

South African Blind Golf Association (SABGA)

ISPS Handa SA Open & SABGA Joburg Open – 2026

The 2026 ISPS Handa SA Blind Golf Open and SABGA Joburg Open were staged at the Royal Johannesburg & Kensington Golf Club in late June and early July respectively.



Royal Johannesburg & Kensington Golf Club boasts two 18-hole golf courses in a typical parkland layout.

The ISPS Handa SA Open was held on the East Course. The [East Course at Royal Johannesburg Golf Club](#) is a premier, championship-calibre parkland course renowned for its difficulty, featuring fast bent-grass undulating greens, mature trees, as well as many bunkers and strategic water hazards. Recently renovated to challenge elite players while remaining accessible to amateurs.

The Joburg Open followed after a rest day, staged on the West Course. While slightly less demanding than the East Course, the layout of the West Course potentially brings more water into play but has fewer bunkers. The greens are equally challenging.

The ISPS Handa SA Open

Thirteen players teed it up in perfect conditions for the SA Open. While there were no overseas players this year, most of the regular locals were present. There were first-time appearances from Kgosi Mmoloke and Walter Pienaar. It was good to see JB Matthews back after recent health challenges.

The B2 men's sight category was won by Garrett Slattery (a member at Stellenbosch Golf Club) guided by his son, Brendon. Johan Kotze (Waterkloof GC), guided by Jurie Maré, finished as runner-up. Garrett's gross of 196 for the 36 holes was the low gross in the Open (for the 16th time).



Johan presenting SA Open trophy to Garrett and medal to Brendon

The B3 category was won by Jontey Kotze (Waterkloof Golf Club) with a score of 204, ahead of Ernst Conradie (Glendower), guided by Etienne van Staden, and Leon Strydom (Waterkloof), guided by his wife Lizell.



Johan presenting trophy to Jontey

Garrett finished on top in the men's net (142), ahead of Jontey Kotze in 2nd place (150) and Ernst Conradie in 3rd (161).

Young teenager, Walter Pienaar (guided by his father Johan), travelled up from the Western Cape to play in his first SABGA event. After two solid rounds (finishing on a total of 52 points), he won the Development category. His home coach, Erich Kliem, who has guided Garrett in many events, is clearly doing something right.

The SABGA Joburg Open

A field of 12 players played in the Joburg Open. While conditions on the first day were again ideal, early morning temperatures on the final day were initially below zero and there was strong wind.

Only two shots separated the top three players after the first day. After a slow start on the last day, Garrett came through as the overall gross and net winner (197 gross, 70 points). Jontey Kotze finished as runner-up and the B3 winner (198 gross, 69 points), followed by Morné Els (201 gross, 66 points).

It is clear from the results that SABGA has some talented youngsters coming through, with Jontey in his early 20's and Walter just starting high school. The future looks bright for SA blind golf.

The Organisation & Sponsors

SABGA would like to express our sincere thanks to all of those people and organisations who provided financial and other support which made this event possible.

The financial support from the IBGA was pivotal to the success of this event, and we express our sincere thanks to the IBGA Board of Directors as well as to Dr Handa who has made international golf for the blind viable.

The Royal Johannesburg & Kensington Golf Club management, pro shop, catering, bar, caddies and others were fantastic and made us feel most welcome the whole week.

Thanks also go to the staff and management at City Lodge, Eastgate, who provided us with superb accommodation and breakfasts.

A huge thanks to the SA Organising Committee, led by Ernst Conradie once again. Thanks too to Tournament Director, Jurie Maré, for ensuring everything went off smoothly once again.

Thanks to all of those who participated in the event. We hope to see you all back in the not-too-distant future.

Last, but by no means least, the blind golfers thank our guides, that dedicated group of people without whom none of this would have been possible. Long may they continue!