



#### TOURNAMENT DATE

31 January to 3 February 2008

#### TOURNAMENT VENUE

Wild Coast Sun Country Club, near Port Edward

#### DEFENDING CHAMPION

Jean Hugo

#### PRIZE MONEY

**PURSE:** R1.2-million

**WINNERS' SHARE:** R190,200

#### FIELD

144 Professionals

#### TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The competition will be decided over 72 holes Strokeplay. All contestants participate in the first two rounds. On conclusion of the second round there will be a cut to 65<sup>th</sup> placed professional and those tying. In the event of a tie for first place, there will be a sudden death playoff on holes to be determined by the Tournament Director.

#### TELEVISION TIMES

There will be a short insert on **SuperGolf** on Wednesday, 6 February at 19h30, repeated on Thursday, 7 February at 21h30, as well as in the **Sunshine Tour Monthly** at the end of the month (for further details, please view [www.sunshinetour.com](http://www.sunshinetour.com)). Please note that all times televised are subject to change.

#### **A one-hour highlights package of the 2008 Nashua Masters will be flighted after the event:**

8 February 2008 at 19h30 on SuperSport 1

9 February 2008 at 04h00 on SuperSport 1

11 February 2008 at 07h00 on SuperSport 1/M-Net

12 February 2008 at 12h00 on SuperSport 1

13 February 2008 at 13h00 on SuperSport 1

14 February 2008 at 16h30 on SuperSport 1

16 February 2008 at 01h00 on SuperSport 1

#### TICKET PRIZES

Entry is free to the public

#### OFFICIAL WEBSITE

<http://www.sunshinetour.com>

**PAST CHAMPIONS**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>WINNER</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>WINNING TOTAL</b>
1960	Gary Player	Houghton	266
1961	Denis Hutchinson	Bloemfontein	276
1962	Denis Hutchinson	Houghton	280
1963	Bruce Keyter	Mowbray	291
1964	Gary Player	Houghton	285
1965	Denis Hutchinson	Royal Durban	281
1966	Cedric Amm	Zwartkops	276
1967	Gary Player	Houghton	279
1968	Allan Henning	Houghton	278
1969	Bobby Cole	Mowbray	280
1970	Joh Fourie (AMA)	Kensington	266
1971	Gary Player	Kensington	269
1972	Gary Player	Kensington	267
1973	Gary Player	Kensington	268
1974	Gary Player	Kensington	270
1975	John Fourie (54-holes)	Kensington	199
1976	Gary Player	Kensington	268
1977	Gary Player	Kensington	270
1978	Dale Hayes	Milnerton	275
1979	Gary Player	Milnerton	270
1980	<b>NOT PLAYED</b>		
1981	Nick Price	Milnerton	281
1982	Mark McNulty	Milnerton	275
1983	<b>NOT PLAYED</b>		
1984	Tony Johnstone	Milnerton	277
1985	Mark McNulty	Milnerton	278
1986	Mark McNulty	Stellenbosch	270
1987	David Frost	Stellenbosch	273
1988	John Bland	Stellenbosch	275
1990 JAN	Hugh Baiocchi	Stellenbosch	281
1990	Fulton Allem	Stellenbosch	276
1991	<b>NOT PLAYED</b>		
1992	Ernie Els	Dainfern	275
1993	Tony Johnstone	Wingate	275
1994	Chris Davison	Lost City	281
1995	Scott Dunlap	Lost City	279
1996	Wayne Westner	San Lameer	280
1997	Mark McNulty	San Lameer	276
1998	<b>NOT PLAYED</b>		
1999	Desvonde Botes	Oppenheimer Park	269
2001	Mark McNulty	Wild Coast Sun	274
2002 FEB	Justin Rose	Wild Coast Sun	265
2002 NOV	Hennie Otto	Wild Coast Sun	279
2003	<b>NOT PLAYED</b>		
2004	Andrew McLardy	Wild Coast Sun	264
2005	Richard Sterne	Wild Coast Sun	269
2006	Warren Abery	Wild Coast Sun	265
2007	Jean Hugo	Wild Coast Sun	269

## ABOUT THE WILD COAST SUN COUNTRY CLUB AND RESORT

The Wild Coast Sun, set on one of the most unspoiled beaches in southern Africa, is a resort that attracts visitors for both its natural beauty and its other attractions. The resort is situated just within the Eastern Cape, one kilometer over the border from Kwazulu Natal.

