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McMillan second at shortened Shootout

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Mike Benjamin © Gallo Images

The wind may have been the biggest winner, but it was SAB's Mike Benjamin who prevailed in the trying conditions to record a one-shot win over Brian McMillan at the weather-shortened 2009 Pilsener Urquell SuperSport Shootout at Pinnacle Point.

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The General Manager of SA Breweries finished a nett nine over for 27 holes after a brilliant 39 (nett 38) for his nine holes on Sunday. It was, according to the man himself, his ability to keep the ball in play that earned him the trophy.

"My friends call me 'pop gun' as I don't hit it that far, but I kept it in play and out of the fynbos," said Benjamin.

The event was curtailed by nine holes as the wind wreaked havoc, with scorecards, caps and balls falling victim to the howling gale. After the battering of Saturday the players would have been hoping for a little respite, but there was no such forgiveness.

"Lady luck smiled on me too, but I just enjoyed the scenery, used my 'local' knowledge acquired through playing here for the third time in a row, and I never lost a ball. You had to minimise mistakes out there."

The fact that Benjamin carded only two doubles in 27 holes when triples (the maximum score allowed under the rules) were the order of the weekend (at the nightly functions too!), as well as finishing with the ball he began with, was reason enough for victory.

"Three consecutive pars today was a solid start, but then I had a double on four that set me back. I chipped it stiff, but then the wind blew the ball away to two metres before I could mark it, and I missed the bogey putt.

"Then I knocked a 4-iron to eight feet on the par-five fifth, setting up an easy birdie that got me back on track."

The 2009 winner ensured that he had as much fun this weekend as much as possible as he is soon off to become SAB's Sales and Distribution director in Uganda.

"There were no early nights for me so I really enjoyed myself and stayed relaxed the whole time. This is a great way for me to leave SA and the event."

In second place and flying the flag for the sportsmen was Brian McMillan, who was a shot back on nett ten over after a 46 (nett 41) today, recovering well after starting double, triple, bogey, double.





The former SA cricketing all-rounder, and joint overnight leader, finished 4, 3, 4 to pip by one the top player from the business and government section, Jabu Mabuza of the Tsogo Sun Group.

Tied for fourth were ex-Springbok wing Breyton Paulse and Touchline Media's Craig Ross on nett 13 over. Ross, who held the lead this morning with McMillan, found himself six over for the day through four holes after a triple on the first, but finished birdie, par to salvage some pride.

In the betterball competition, Investec's Sam Hackner and Nightsbridge Investment's Selwyn Nathan were victorious on 108 nett, edging SAIL's Brand de Villiers and Match Event Hospitality's Pascal Portes in a count out.

Third place went to a couple of sportsmen, with SuperSport United coach Gavin Hunt and Paulse finishing on 109.

The Shootout is an annual event that brings together sporting heroes past, top businessmen and government officials for a weekend of golfing, socialising, networking and fundraising that has become an institution on the

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