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McMillan defies winds at Pinnacle Point

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Brian McMillan © Gallo Images

Former SA cricketer Brian McMillan, with some help from a lesson with Don Gammon on the TV show Ultra Simple Golf, shot a nett 77 on Saturday to take the joint first-round lead in near gale-force winds in the Pilsner Urquell SuperSport Shootout at Pinnacle Point.

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On a day when the vast majority of the field were just blown away by the conditions, with last year's champion Tich Smith shooting a 96 off a two handicap, McMillan focused on just keeping the ball in play and ensuring he enjoyed himself.

"There was no secret really," said the big all-rounder. "Hitting it straight is the name of the game. I play in Cape Town and know the wind, but I just went out to enjoy my game and have a good laugh with my playing partners.

"That wind was heavy though! On the one par five I had 160m in for my third, and it took me another five to get up. And that was with the cameras on me as well!"

McMillan did reserve a word of thanks for Don Gammon, who helped him with his driving in his TV lesson a while back. "I think I'll have to have a few more sessions for the rest of my game though!"

Tied with McMillan is Touchline Media's Craig Ross, who also had a nett 77 off a two handicap, and a shot further back is Tsogo Sun Group's Jabu Mabuza, six over off his 11.

Mabuza was quick out the blocks, sitting at nett two under through his front nine, but a gross 49 on the back reminded him that the game has a nasty habit of reminding you who is boss....

Darryl Egdes of the Pro Shop sits at nett 79 while ex-Springbok Breyton Paulse and SuperSport United coach Gavin Hunt - fresh off his second successive PSL title - are a shot further back.

Ross, though, will be bemoaning his finish as he was level par (gross) for his round after 14 holes, thanks to birdies on 11 and 13. Holes 15 through 18 though were directly into the wind, and a bogey, double, double, double finish ensured he wouldn't be taking a healthy lead into Sunday's final round.

Still, he wasn't the only one taking war stories into tonight's function at the Mossel Bay resort. Former rugby stars Robbie Fleck (9) and Gary Teichmann (8) shot 114 and 100 respectively, while SuperSport United goalkeeper Andre Arendse accounted for 118 of the many blows played at this stunning golf course on day one.





It was a day, though, of survival, with the wind relieving many a head of its cap, while a number of balls were blown away from the putter head as players lined up their putts.

In the betterball competition, Hunt and Paulse lead the way on two-under par, with Pascal Portes of Match Event Hospitality and and SAIL CEO Brand de Villiers a shot further back.

Egdes and Nike's Rohan Summers are third, while McMillan and SuperSport's Ray Moore four back in seventh.

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