

Ron Smith Care Centre

@ Elphin Lodge



SEPT 2026 No. 227

Golden Games

WINGS COMPETE FOR GLORY

INSIDE:

- WINNERS ON PAGES 2 & 3
- MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 4

Plus Photo gallery on Facebook:
RandAidAssociation

The end of August brought warmer spring weather and the return of the Golden Games to Ron Smith Care Centre, with this year's competition taking place from August 14 to 21.

The opening ceremony on August 14 set the tone for the week, with each of the six wings performing a team chant. They were all hoping to take the trophy from 2025 winners, River Lodge 3.

Throughout the week, the wings competed in a variety of games, earning points towards the overall title.

The competitions kicked off with the newspaper footrace on Monday, followed by bean-bag knockdown on Tuesday and the skyscraper-building challenge on Wednesday. "The creativity and teamwork on display were impressive. The residents' winning tower reached 114cm, while the tallest tower built by the staff teams reached 152cm," says Simoné Botha, the care centre's occupational therapy and recreation manager.

The highlight was the wheelchair egg-and-spoon race, with residents and staff competing side by side and carefully balancing their eggs to the finish. The event drew plenty of laughter.

Each competition ended with a staff relay, with teams of four wheeling themselves along while keeping an egg balanced on a spoon. Six additional teams joined in, representing the Recreation Team, Admin Office, Reef Kitchen,

Sisters and Head Office.

"As always, each day ended with a highly anticipated dance competition, with every wing competing for additional points. The teams brought incredible creativity to the dance floor as they performed to Shakira's *Try Everything*. After two years of holding onto the title, River Lodge 3 was finally dethroned, with Woodlands taking the win by just one point!" says Simoné.

"Friday's award ceremony was a celebration not only of the awards won, but of the spirit that had filled the week. Everyone gave their all while supporting and encouraging not only their own team members, but those from opposing teams as well.

"The week was a celebration of life, connection and the importance of enjoying every moment – perfectly captured by the words of the week's song: *Try Everything*. River Lodge 2 delivered the comeback of the year! After finishing in sixth place in 2025, they claimed the title of Golden Games Champions 2026!"

The prizegiving was particularly special for Ayanda Mathews, who attended the Golden Games for the last time before her retirement. Reflecting on the atmosphere in the room, she said she wished she could 'package the love she feels in the room to be able to share it with others'.

In true Golden Games spirit, she then joined the final dance on stage, learning the moves as she went.

RIGHT:
Golden Games
Champions 2026:
River Lodge 2
moves up from
sixth place in
2025 to first
place in 2026
(shift two photo
on page 2).





1



2

Golden Games WINNERS



3



4

CHAMPION GOLDEN GAMERS:

1. Staff: Amanda Ndlovu (WL)
2. Residents: Louis Kruger (RL2)

RESIDENT AWARDS:

3. Best Sportsperson: Brenda Ortlepp (CP)
4. Best effort made: Ada Zidel (RL3)
5. Best Team Supporter: Denis Hutchinson (CP)
6. Most Spirited: Hilary Stern (LS)
7. Champion Skyscraper builders: Margot Cohen & Vivien Michler (LS)

DANCE CHAMPIONS:

8. Woodlands group 1

STAFF AWARDS:

9. Best Team supporters (tie): Thily Madiba (RL1)
10. Best Team supporter (tie): Carol-Ann Mckenzie (RL1)
11. Best Sportsperson: Pascaline Kamela (LS)
12. Crazy Crew Award: Germinah, Ivonne, Tshepo & Mamsy (RL2)
13. Champion Skyscraper Builders: Eunice Mkhosi & Precious Monwanati (RL2)
14. Best Dancing Spirit: China Matsane (WL)
15. Best Team Leader: Esmeralda Rusike (RL3)

RELAY RACE WINNERS:

16. Wing competition: River Lodge 1: Catherine, Barbara, Rosemary & Patricia
17. Fun Outside staff competition: Recreation Team

GOLDEN GAMES CHAMPIONS 2026: RIVER LODGE 2



5



6



7



Golden Games



RIGHT: Maintenance team member Elliot Masina receives the HEARTS award for his kindness, humility and willingness to help others. From left are Ulricka Beukman, Elliot Masina and Leanie Bessinger.

Birthdays

RESIDENTS

05 Sept	Carol Murphy (CP)	81
05 Sept	Josephine Kew (RL1)	95
08 Sept	Irene Watson (RL1)	105
13 Sept	Vivien Michler (LS)	79
13 Sept	Judith Stewart (RL2)	80
16 Sept	Catherine Basterfield (RL2)	101
18 Sept	Daniel Grodzian (LS)	82
21 Sept	Joan Gelman (CP)	91
21 Sept	Jan Miller (RL3)	83
21 Sept	Lily Odesnik (RL2)	95
22 Sept	Elizabetta Morgia (RL3)	88
27 Sept	Maria Jose' Macedo (RL2)	90
27 Sept	Adrienne Reid (RL2)	86
28 Sept	Esme Joubert (RL1)	89
30 Sept	JT Pieterse (WL)	85

STAFF

04 Sept	Lebogang Maapasha	Kitchen
06 Sept	Ntombikhona Maphasa	RL3
09 Sept	Amanda Ndlovu	WL
11 Sept	Lungile Mhlongo	RL3
11 Sept	Germinah Baloyi	RL2
13 Sept	Hilda Mavunda	RL1
14 Sept	Iris Radebe	RL1
17 Sept	Mavis Pili	CP
17 Sept	Thivhonali Rananga	RL2
22 Sept	Brenda Ratema	RL1
23 Sept	Hlumela Anderson	Elphin
24 Sept	Thuli Ngoma	Elphin
24 Sept	Sean Graham	Kitchen
25 Sept	Nonstiki Ngwenya	Elphin
25 Sept	Juliet Malatji	RL1
26 Sept	Carol-Ann Mckenzie	RL1
27 Sept	Nicky Ponco	LS
26 Sept	Ulricka Beukman	Admin
30 Sept	Adolphina Magwete	RL1
30 Sept	Portia Mulaudzi	RL3
30 Sept	Thabo Radebe	Kitchen

* Staff members must please remember to collect their birthday chocolates from reception.

WELCOME TO...

Louis Kruger	RL2
Theresa Piccioli	RL2
Norma du Randt	RL1
Lynette Bouwer	RL3
Daniel Grodzian	LS
Lorraine Stamelman	RL1
Veronica Feldman	RL3
Lorraine Pintusewitz	CP
Judith Stewart	RL2

FONDLY REMEMBERED

Doreen Vivian	CP
Frank Kantor	RL3
Willem van den Berg	RL2
Pamela Mintz	RL3



HEARTS in Action

