

Power pros
THE PGA PROFESSIONALS

of South Africa had a chance to show off their skills when the regional legs of the PowerPlay PGA Championship kicked off recently.

Seen as the sport's answer to 20-over cricket, PowerPlay Golf is an exciting shortened version of the game and is taking off around the country as an alternative to those nasty five- to six-hour rounds.

The key to the game is that it does not stray too far from the basic principles of golf – instead PowerPlay Golf encourages aggressive and creative golf, rewarding players for net birdies over the nine holes.

Players must nominate before their tee shots whether they will play the hole as a PowerPlay hole (where they will get double points for a net birdie, but then play to a difficult pin position) or as normal hole. Each player must play three PowerPlays in the first eight holes, before deciding whether or not to play the last hole as a bonus PowerPlay.

For amateurs, choosing Powerplay holes is fairly easy, since one typically opts for holes where one gets a stroke, but for the pros who teed it up at Gardener Ross, De Zalze and Royal Durban it was all about playing to their strengths and making the eight-hole cut.

The leading players after eight holes were awarded points and were then able to play the last hole – with the choice of taking the PowerPlay or not.

From left to right, Neil Matthews, Wayne Bradley and Greg McDonald decide which line to take off the tee.



Paul Marks and Fanie Viljoen shared the spoils for the Gauteng leg while Barry Bothma claimed the KwaZulu-Natal tournament and Shaun Pridgeon (pictured above with Neil Matthews and Dennis Bruyns) edged out Wayne Bradley for the R5 800 first prize in the Cape event.

The leading professionals all advanced to the South African PowerPlay Finals, from which the winner will qualify for the International Finals and a chance to play for the £100 000 first prize.

Golf clubs around the country are starting to run PowerPlay golf days for amateurs, whether as corporate golf days or as an alternative to full-day golf tournaments, as the game is quicker and cheaper for the golfer to play.

For more information on this exciting new format of the game, log on to www.powerplay-golf.com or contact Neil Matthews on neil@powerplay-golf.com or 073 201 4178.

Shark spotted in Gauteng

SHORTLY BEFORE HIS heroics in the British Open at Royal Birkdale, Greg Norman popped in to check on the progress of his first Joburg golf course, Eye of Africa.

The aim of his third visit to Eye of Africa was to review and check up that the construction activity of the golf course was in accordance with his vision and expectations. During the visit Norman commented that he was satisfied with the progress of construction and that "this strategically planned examination of the course allows me to make subtle changes to ensure the course has the right feel and playability".

Construction of the golf course has progressed substantially since Norman's visit in December last year with shaping completed on all 18 holes, irrigation and drainage well underway and four holes already grassed.

Norman commented: "On the 17th hole, we decided to work around a natural outcrop so as not to disturb the environment. The outcrop is in the middle of the second landing area of this par five, which adds more strategy to tee-shot placements.

"The fine tuning will guarantee a memorable round of golf for any avid player," he concluded.

For more on Eye of Africa, log onto www.eyeofafrica.co.za.



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