

No stopping Southern Natal golfers

San Lameer played host to a wind-swept KwaZulu-Natal Country Districts Interzone tournament last weekend.

DAVID RUSH REPORTS.

EVEN without some of their best players, Southern Natal demolished all and sundry to win the KwaZulu-Natal Country Districts Interzone tournament at San Lameer last weekend.

Not even a gutsy effort from Northern Natal on the Friday afternoon or the strong southwest wind that pumped the whole time, could do anything to stop the mighty juggernaut from battering its way to a sixth win in seven years.

For the record, Southern Natal beat their B team as well as Zululand on the Friday morning.

Their toughest opponents, Northern Natal, had a great chance to cause an upset on the Friday afternoon, but Southern's top three players, Gavin Sole, Ryno van Niekerk and Carl Rundgren produced wins to earn a half.

Southern Natal also beat Midlands on the Friday afternoon.

The next day they won the Saturday team strokeplay by a significant margin, with the lanky Rundgren smashing the ball far and surprisingly straight considering the wind and water, to win the KZN Country Districts championships on scores of 75 and 71.

The 71 was seriously impressive when you consider that most of the scores were in the 80s and higher.

Rundgren hits the ball very high and yetironically loves playing at San Lameer, especially if the wind is howling.

Cobus Oosthuizen, who is easily the fastest walker on the course, was second in the strokeplay, five shots behind, with Gavin Sole, who struggled a bit with the flat stick in the afternoon, one shot further behind.

Southern Natal rounded off the vic-

tory by beating North Coast and East Griqualand on the Sunday morning.

Southern Natal was represented by Gavin Sole, Ryno van Niekerk, Carl Rundgren, Ivan Curlewis, Cobus Oosthuizen, Matthew Vancoillie, Jonathan Louw and Kevin Nicolson.

Prinavin Nelson, Marc Bormann and Jan McDermott were all unavailable for one reason or another.

Southern Natal B finished in a commendable third place behind Northern Natal, with North Coast fourth, Zululand fifth, East Griqualand sixth and Midlands picking up the Wooden Spoon again.

The highlight for Southern Natal B was getting two games off their A team, with Douglas Sima and Darren Gerrard returning wins.

The B team also came third in the morning strokeplay and second in the afternoon.

The team comprised David Rush, Douglas Sima, Viv Naicker, Darren de Bruin, Mellet Hendrikse, Darren Gerrard, Victor Mbhele and Cameron Munro.

The tournament will be held in Zululand next year, probably at the revamped Richards Bay course, and Southern Natal can expect a stronger Zululand team to give them a tough run as they go for a fourth consecutive win.

San Lameer will host the South African Country Districts tournament from May 14 to 18.

The KZN Country Districts team comprises Gavin Sole, Carl Rundgren, Ivan Curlewis, Cobus Oosthuizen, Jan McDermott (all Southern Natal), Sean Baker (East Griqualand), Kes Hansen (Midlands) and Thomas Lovett (North Coast).



Victorious: The Southern Natal golf team celebrates winning the KwaZulu-Natal Country Districts Interzone tournament at San Lameer. They are (back, from left) John Louw (manager), Ivan Curlewis, Carl Rundgren, Gavin Sole, Kevin Nicolson, Matthew Vancoillie and Cobus Oosthuizen with Ryno van Niekerk and Jonathan Louw in front.

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Champion: Carl Rundgren holds aloft the KZN Country Districts strokeplay trophy. He won with scores of 75 and 71 in a howling gale at San Lameer.

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S N Nomads enjoy friendly annual visit to Harding CC

THE Southern Natal Nomads area extends from Umkomaas in the north to the Wild Coast in the south and as far as Matatiele in the west.

"Perth in the east tried to join but couldn't afford the 'lobola' in sheep we wanted to charge them," quipped captain Simon Lee.

Monthly games are not held at Matatiele, Kokstad or Harding due to geographical location.

As about 10 percent of the Southern Natal members are from that area, an effort it made to play there once a year.

"Naturally we feel that our responsibility toward the furtherance of golf encompasses our whole area and we make a special trip to one of the clubs every year. This year it was Harding's turn," explained Simon.

Nomads also makes a donation to the club, with Harding receiving R6 000 this year.

The Friendship Trophy is also hotly contested.

"We play the Nomads Medal Sta-

bleford format and the camaraderie we always experience at these venues is something to behold," explained Simon.

"The locals allow us to stay in their homes overnight as typically the after prize-giving braai usually ends up as a breakfast," he laughed.

The local farmers descended upon the course on the Thursday before the Saturday game with tractors, mowers and labour to ensure the course was in really great condition.

The Friendship Trophy was won by Southern Natal Nomads in a very close encounter, with Harding captain Jim Payne presenting Simon with the trophy.

Individually Bruce Jackson was the pick of the Southern Natal Nomads, scoring 40 points off a five handicap to edge out Simon by one.

Warwick Miles was the pick of the Harding players on 39 points.

Karl Wichmann from Harding was the worst player on the day and received the now infamous spade!



Well played: Harding Golf Club captain Jim Payne (right) presents Simon Lee (captain of Southern Natal Nomads) with the Friendship Trophy, which Southern Natal won recently during an away trip. SUBMITTED

Renzo and Trevor on the button at Port Shepstone

WINNERS of the betterball Stableford played at Port Shepstone Country Club last Wednesday were Renzo van Niekerk and Trevor Green, with 45 points.

Second came Mathew Vancoillie and Andrew Curlewis, with 44.

Winners of the St Patrick's golf day betterball were Piwe Mkhoma and Godfrey Zithumane, with 48 points, from Spook Pieterse and Noel Pieterse, also on 48.

Third were Roy Matkovich and Gordon Dirkson, with 47.

Fifteen golfing Idlers played individual Stableford over the outside nine holes last Tuesday.

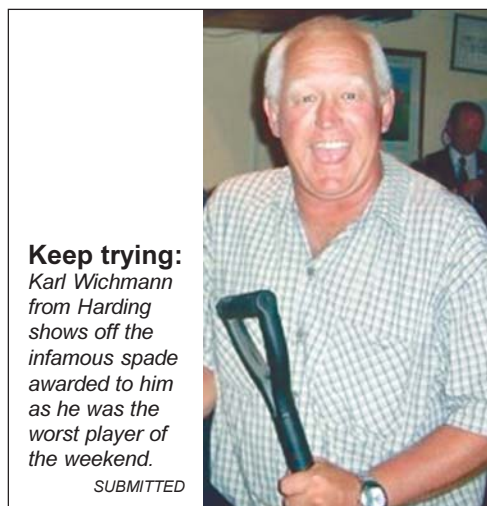
Four players scored 18 points.

On count-out, the winner was John Taylor from newcomer, Glenn Kelsey, followed by last week's winner Ian Hunter, and Len Gouws.

The Veterans played a threeball alliance Stableford with two scores to count, in last Thursday's competition.

Winners on a count-out, with a score of 77 points, were Glen Kelsey, Jimmy Robinson and John Gibbon, from Jannie Brits, Len Gouws and Aubrey Torlage. Third on 72 points were Johan Kok, John Taylor jr and Mark Hudson.

John Gibbon scored the only two-club of the day, on the par-three 17th.



Keep trying: Karl Wichmann from Harding shows off the infamous spade awarded to him as he was the worst player of the weekend.

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Top two: Bruce Jackson (left) and Warwick Miles share a laugh. They were the pick of the Southern Natal and Harding players respectively.

