



SOD OFF: Gary Player calling a spade a spade at the opening ceremony this week. PICTURE: PURI DEVJEE

Player in town to launch his new course in Zimbali

GARY Player was in town this week to turn the sod on his brand new signature design at the Zimbali Lakes course.

And what a fantastic venue this is going to be for the golf lovers in this part of the world. It's the first Gary Player designed course in KwaZulu-Natal and the owners IFA Hotels and resorts are excited about their new 18-hole venue which is expected to be ready within the next two years.

Player has not designed many golf venues in South Africa but the few he has have been outstanding – Leopard Creek, Gary Player Country Club and The Lost City and The Links are just a few. And three of them are in the Top 10 in South Africa. The Zimbali Lakes, when completed, is likely to be up there with the rest of his signature designs.

Player said: "This is going to be special – a design that has everything in it. We have thought about all aspects of nature – the water, the wetlands, preserving the coastal belt etc. I know how much pollution there is around the world and I know how much top soil is wasted when it pours with rain. We have taken all this into account in the design.

There will be rivers flowing through the course from the huge dam that will be built very high up on the hills and there will be lakes around the place as well."

The 18-hole course will not be very long – just under 7 000 metres and there will be four tees to choose from.

And there will be an academy from which Player hopes he will be able to unearth a South African Tiger Woods.

"Tiger is an icon and people talk of him, want to emulate him and be like him where ever I go in the world. How wonderful would it be if we, through our hard work here at the academy, can one day produce a Tiger of our own?"

The golf course will be user-friendly – the public will be free to use it and we are also considering membership for those who do not own property on the Zimbali Lakes Estate. And we

Iqbal Khan



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are looking at it at a reasonable rate as well as we want to encourage people coming out here."

Player has designed over 300 golf courses in 35 countries and he believes the Zimbali Lakes will be up there with the very best he has designed.

Papwa Memorial

THE Papwa Sewgolum Golf Academy will host the Papwa Memorial at Windsor Park on Sunday.

As South Africa celebrates the 150 years of the arrival of people of Indian origin to this country, the tournament will commemorate Papwa Sewgolum winning the Dutch Open 50 years ago for the second time in Holland.

To participate in the tournament it will cost R150 per player which will include green fees, competition fee and dinner.

Sponsors are invited to showcase their products with costs ranging from as little as R1 000 to R3 000 (inclusive of a four ball).

All proceeds from the tournament will be used to fund the Papwa Sewgolum Golf Academy. The objective of the Academy is to be able to assist disadvantaged, young aspiring golfers to pursue the sport to become playing professionals.

For more information on the event, please contact: Rajen Sewgolum on 084-4533389 or on e-mail: papwagolf@telkomsa.net

Golf Day

THE Friends in Education, an NGO based in Sydenham which partners Barnsley Football Club, will hold a fund raising Golf Day at Royal Durban on January 28. The competition is fourball alliance with two scores to count.

The funds raised will assist in sending a group of young players – under-16s – to the United States for an international tournament and expose the youngsters to educational opportunities at the Wright State University in Ohio.

The cost of a fourball is R2 000 which includes a goodie bag, prize-giving dinner and a host of terrific prizes.

If you wish to participate, sponsor prizes or be involved in buying tee box space contact Dawn Haddon at 083 650 8967 or Renee Richards at 072 471 1322.

Durban Golf Club

THE season ending Wardens tournament will be played at the Papwa Sewgolum Golf Course on December 11-12. Entries are being taken at the moment. Members are urged to contact the secretary to book for the event. Entries close this weekend. For more details contact Durban Golf Club at 031 262 7130.

Competition

THIS month The Daily News and The Pro Shop are giving away another prize in their Par for the Course December competition.

To win answer this simple question: How many times did Papwa Sewgolum win the Dutch Open?

Fax your answers to The Daily News/The Pro Shop December competition to 031 308 2359 or e-mail: iqbal.khan@inl.co.za by 31 December.

The November winner of The Daily News/The Pro Shop competition was Joe Hariparsad. The answer to November's question was: Nashua Masters – Wild Coast Country Club.