The resort is set on 750 hectares of natural bush between the Umtamvuna and Mzamba rivers overlooking the Indian Ocean.

With 59 large bunkers guarding manicured lawns, the hole layouts and scenery border on the fantastic. What's more, when the coast breeze gets up, so does your score! However, if your ball lands in the dam below the Clubhouse, you'll hear the ringing of a ship's brass bell from the Clubhouse Balcony.

There are 6 par threes but two of these don't have fairways from tee to green! Just lined gorges and on the 13th, a waterfall.

And for drama nothing can match the outstanding par 5, twelfth. Here the drive is hit from a high elevated tee to a fairway far below that snakes its way through a valley flanked by a dam and stream on the left with a natural hillock on the right. The more of the river you take on with your drive the easier the approach to the green - an excellent example of a risk and reward par 5.

Although the course is 5800m in length, the walk is more like eight kilometers, so be prepared to take up to 6 hours for your game. In keeping with modern business trends, the Wild Coast has boosted its fleet of carts to 60, with a few reserves.

The Eastern Cape and lower south coast areas offer both tourists and conference delegates a variety of attractions and activities – from magnificent walks along our unspoilt beaches to hikes in the more rugged regions, arts and craft markets, as well as deep sea fishing and scuba diving.

## WILD COAST SUN COUNTRY CLUB FAST FACTS

<b>PAR:</b>	70
<b>COURSE DESIGNER:</b>	Robert Trent Jones Jnr (only course RTJ Jnr designed in South Africa)
<b>COURSE OPENED:</b>	May 1993
<b>LENGTH:</b>	5,807m
<b>DIRECTOR OF GOLF:</b>	Fred Beaver
<b>GRASS:</b>	Greens – Paspallum Fairways – Cynodem and Kikuyu
<b>COURSE RECORD:</b>	Brett Liddle (2002 Wild Coast Sun Pro-Am) Titch Moore (Round 1 in the 2002 Nashua Masters) Des Terblanche (Round 1 in the 2001 Nashua Nedtel Cellular Masters)

### HOLES NAMES:

1. Charlie's Angel
2. Alberto's Albatross
3. Trent's Trouble
4. Postage Stamp
5. Wild Coast
6. Bent Wallet Bridge
7. Great Trek
8. Winston's Waterloo
9. Heywood's Hook
10. Matthew's Drive
11. Blackjack
12. Green Mamba
13. Waterfall
14. Forsythe's Saga
15. Homeward Bound
16. Fiddian's Green
17. Punto Banco
18. Taipan's Revenge

## HISTORY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN MASTERS

The South African Masters, one of the oldest and most famous tournaments on the South African professional circuit, returns to the Wild Coast for the eighth time this year.

The title sponsor Nashua has a long standing relationship with the Sunshine Tour and Sun International, specifically with the host venue, the Wild Coast Sun Country Club, having previously sponsored events such as the Nashua Skins and the Nashua Wild Coast Sun Challenge.



**10-time SA Masters winner, Gary Player**

The SA Masters ranks as one of the top three, alongside the South African Open and the SA PGA in terms of prestige and distinction, producing great champions over its long history. South Africa's Bobby Locke, Gary Player and Ernie Els are the only men to have won all three titles, known as The Triple Crown, in the same season.

In November to December 1979, Player claimed the PGA at the Wanderers, the Masters at Milnerton and the SA Open at Houghton in three successive weeks. This remarkable feat was emulated in early 1992 by Els, who accomplished his hat-trick of wins within the space of five weeks.

All the great golfers in South African professional history have won the Masters title at some stage of their careers, Player on no fewer than 10 occasions.

Other champions in the last 20 years have included Mark McNulty, Tony Johnstone, Fulton Allem, David Frost, John Bland, Hugh Baiocchi, 2007 European Tour Order of Merit winner, Justin Rose and world number 29 and the reigning Joburg Open champion, Richard Sterne.

The Masters has also travelled to more of this country's top courses than any other tournament on the calendar before it found its home at the Wild Coast Sun Country Club, including Milnerton, Kensington, San Lameer, Lost City, Dainfern, Stellenbosch, Wingate Park and Oppenheimer Park.

