

Dear Southern Cape Golf Union and Golf Committee

I want to thank the Southern Cape Golf Union for their support of the SADGA (South African Disabled Golf Association) and the First Swing Program. Lack of National sponsorship has put the program at risk but thankfully we can continue the program with the help of the Southern Cape Unions support.

I coach mainly at the Carpe Diem School as well as coaching for one adult, Morne Els, who is a Blind golfer with only 6 % sight. I coach Morne at Kingswood Golf Course. He recently took part in the World Blind Championships and came Overall Net 2nd. In the Italian Open, Morne finished 12th.

Carpe Diem School

At the School I have two groups, namely my **“A” Group** , who are 8 Physically Disabled children. This group has my best players and there are about 6 of them that I have taken to the Mashie Golf Course to play with a cart. They also go with me to Kingswood to do on course practice.



From Left: Dillion Van Hansen, Ricardo De Wet, John Lee De Boer, and Rowaan Stroebel

The **“B” Group** is severely disabled and these groups consist of about 9 golfers. In this group I have 4 children that are in wheel chairs .Two girls also form part of this Group. Due to the severity of their disability, they only do sessions at the school.



From Left: Keanu Harmse, Olotando, Sipho Campher, Simpiwe Solani, Ricardu De wet

In total I have about between **17 and 20** Kids that participate from the school. At times I would also allow the children with learning and neurological problems join in the sessions to also try golf and also help with the activities that we do as we do not like to exclude any children from the school who show passion for golf. We try not exclude children who do not medically classify when they are in a disabled school. We do however ensure that 80% of the children in the golf session are medically classified to join SADGA.



We have a putt putt Course at the school so we use this for Putting at the school. I also do pitching and chipping sessions at the school. Part of this would also involve ball skills and fun activities to make the sessions interesting and also improve on hand Eye coordination as well as balance.

We would also do Swing sessions where I would let the kids hit balls on the school field. I will try to apply general basics where possible and to adapt to their disability making it possible to swing the club.



From left: Dillion Van Hansen, Ricardu De Wet, John Lee De Boer, and Roewaan Stroebe

The other on course session will take place at Kingswood and there we will do Putting and Chipping around the green. I also like to have them compete against each other and we do various competition being Putting, Chipping and pitching from as far away as 40 meters.



From Left: John Lee De Boer, Dillion van Hansen, Marcus De Nil

One of the Highlights for the kids is to go to the annual Disabled interschool's Challenge that takes place towards the end of October at the King David Mowbray Golf Club. They get to participate against other Disabled kids and they also get to experience Cape Town.



Morne Els

I've spent the last 3-4 Months preparing Morne for the Sa Disabled Open and ultimately for him representing SA in Italy. He was part of the Sa Blind team that went to the World blind event and also the Italian Blind Open. Morne did very well in the net division and was overall runner up.



Morne Receiving his Prize at the World Blind Championship for runner up in the C division Nett.

In our coaching Sessions I do mainly Driving range and also we have done short game work where I help him with Putting, chipping and Pitching. We have also had a 9 Hole playing lesson where I identified key areas where I feel he needed to improve. My feel and feedback on this was he can improve his pitching inside 50 meters.



In Closing, I would like to express that we really make a difference in the lives of these Disabled Golfers and we really give them something to look forward to on an ongoing basis. They might not become Professional players but they are all champions in their own way.

Kind Regards
Carlo Kok