

## Goosen seeks fast start at Africa Open

Retief Goosen's plan to add this year's British Open to his list of Majors should get off to a good start this week in what could be very similar weather at the Africa Open.

For the second day a thick mist covered the East London Golf Club, with the on-course pro shop now advertising a special on wet grips.

"If it stays this way, this will be a tough week," said Goosen, the 2009 winner of this tournament, which has brought defending champion Charl Schwartzel, reigning British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen and European Ryder Cup vice-captain Darren Clarke to this seaside town.

"There's this low, driving rain, and the ball's not going anywhere. Some holes are playing very long." Goosen has also noticed more vengeful rough than when he last played here and won in 2009.

"When I won in 2009 you could hit it into the rough and still reach most greens. But this year there are places where you won't be able to go for the green. Some of the rough is as much as six inches deep. But the course is in the best shape I've seen it, and the greens are great."

Oosthuizen is also expecting a good test this week on a golf course he last played as an amateur in 2000.

"The rough is up and the greens are running good. I think it will be a tough week. But it looks like a course you can take on and shot low. And at least it's not cold."

Oosthuizen is looking forward to continuing the kind of form that saw him finish third in the South African Open in December.

"That was a good finish to the year. I had a great season in 2010 and I just want to take that forward this year. You always want to start off the year with a good first tournament."

After a few practice rounds, Northern Ireland's Clarke has described the course as "a fantastic test of golf".

The rain certainly won't dampen his desire to begin his quest of breaking back into the top 50 in the world here in East London.

"I've had a couple of bad years and I'm mad keen as ever to get back and playing again. I am 42 so I should be older and wiser now. I have been working as hard as ever so I've just got to keep doing it, and this is a great way to start."