Now, for a record eighth time, the Wild Coast Sun Country Club – a popular stop on the Sunshine Tour – will host the 2008 Nashua Masters.

The first SA Masters was played in 1923 as the SA Professional Match Play Championship under the control of the old SA Golf Union, who for the sake of convenience, held it immediately before or after the SA Championships and at the same venue.

In those early years, brothers Sid and Jock Brews and Charles McIlvenny were the predominant winners, between them claiming the title 10 times in 12 championships.

In 1957, the South African Professional Golfers' Association took over the running of the tournament and it was renamed the Dunlop Masters. The Dunlop company had actually taken over the sponsorship in 1952 and it was chiefly through their generosity that it was possible to eventually run the tournament separately from the SA Championships.

The Dunlop Masters continued as a Match Play tournament – with a 36-hole final – up until 1959, when Gary Player beat Harold Henning 3 and 1 in the final at Houghton. From 1960 onwards it was a Strokeplay tournament.

Houghton was a regular venue for the SA Masters during the 1960's, but in 1970 it moved to Kensington where it stayed for seven years and eight tournaments (Player won six of them) before moving to Milnerton under a new sponsor in 1978.

The Western Cape hosted the SA Masters every December as part of the festive season scene right up until 1990, first at Milnerton and then at Stellenbosch in the Winelands. The tournament returned to Gauteng for the 1991-1992 season and remained inland until it moved to San Lameer Estate on the Kwazulu-Natal coast for two years.

In February 1998, Desvonde Botes won the title at Oppenheimer Park Golf Club in Welkom with a winning total of 19-under-par 269. No tournaments were held in 1998 or 2000 due to a lack of sponsorship.

The Masters tournament record of 266 was set at the very first Strokeplay tournament held in 1960. Gary player posted the record at Houghton where he beat Retief Waltman to win that year. Players' total of 266 was equalled 10 years later by John Fourie at Kensington, when he became the first and only amateur to win the Masters.

The best individual round in the SA Masters came at Welkom in 1999, set by Justin Hobday who shot an 11-under-par 61 in the first round, playing the front nine in 28.

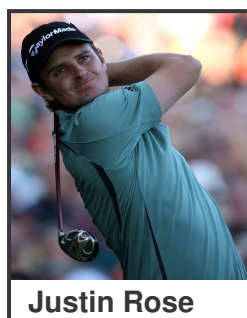
Mark McNulty's fourth SA Masters title in 2001 was a perfect tribute to Nashua, who took over the sponsorship that year and brought the tournament back to the Wild Coast Sun Country Club.

In 2002, the Nashua Masters became one of the most talked about events on the modern Sunshine Tour calendar.

In his debut on the Sunshine Tour, Englishman Justin Rose won the Dunhill Championship at Houghton and decided to stay in his country of birth and play the rest of the Summer Swing. His decision paid off with a second victory at the Nashua Masters.



**Mark McNulty**



**Justin Rose**

Rose beat South African Titch Moore, whose opening eight-under-par equalled the course record set by Brett Liddle in the late nineties, on the final hole with a birdie putt. Rose dedicated the victory to his ailing father, who died shortly after Rose returned home.

That same year, Hennie Otto stole the limelight when, having missed the cut with rounds of 70-74, proceeded to dump his clubs in the estuary just outside the Wild Coast Sun, swearing that he would be back to take revenge on the course.



**Hennie Otto**

Prophetic words or not, less than a year later, a determined Otto returned and his arrival was met with rain and sleet which beat down relentlessly on the course, which days before had been immaculate in waiting.

By day three, the fairways and greens resembled a battle scene from Braveheart, but Otto clawed and combated his way to a two-stroke victory. His scores, which 12 months earlier cost him to miss the cut, left him as the only player to finish in red numbers.



**Jean Hugo**

In 2006, Richard Sterne – already a European Tour winner after a stupendous victory at the Madrid Open – claimed his first Sunshine Tour title by beating Grant Muller and Titch Moore by one stroke with a final round 70 for a winning total of 11-under-par 269.

Last year, a determined Moore fought his way into contention again, but again denied – this time by Jean Hugo at the second hole of a sudden-death play-off at the 18<sup>th</sup>.

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