

For immediate release

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Home comforts await Bland at Fancourt

John Bland will hope his local knowledge of The Links at Fancourt can secure his third European Senior Tour title at the inaugural Berenberg Bank Masters from March 26-28, 2010, after rediscovering the winning feeling at last week's Bad Ragaz PGA Seniors Open.

The 63 year old South African became the second oldest winner in Senior Tour history after Neil Coles when he defeated Bob Boyd in a play-off in Switzerland, 13 years and 313 days after claiming his maiden title in the London Masters during his rookie season in 1995.

Now he has targeted a victory in his homeland next year – to add to his previous 20 tournament victories in South Africa - when the Senior Tour visits the country for the first time.

Bland, who has also finished runner up three times in The Senior Open Championship, is attached to the spectacular Fancourt, in George, and was instrumental in bringing the tournament to his home club.

He said: "I am very excited to be part of the first international Senior Tour event in South Africa.

"The Berenberg Bank Masters will no doubt add to the list of prestigious tournaments that have been played on The Links at Fancourt, which is a fantastic golf course designed by my good friend, Gary Player.

"I look forward to showing my buddies on the Tour with whom I have played for many, many years the wonderful resort of Fancourt and the Garden Route. I feel really privileged to call this part of the world my home.

"My sincere gratitude goes to Dr. Hans-Walter Peters and his partners at Berenberg Bank for sponsoring the event. It will be a great opportunity for both the Fancourt members and golfing enthusiasts in South Africa to watch some of the world's greatest golfing legends in action."

Bland will join Player, South Africa's most successful golfer, in the field for the Berenberg Bank Masters, on the course which the nine time Major Championship winner designed.

Compatriots Bobby Lincoln, the 2007 Jersey Seniors Classic champion, and Bertus Smit, winner of the 2009 Ryder Cup Wales Seniors Open, will also form part of the home challenge, along with rookie Christopher Williams who has made a superb start to his Senior Tour career in 2009, finishing second on his debut in The De Vere Collection PGA Seniors Championship.

The Links at Fancourt lies at the foot of the majestic Outeniqua mountains in the heart of the Garden Route, which will provide a stunning backdrop for some of the leading Senior Tour players.

It has previously hosted the Presidents Cup in 2003, the inaugural Women's World Cup of Golf in 2005, and the South African Open Championship on The European Tour in 2006, which was won by another home favourite Retief Goosen.

The Berenberg Bank Masters, sponsored by Germany's oldest private bank which has more than 400 years experience in the sector, will be co-sanctioned by the European Senior Tour and the Sunshine Tour.

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Notes to editors

Berenberg Bank was founded in 1590 and is one of the oldest banks in the world. The Hamburg based bank has 850 employees and offers its clients services in Private Banking, Investment Banking, Institutional Asset Management and Commercial Banking. Berenberg has more than 20 billion assets under management.

Paragon Event Management, the specialist sports event management company with many years experience of delivering high profile golf tournaments around the world and in South Africa, will be the event management company.