

Simon the birdie queen

The Star Tuesday January 19 2016

For some golfers, it's a new putter, a change of grips or a new set of irons. For Ashleigh Simon, it was a set of grommets that helped the four-time Sunshine Ladies Tour Champion make the perfect start to her 2016 Chase to the Investec Cup for Ladies campaign in the Ladies Joburg Open at the Royal Johannesburg and Kensington Golf Club yesterday.

Just 10 days after Simon was fitted with two tiny plastic tubes, she fired a five-under-par 67 at the West Course to lay down a marker for a fifth Sunshine Ladies Tour title.

Simon finished one stroke clear of Lee-Anne Pace, Kim Williams, Nobuhle Dlamini from Swaziland and LPGA Tour rookie Bertine Strauss and two shots ahead of rookie Carrie Park, who aced the par three 16th on her way to an opening 69.

"The last year was littered with dizzy spells or a sudden loss of balance, but since I had the grommets fitted, the world is finally the right side up," Simon said.

Twelve months ago, Simon sealed a sensational six-stroke victory in the Sunshine Ladies Tour Open at Royal Johannesburg and Kensington Golf Club.

The 26 year old didn't waste much time to take control again at her home course.