



‘Eye’ on the Prize

A successful 2025 BESA Golf Day

CLINT PREDDY

If you don’t know anything about golf, you should read this article; and if you do know anything about golf, you should read this article too. What’s written here is not so much about the actual golf that was played as it is about the day *upon which* the golf was played. Although, there will be one or two references to the game of golf and comparisons to those who play it, this will mostly be a recount of the day in which one undertakes the task of hitting a fairly small ball using a club with a fairly small head into a mowed field with fairly little safe landing space and to finally sink it into a hole with a fairly small diameter. Thanks Scotland.

But first, a short description of the BESA Leadership Academy Golf Day of 2025 which took place at the prestigious *Eye of Africa* course. The weather looked ominous; we’re not going to lie. Although all indicators were that things would clear up, we had doubts that the mist would disperse in time for our 10AM shotgun start. What might a shotgun start be, you ask? That’s when all the golfers make their way out onto their designated tee-boxes, one of eighteen, and tee-off at the same time. In this way, all players finish approximately six hours later and who then get to enjoy the nineteenth hole (chilling at the clubhouse) together; and to rehydrate, reflect on the day, and in the case of our event, share a pizza on us from The Greens Grillhouse. What a pleasure!

Our day had it all (even if we do say so ourselves), starting with a welcome table featuring on-the-house items for our treasured players. Need supple lips? Grab a

BESA-branded lip-ice. Need a little help with your driver? Take a peg from our tee selection (yes, that says ‘tee’ not ‘tea’). Need an on-the-go snack? Grip a banana and an apple (Granny Smiths, the best). Need to rehydrate? Pick up a bottle of *Waterhero* water. Need a break? Grab a *Kit-Kat*. Need to win a prize? Purchase a raffle ticket. Need to have a great day out of the office? Head to your golf cart.

Ultimately, what happens on the course stays on the course. Those six hours are sacred. The kind of shots you hit, or miss, are irrelevant. How many times you end up in the bunker (sand trap) is neither here nor there. How many fish you almost hit in the water hazards is not important. What does matter though? That win or lose (in terms of golf balls, there’s plenty of losing) is that you’ve had a good experience and a fun-filled outing regardless of the number that reflects on your scorecard. At least there’s no comments on it though, because at times, it may not make for pleasant reading. But other times, it may make for better literature than a best-selling novel at Christmas time. It’s all relevant though, we hear.

The format of our event was one where each golfer hits their first shot on each hole, following which the group decides whose effort was the best (something called American Scramble). The players then all go to the ‘best shot’ position, and each hit their own second shot. Then it’s each man for himself until the ball hits the inside of the cup. This format, which, in itself is already a fun way to create a sense of team camaraderie, also brings about an even greater sense of togetherness as each player strives to hit the longest, the straightest, or the most-intelligent shot, thereby allowing for a sense of strategy and thoughtful gameplay to surface as opposed to the ‘normal’ task of randomly hitting your ball and hoping to find it again. Although mostly that’s really what golf is all about anyway. But you didn’t hear that

Getting it to the Green: Three of our very own BESA four-ball players approaching the proverbial ‘dancefloor’ on the 6th hole. It doesn’t get much more picturesque than this.

from us. What you did hear from us though is a large amount of thanks and appreciation to every person who was involved in making our school golf day a success. We are extremely grateful for the efforts of all involved, from our headline sponsors to our donors, to our raffle ticket runners, and everybody else in between who came together to make the ‘magic happen’, and who ultimately helped create a day that, hopefully, features on all of our golfers’ calendars for many more years to come.

The success of our golf day and the funds raised means a massive contribution is made to the continued growth of our school, our staff, and our learners. We are a small, private, and family-owned institution with not many more learners than golfers who attended our event this year and while we may not have impressive numbers in terms of learners, we have impressive learners in terms of numbers. We value each of them and their families without whom a day like this could not and would not be possible.

“Why am I using a new putter? Because the last one didn’t float very well.”

– Craig Stadler

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!



Well done to Rudi Dreyer, Charl Penning, Armand Van Jaarsveld, and Riaan De Wet who not only posted a whopping score of 112 points this year, but who also successfully defended their title! Amazing effort!

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