better for the little ones in her care.



She lights up around children. Watching them discover something new, reach a milestone, or simply giggle over the smallest thing is what makes her day. And honestly, that kind of energy is exactly what we want around our families.

With her nurturing spirit, calm presence and genuine passion, Nolwazi is going to make our children's space feel safe, happy and full of life.

Please do give her a warm VCC welcome when you see her — she truly deserves it.



# MEET OUR TEAM

*Pride in Every Detail*

TWO STORIES  
TWO DEPARTMENTS  
ONE CULTURE



## WORKSHOP ASSISTANT MECHANIC – CYRIL MALEVU

At 42 years old, **Cyril Malevu** is one of the steady hands working quietly behind the scenes at Victoria Country Club. For the past five years, he has served as our Workshop Assistant Mechanic, playing a crucial role in keeping the club's machinery in top working order — from workshop equipment to course machinery and irrigation systems. If it has an engine, a pump, or needs a bit of grease and focus, Cyril is likely the man behind it.

His work may not always be visible to members, but its impact is felt every single day. Well-maintained equipment means smoother fairways, healthier greens, and a course that performs as beautifully as it looks.

Outside of work, Cyril is a proud father to two daughters, aged 18 and 10. When he's not in the workshop, you'll likely find him watching soccer — a loyal supporter of the Orlando Pirates.

His favourite spot on the course? The picturesque 11th hole, with its dam and striking views — a reminder that even the man who keeps things running smoothly takes a moment to appreciate the beauty of where he works.

Quietly dependable, family-focused, and always ready to get his hands dirty — Cyril is an essential part of the VCC team.





# Victoria Country Club

-ESTABLISHED IN 1859-

## UNTIL WE MEET AT THE CLUBHOUSE

*Victoria Country Club is more than a destination — it's a place to belong. Whether you're here for a round of golf, a great meal, or familiar faces, we look forward to welcoming you again soon.*



 <p><i>Victoria Country Club</i> -ESTABLISHED IN 1859-</p>	<p>+27 33 347 1394</p>
<p><a href="http://www.victoria.co.za">www.victoria.co.za</a></p>	<p><a href="mailto:marketing@victoria.co.za">marketing@victoria.co.za</a></p>

