

Gowrie Farm

NOTTINGHAM ROAD

From the Pastures & Fairways of Gowrie Farm

Update on Gowrie Farm and the golf course



ABOVE: The sprinkler system irrigating the sixth green.



ABOVE: The maintenance sheds are almost complete.

Expanded Dirt Road shop at Gowrie

Dirt Road, the popular outdoor clothing shop at the Gowrie Shopping complex, has vastly increased its size, and now offers a new range of clothing, accessories and other items imported from Nepal.

Dirt Road opened in December 2003, combining the best-selling products of Midlands companies Groundcover, with its handcrafted boots, shoes, bags and other leatherwear, and The Supply Company, with its robust outdoor clothing. The shop has been given a new look, and by taking over the premises next door, now has a whole new area where a unique range of items from the Himalayas is on display.

Himalayan Handmades is a local company that makes buying trips to Nepal to source products made by the locals in Kathmandu. When Justin McCarthy of Groundcover and Andrew Findlay of The Supply Company saw the new range, they were so impressed that they decided to extend Dirt Road at Gowrie, broadening the shop's line from outdoor functional gear to bright and unusual alternative clothing and other items. Now available are ladies and men's shirts; T-shirts; polar fleece jackets; wicker, crochet and woven bags; trousers, plus dresses and blouses in soft, rainbow fabrics. Accessories include hats, belts, purses in silk and felt, woven and appliquéd bedcovers, plus Buddhist accessories such as singing bowls, tingcha chimes, prayer wheels, incense and incense-holders, meditation bells, and a small range of hand-woven woollen carpets.

Dirt Road is open seven days a week, from 9am to 5pm. Tel: 033 266-6540.



ABOVE: Dirt Road in Gowrie has a new look and unique goods from Nepal, in addition to its selection of outdoor wear and products.

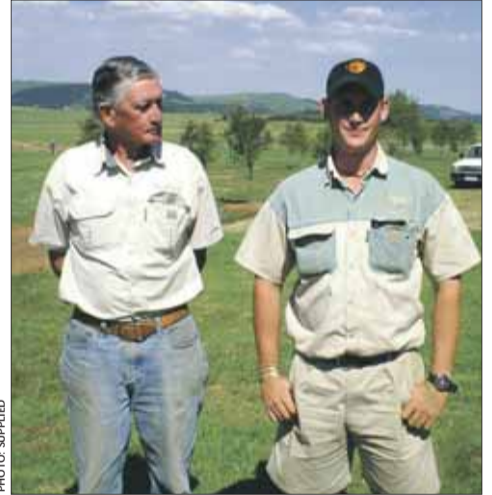
Work at Gowrie Farm and the golf course are progressing smoothly, with construction well under way on the first house, the first of a number of syndication houses which are planned. This unit is owned by Gowrie Golf cc, as part of a scheme to encourage use of the course in the off-season. The syndicates will be limited to thirteen members.

Construction has also begun on the clubhouse, with the walls now visible after intensive work on the foundations. In addition, the golf course maintenance sheds are well

on the way to completion, with the finished structure to include a large workshop, fuel and wash bays, storerooms, ablutions, and offices.

On the golf course, a number of important milestones have been reached. Shaping and planting of all the greens, and the building and planting of tees have been completed, and mowing has begun on the fairways and tees. Work is in progress on shaping the bunkers, and preparing areas to plant the veld grasses for the rough. All work on the irrigation systems is complete. There's certainly signs of a fine golf course in the making.

The faces behind the greens



ABOVE: Dennis Smit (left) and Brian Paxton are the men behind the construction of the Gowrie golf course.

company Golf Data in 2001, and has worked on courses as legendary as the Johannesburg Country Club, Edenvale golf course, Parkview golf course, Pecanwood, Pearl Valley, and Leopard Creek. He started at Gowrie in January 2006.

Dennis Smit thought that he was going to retire gracefully and relax, but his 35 years of experience, including 14 years as Chairman of the Turf Managers Association in Gauteng and KZN, saw him being called into action to work on the Gowrie Farm course. Dennis started his career working in commercial landscaping and horticulture, moving into golf course maintenance at the Glenvista Country Club two years later. He then worked at the Johannesburg Country Club for three years before moving to Sun City in 1979, at the start of construction of this world-renowned course. He spent 12 years there before moving to Durban to consult on courses across the country that had been designed by the well-known Peter Matkovich.

Eventually the travelling became too much, and Dennis settled in at Kloof Country Club. He worked at numerous KZN golf courses, sharing his expertise as a staff trainer in course management before being called out of "retirement" to work at Gowrie. He fully intends to return to his retirement when the Gowrie course is complete, and plans to settle 'somewhere in the beautiful Midlands'.

In addition to Guy Smith, creator and developer of Gowrie, Gowrie Farm, and also the designer of the Gowrie Farm golf course, are two men who have worked to see his vision become reality: Brian Paxton and Dennis Smit. Between them, these two have worked on some of the finest courses in southern Africa.

Brian joined the design-and-build golf course

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Agents for Gowrie Farm

Peter Greene and Rob Dickson of Meander Real Estates are the Midlands agents for Gowrie and Gowrie Farm. Their main sales office is located inside the Junction, adjacent to Gowrie. They can be contacted for sales queries and brochures, and are also the best people to ask about site placements, the Gowrie architectural code etc.

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